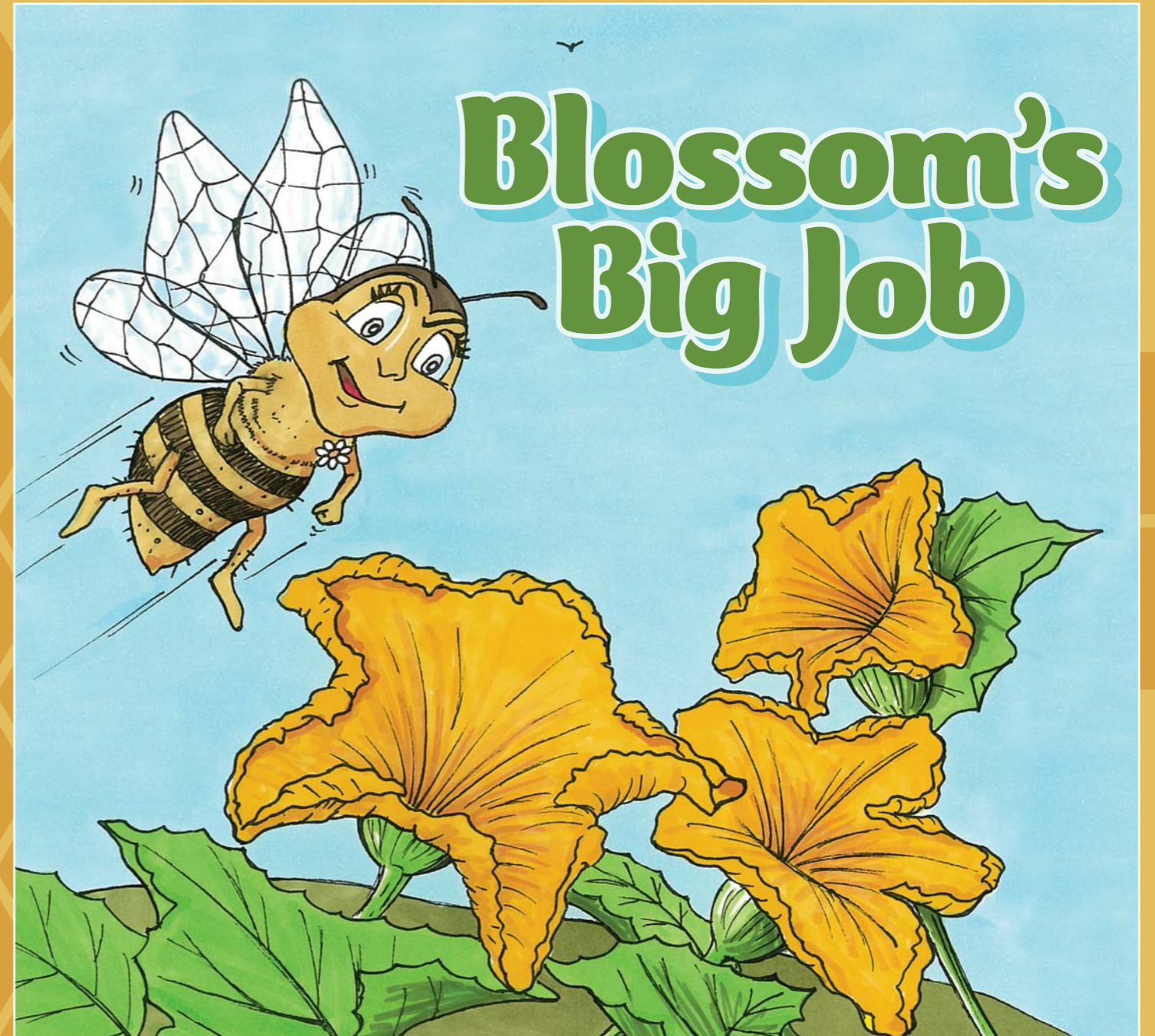


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Written and Illustrated by:
Vivid Communications

Published by:
Agriculture in the Classroom NL

Printed by:
Bounty Print

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ISBN: 978-0-9868384-7-7



Blossom's Big Job

This book is dedicated to all the bee keepers
who work with the bees to help grow
our fruits and veggies.

It is early in the summer season at Harold's Bee Farm and beautiful flowers have begun to bloom. As a beekeeper, Harold is very busy inspecting his beehives. It is a very special day for the bees inside the hives.

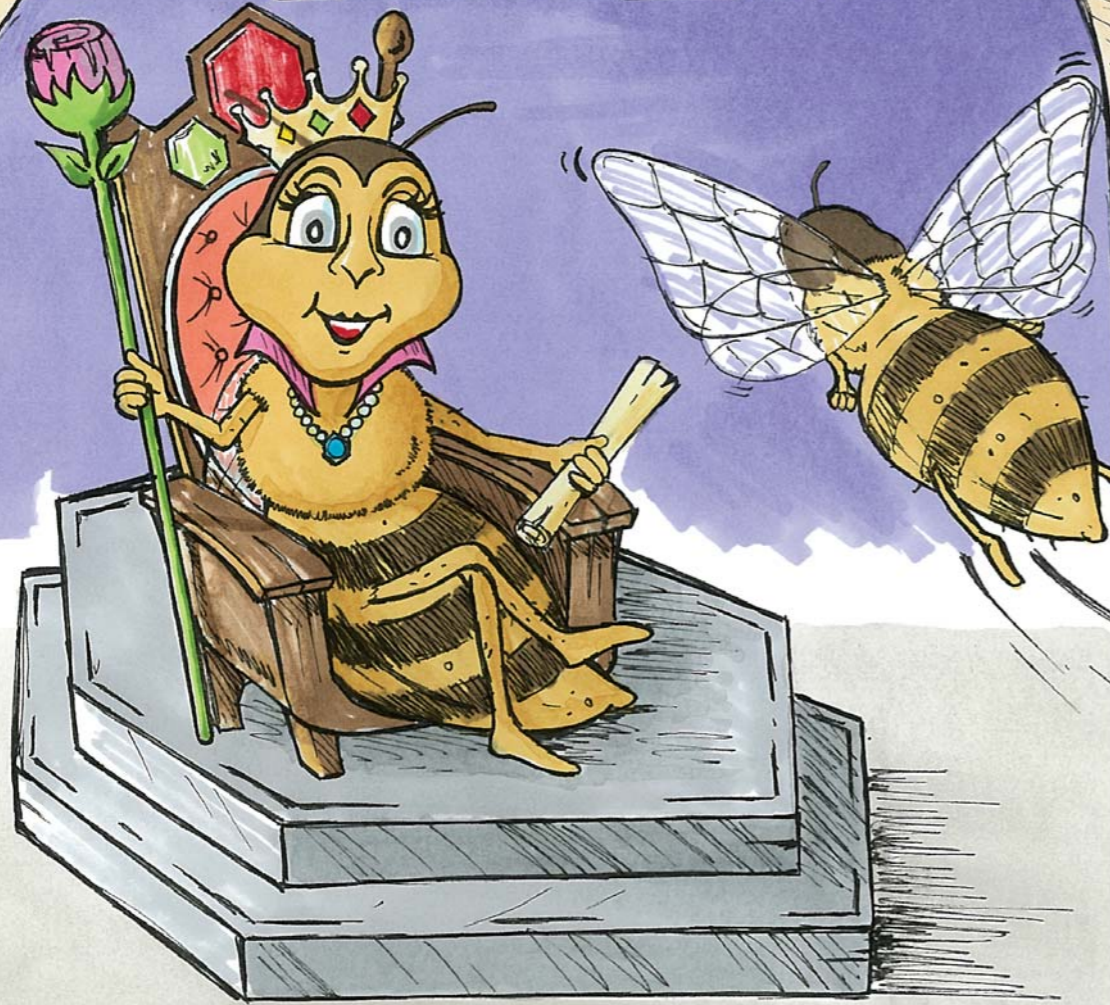




Inside the hive, Blossom, a hardworking honeybee, wakes up and is excited to start her day. Today is the day the Queen bee will be assigning their jobs!

Blossom jumps out of her bed and hurries to get ready. She doesn't want to be late to meet the Queen.

Queen's Room



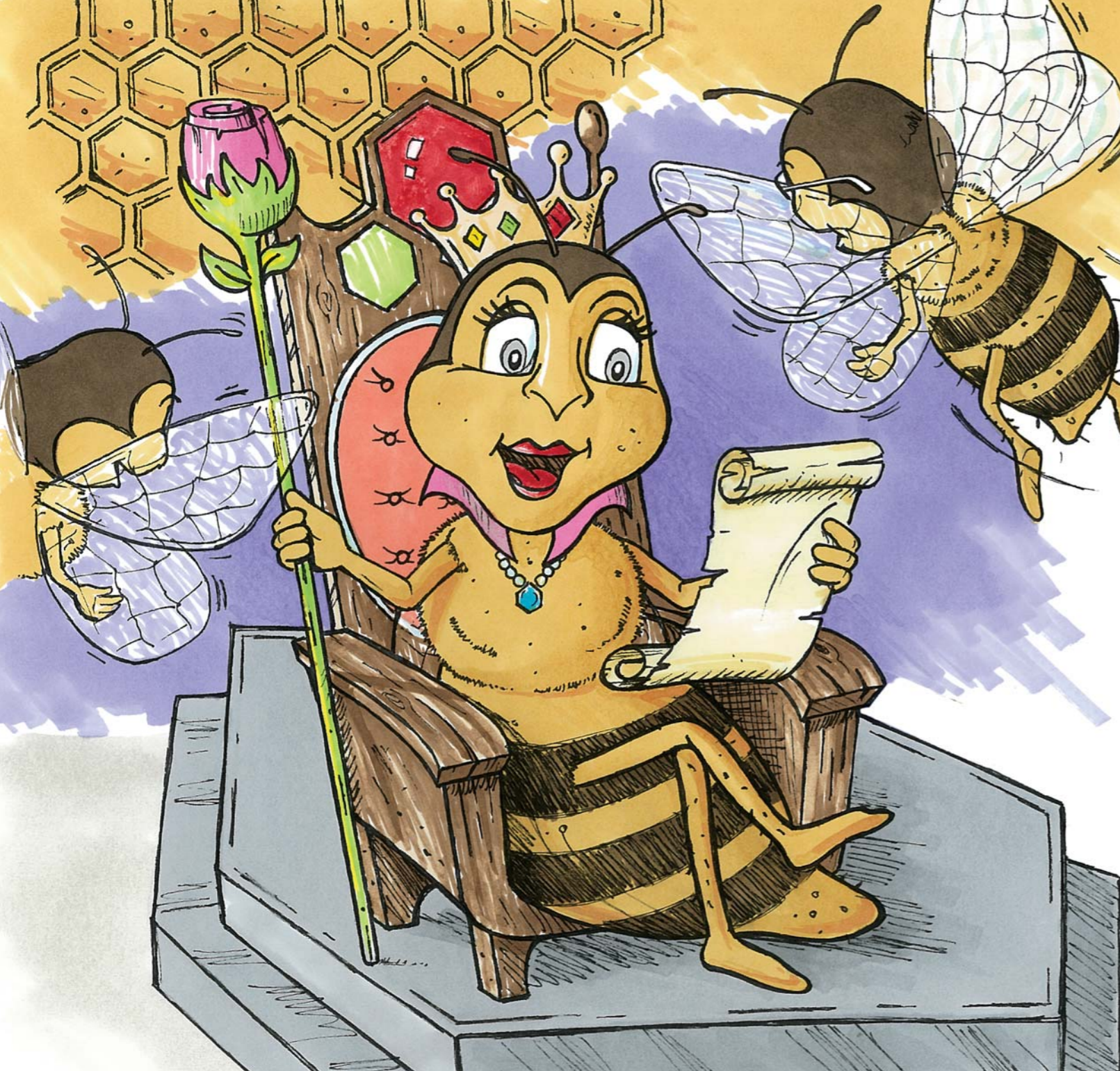
Blossom joins her friends on their way to the Queen's room. "What kind of flower do you want to pollinate, Daisy?" Blossom asks.



"I want to help grow a big apple tree with the pollen I collect," Daisy responds. "What about you?"

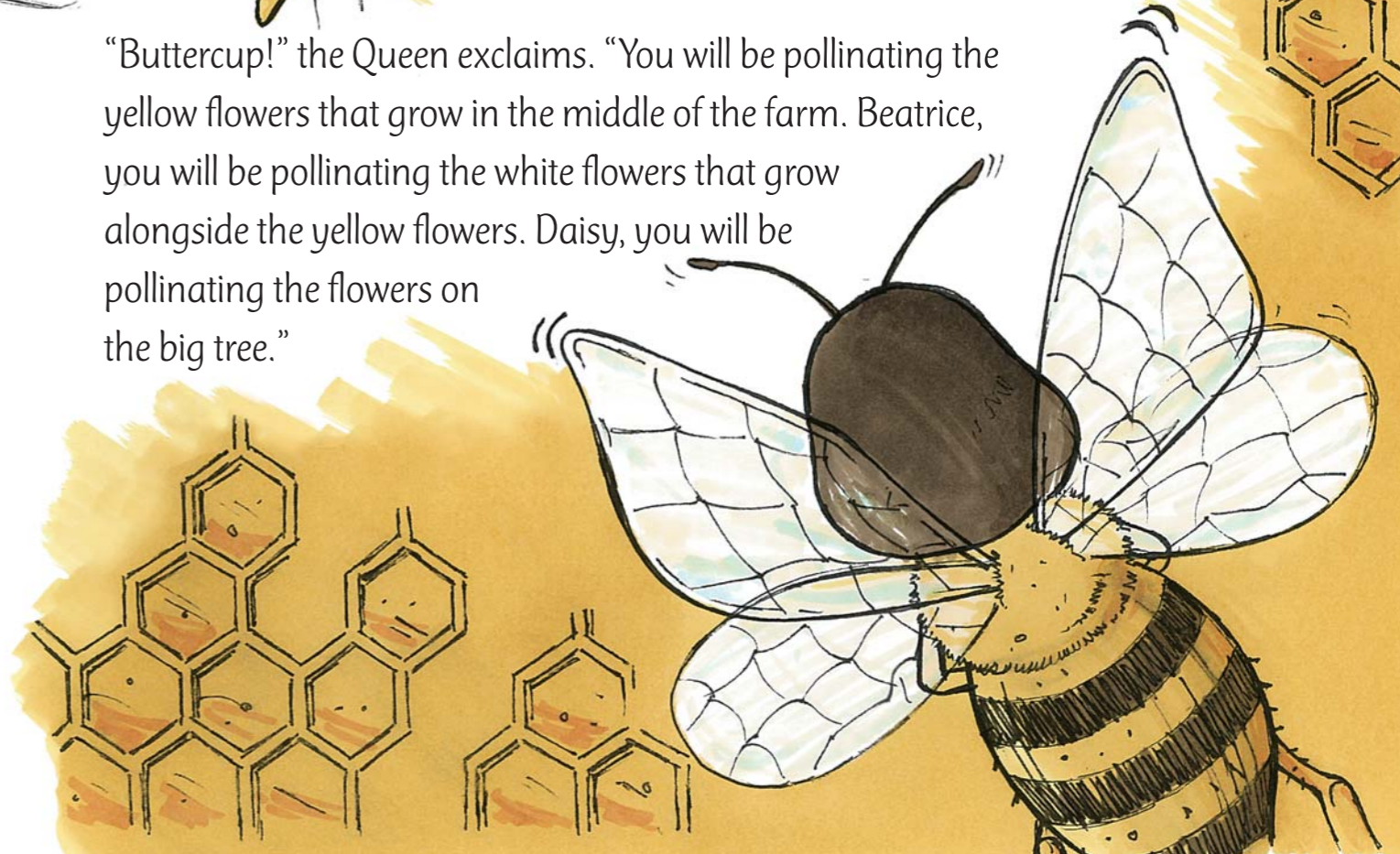
"I don't know," says Blossom. "But I want my flower to grow into a big fruit!"

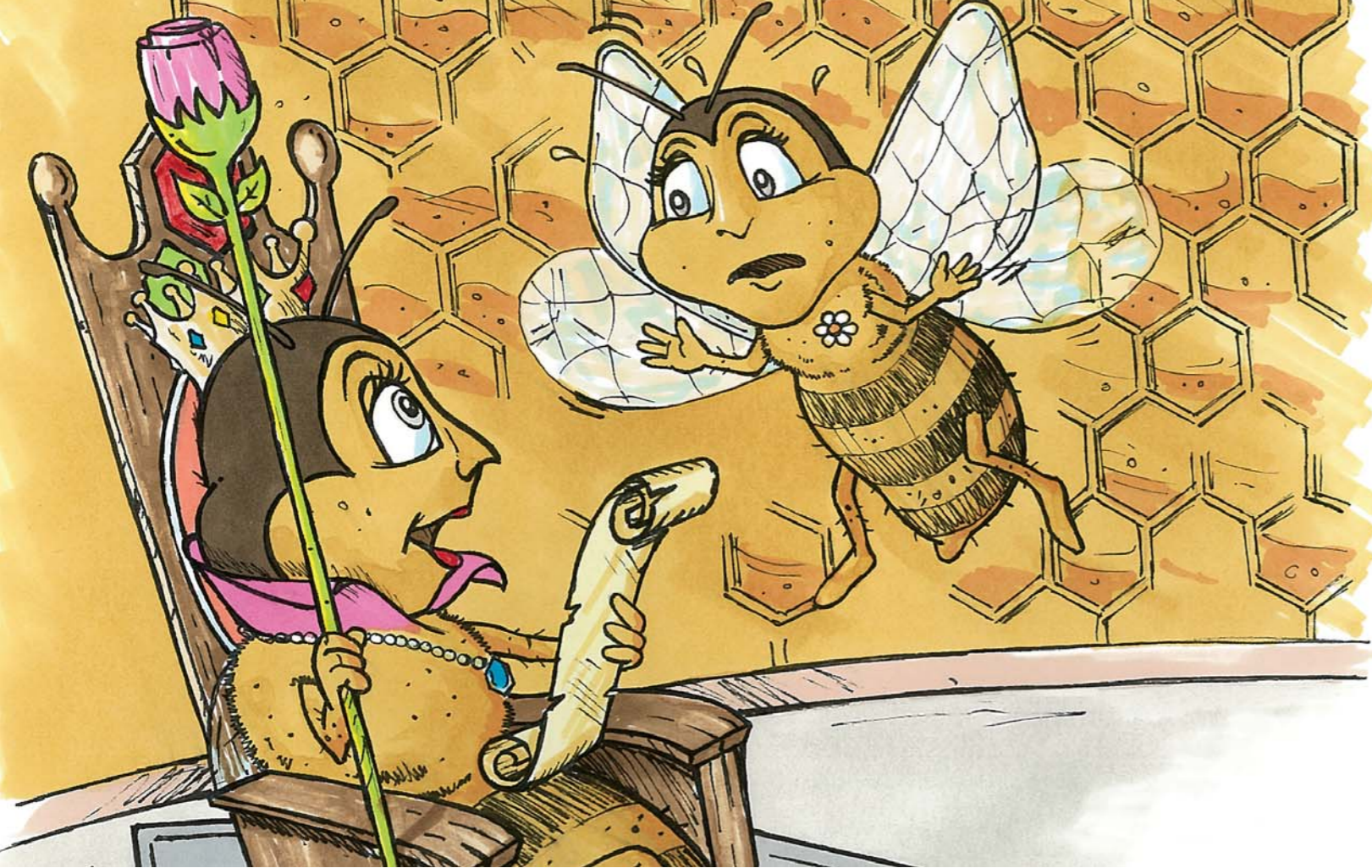




As all the bees buzz around the Queen, she began to call out their names and their assigned jobs.

“Buttercup!” the Queen exclaims. “You will be pollinating the yellow flowers that grow in the middle of the farm. Beatrice, you will be pollinating the white flowers that grow alongside the yellow flowers. Daisy, you will be pollinating the flowers on the big tree.”



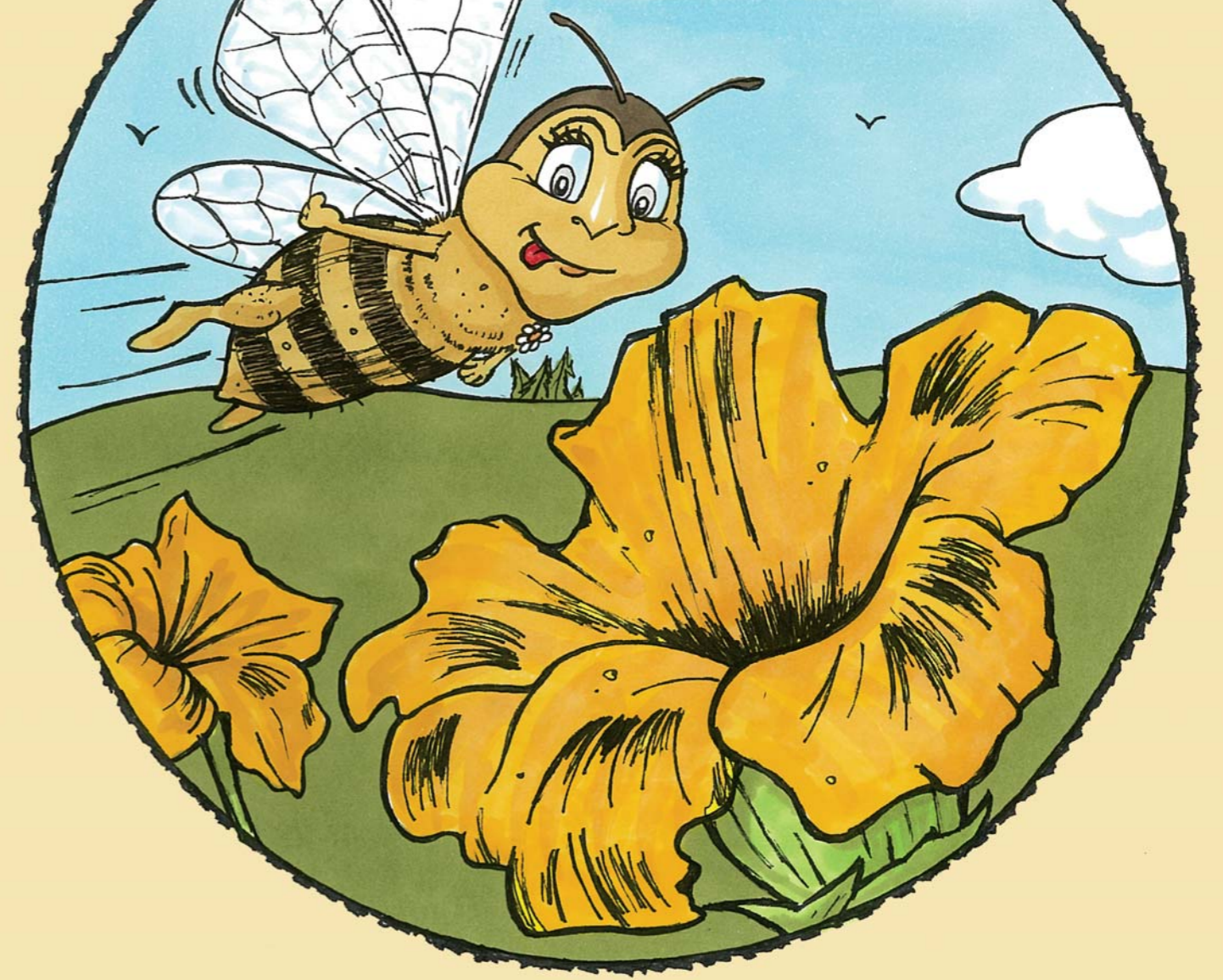


“For you, Blossom, I have a very special job,” says the Queen.
“I want you to pollinate the orange flowers on the far side of the farm.”
Blossom is in disbelief! “But Queen, my friends are working together in the middle of the farm. I will be working alone, why can’t I work near them?” “You’ll see,” the Queen responds.

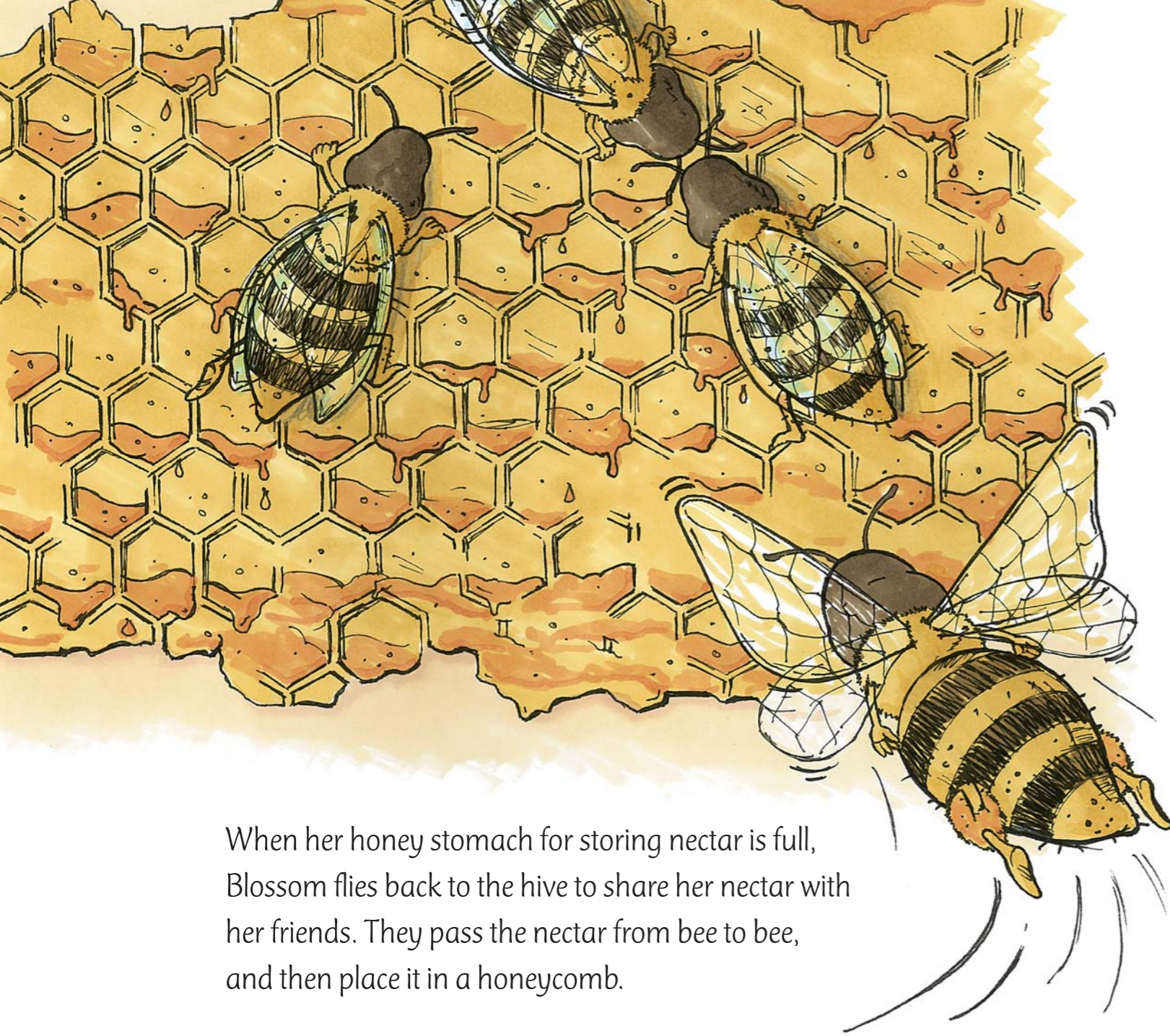


Blossom watches as her friends unfold their wings and eagerly depart for the middle of the farm. She is sad that her friends were not working near her, but Blossom still wants to work hard to grow a big fruit. Unfolding her own wings, she flies off, determined to pollinate her own flowers.

Landing on one of the bright orange flowers, she sticks her tongue into the flower to collect the nectar, and collects the pollen with the basket on her legs.



Once she collects all the nectar and pollen that she can from one flower, she flies to another flower and repeats the process. Each time she stops at a new flower, Blossom leaves behind some pollen from the other flowers she had visited.



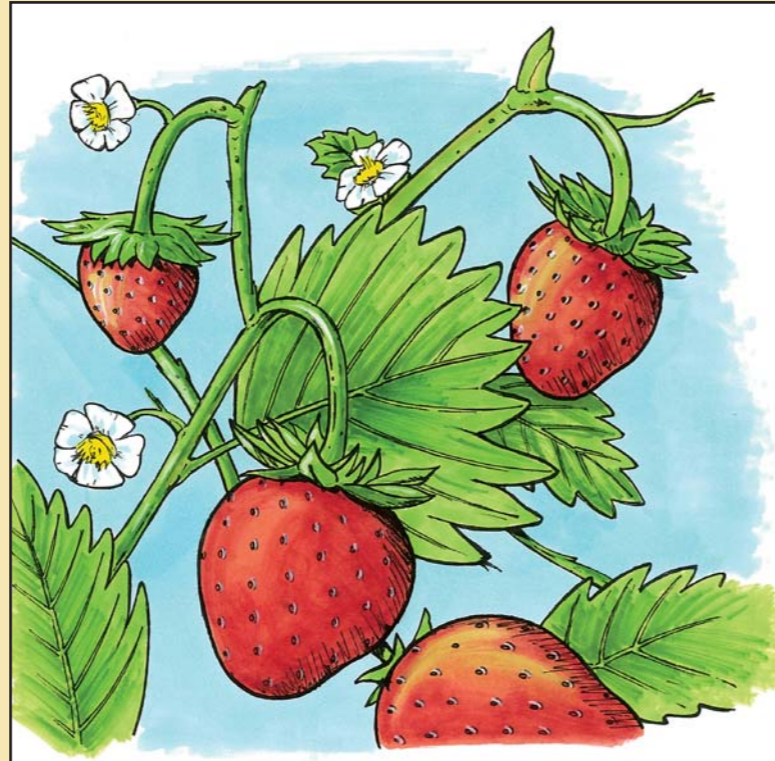
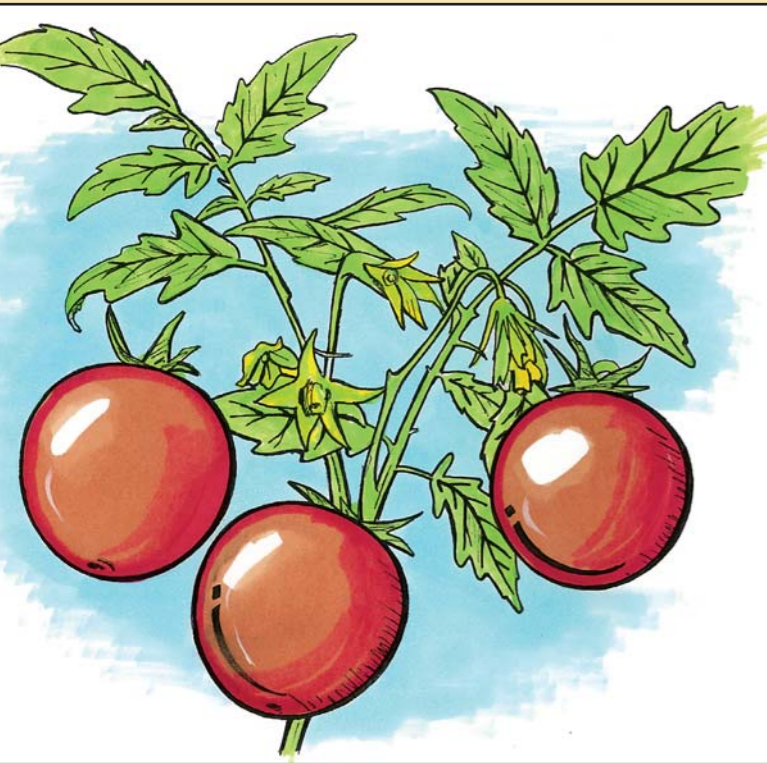
When her honey stomach for storing nectar is full, Blossom flies back to the hive to share her nectar with her friends. They pass the nectar from bee to bee, and then place it in a honeycomb.



Once it is in the honeycomb, they all work together to fan the nectar with their wings until it becomes honey! After this, Blossom goes to bed satisfied that she had worked hard to make food for the hive and help grow the fruits.

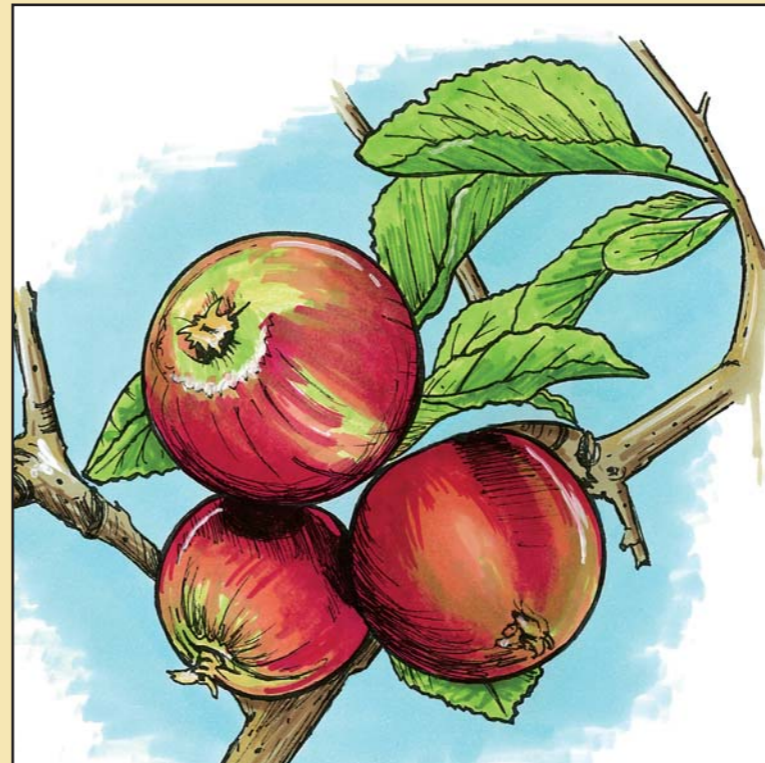
Each day, Blossom and her friends would work hard to collect nectar and to pollinate the flowers. After many weeks of pollination, Blossom's friends had pollinated their flowers so much that they had grown into beautiful and colourful fruits.

Buttercup's yellow flowers had grown into bright red tomatoes.

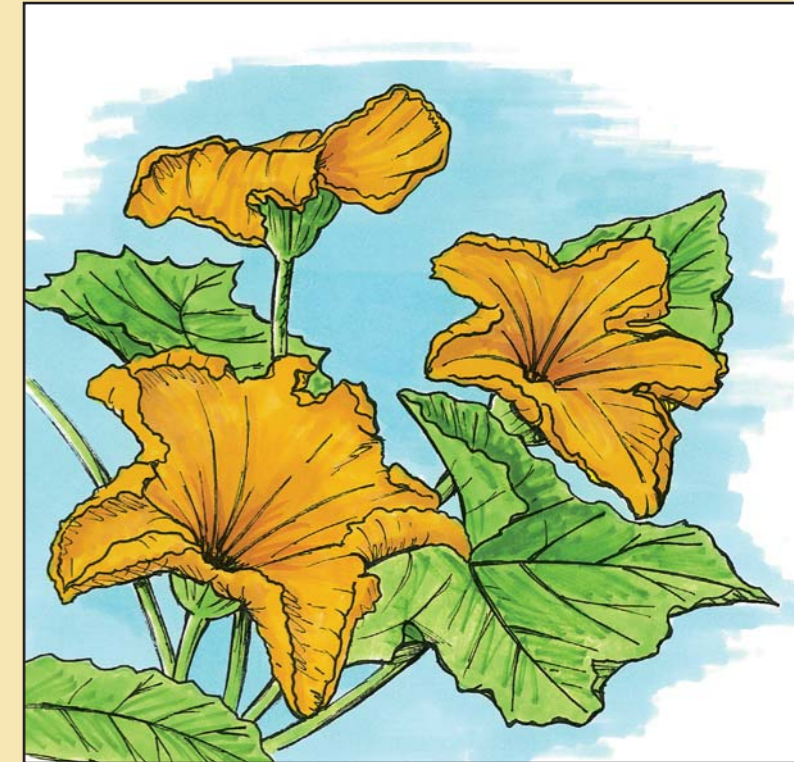


Beatrice's white flowers had grown into juicy strawberries.

And Daisy's white and pink flowers in the tree had grown into plump, round apples.



But Blossom's orange flowers had not changed at all.



Even though Blossom was working extremely hard to pollinate her flowers, they still wouldn't grow into fruit.



Disappointed and lonely,
Blossom watches her friends from afar
as they celebrate around their fully-grown fruits.

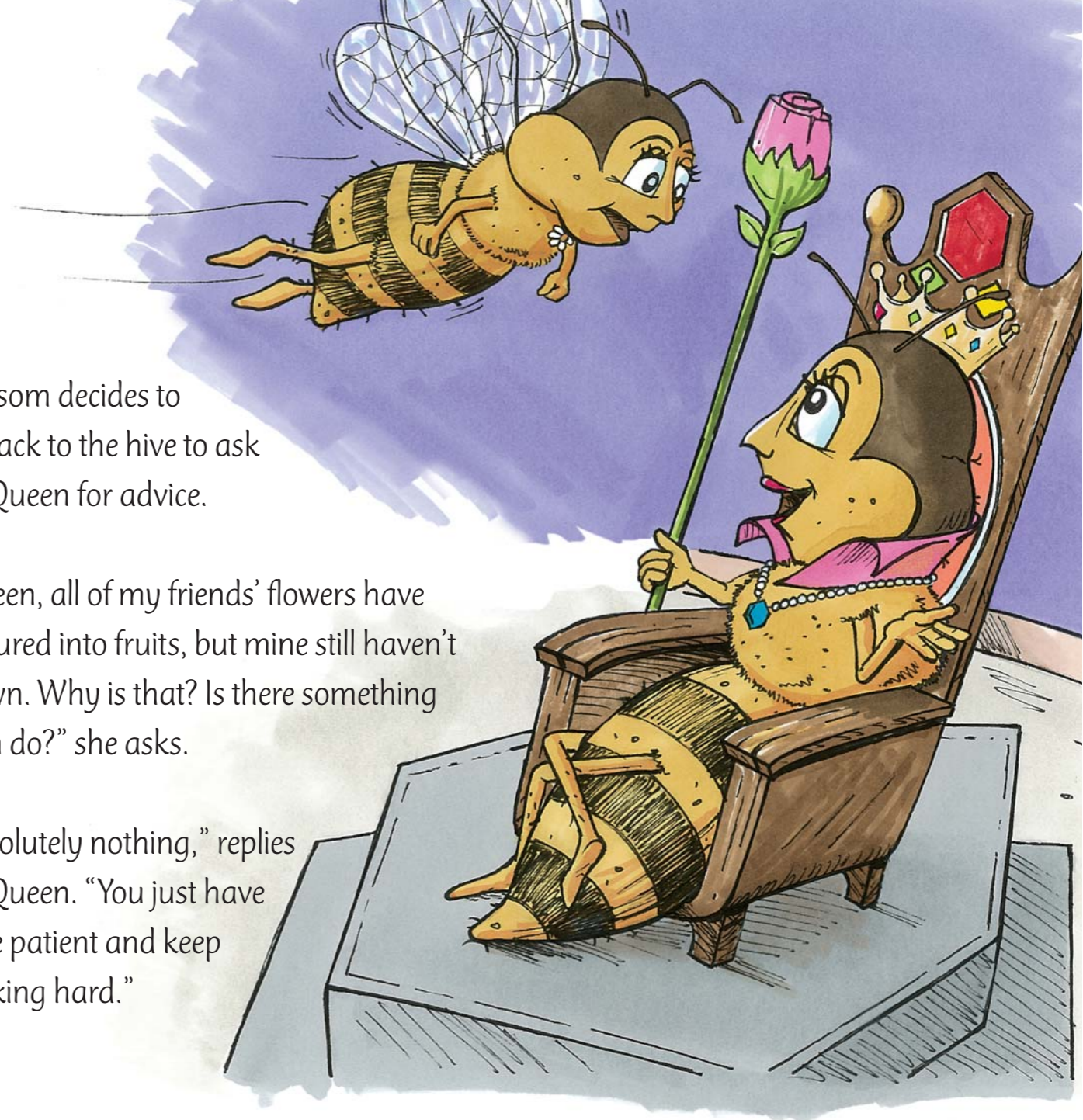
“Why haven’t my orange flowers grown into fruit yet?”
she asks herself.



Blossom decides to
fly back to the hive to ask
the Queen for advice.

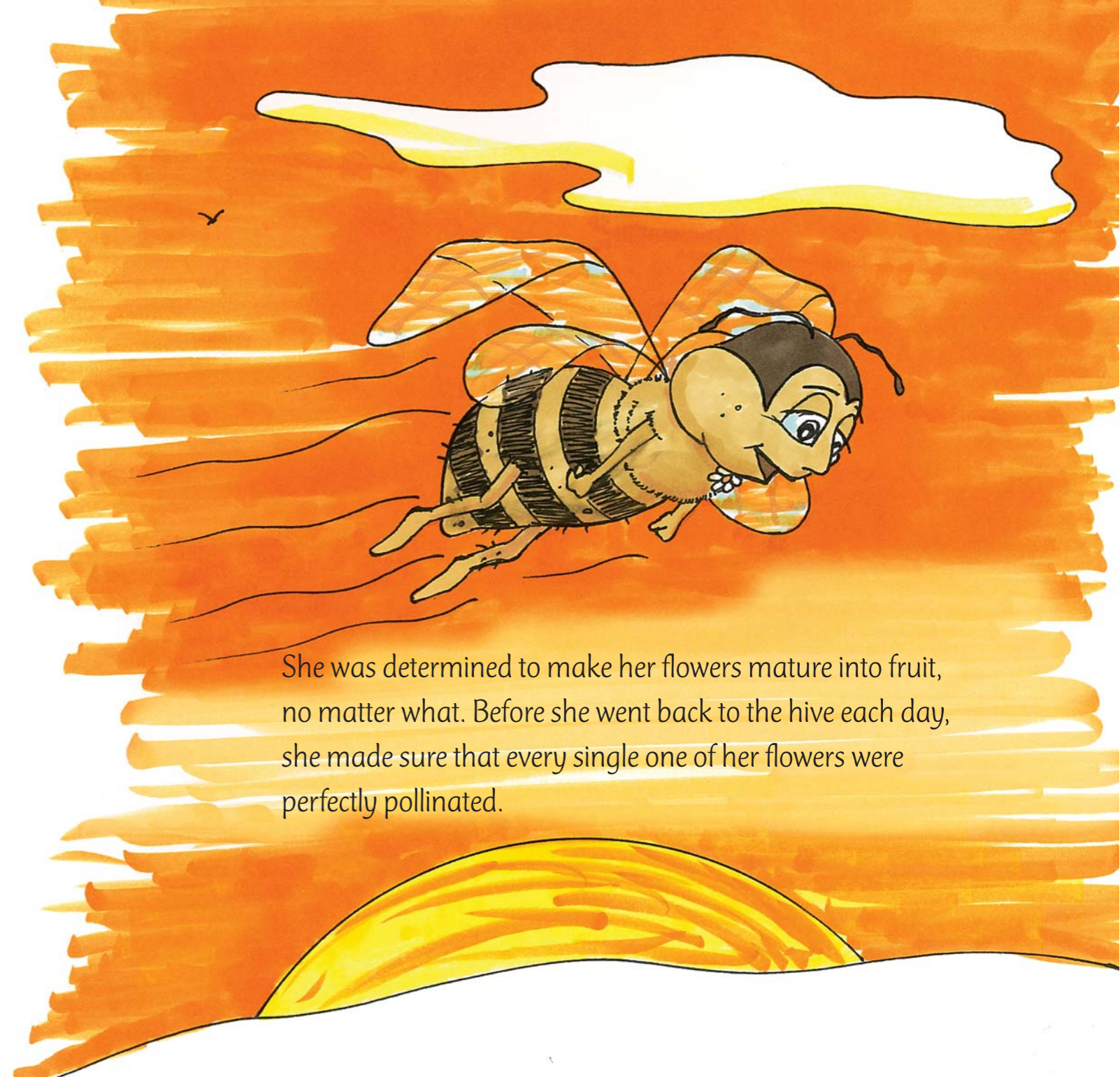
“Queen, all of my friends’ flowers have
matured into fruits, but mine still haven’t
grown. Why is that? Is there something
I can do?” she asks.

“Absolutely nothing,” replies
the Queen. “You just have
to be patient and keep
working hard.”





Blossom continued to work hard, day after day, and each day she worked harder than the last. She woke up earlier than the rest of the bees and was still working after all of the other bees had gone to bed.

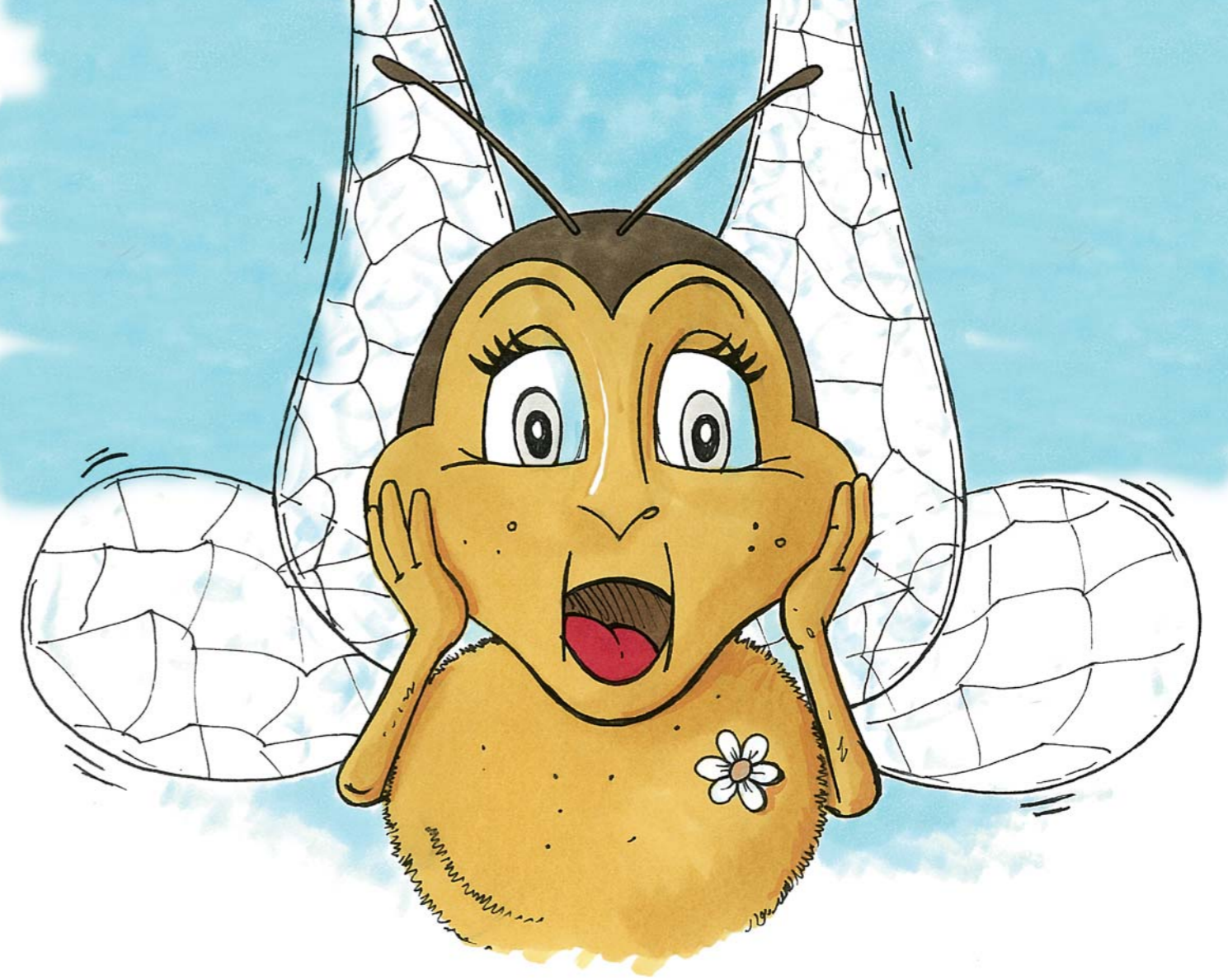
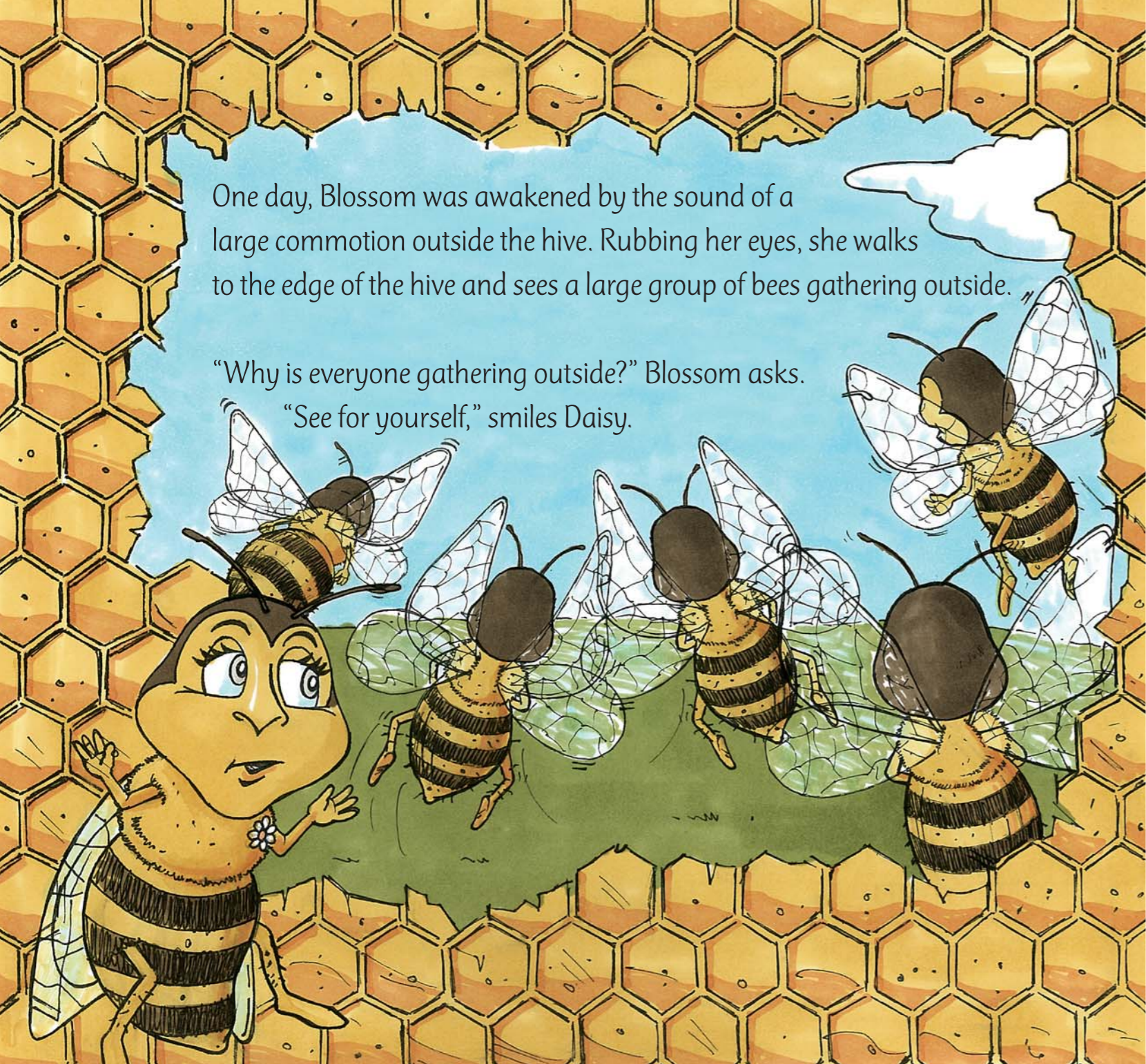


She was determined to make her flowers mature into fruit, no matter what. Before she went back to the hive each day, she made sure that every single one of her flowers were perfectly pollinated.

One day, Blossom was awakened by the sound of a large commotion outside the hive. Rubbing her eyes, she walks to the edge of the hive and sees a large group of bees gathering outside.

"Why is everyone gathering outside?" Blossom asks.

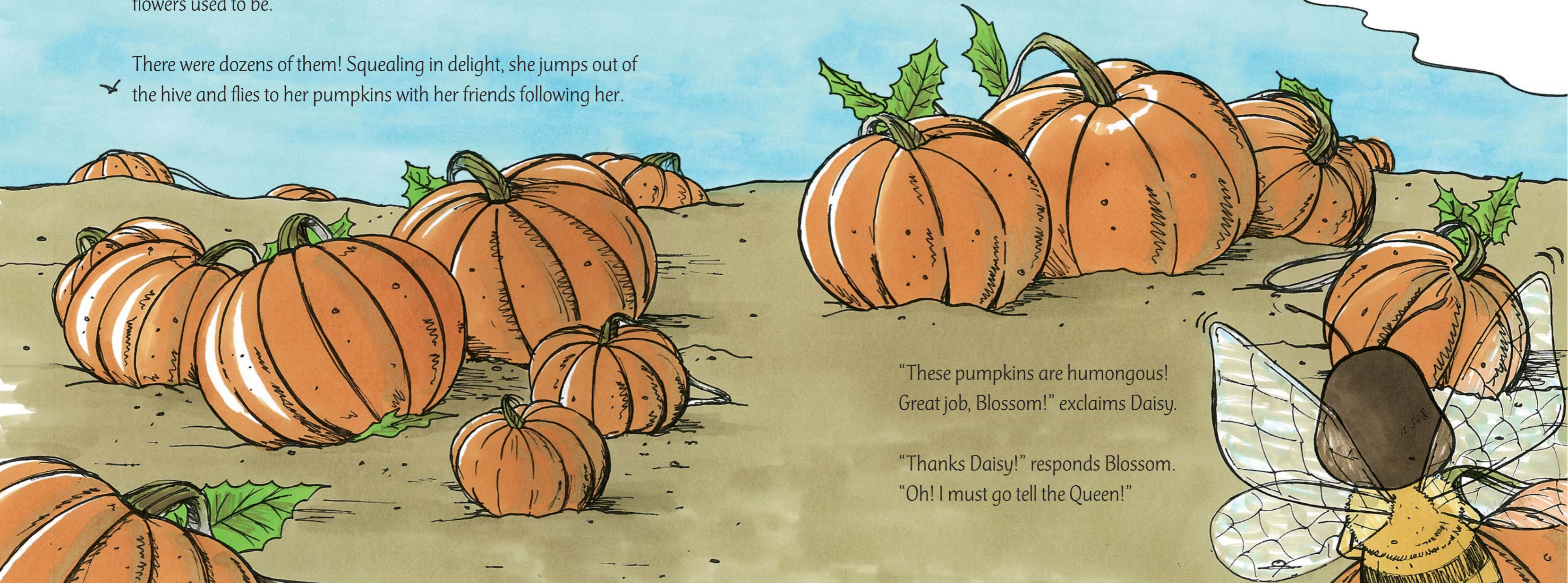
"See for yourself," smiles Daisy.



Pushing past all of the other bees, Blossom pokes her head through the crowd and gasps.

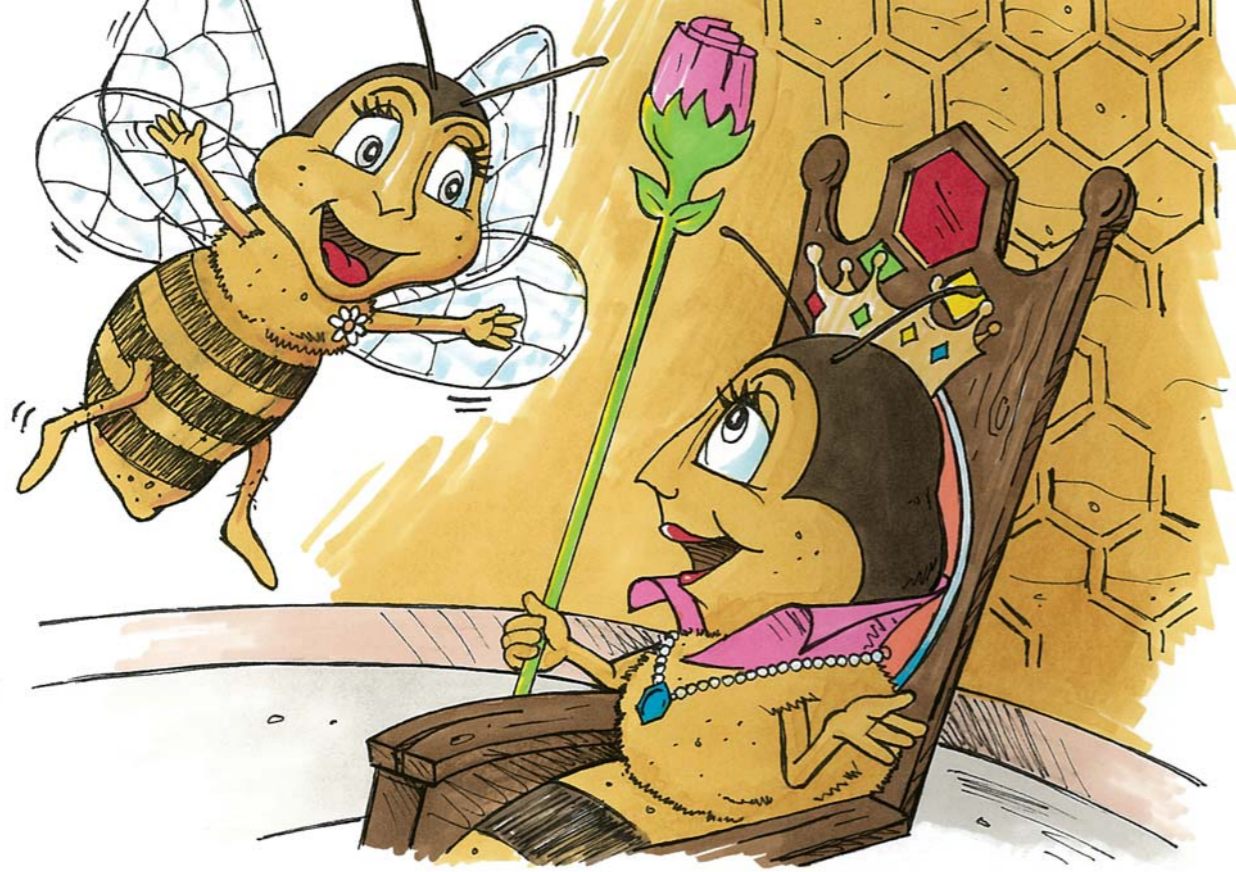
On the far side of the farm, her flowers were nowhere to be found. Instead, huge orange pumpkins stood on the ground where her flowers used to be.

There were dozens of them! Squealing in delight, she jumps out of the hive and flies to her pumpkins with her friends following her.



“These pumpkins are humongous! Great job, Blossom!” exclaims Daisy.

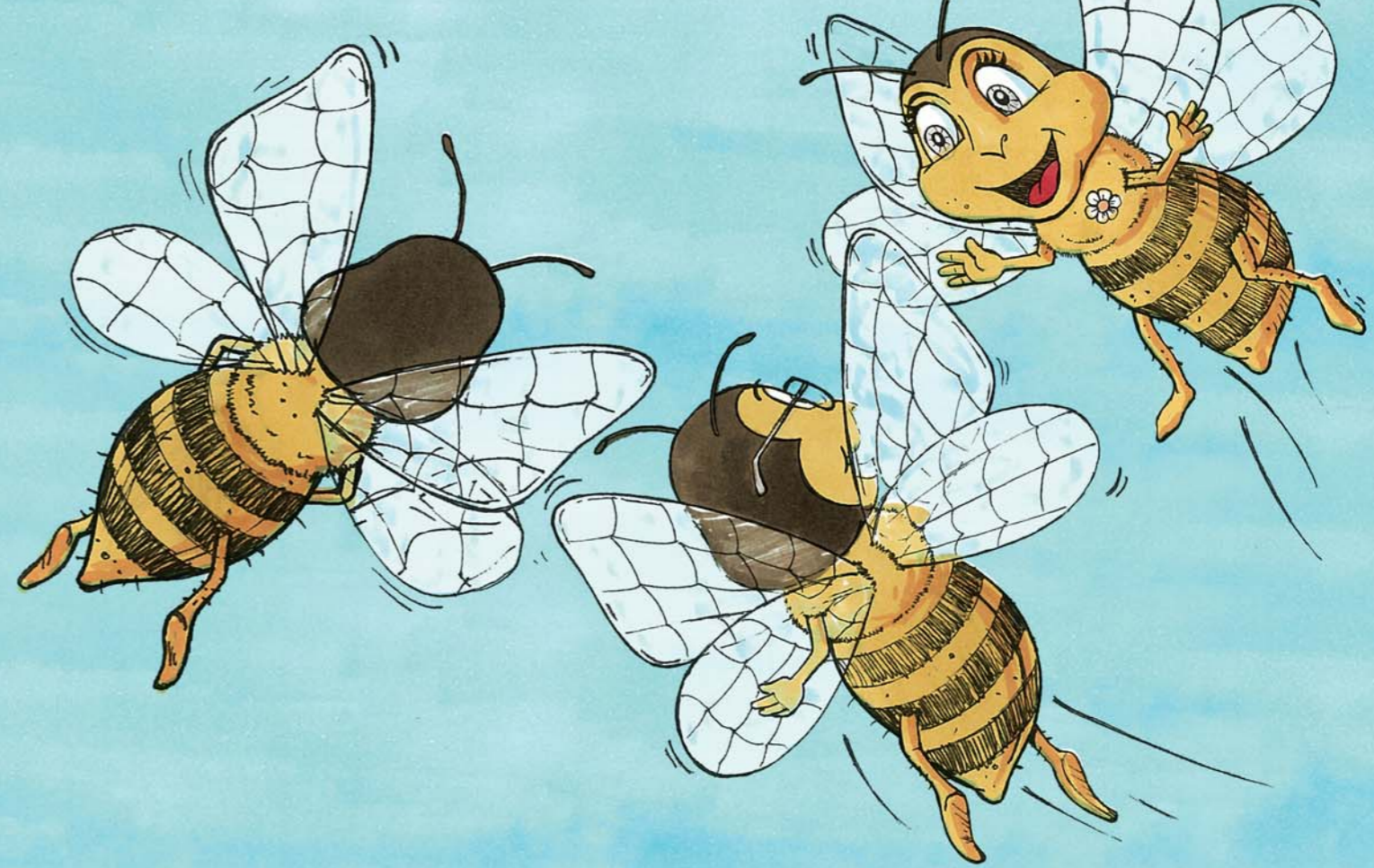
“Thanks Daisy!” responds Blossom. “Oh! I must go tell the Queen!”



Blossom flies back into the hive to see the Queen and to tell her what had happened.

“I knew you could do it,” says the Queen. She looked very proud. “You just had to keep working hard. That’s why I picked you for this job, Blossom. I knew you would continue working hard until your pumpkins bloomed.”

Blossom blushes. “Thank you for believing in me, Queen.”



Later that day, Blossom and her friends were all given new jobs to pollinate more flowers in a different part of the farm. Together, they all flew out of the hive, delighted to be able to help grow new fruits all across the farm.

The Buzz About Bees!

1. **Nectar** is a sugar-rich liquid produced by plants and is found in their flowers and blossoms. Bees collect nectar and make it into honey.
2. While collecting the nectar, bees transfer **pollen** (powdery substance) from male flowers to female flowers. This is called "**pollination**", a task that is vital to the survival of agriculture. In fact, one third of our global food supply is pollinated by bees.
3. **Bees have two stomachs** - one stomach for eating and another special stomach is called the "honey stomach" for storing nectar collected from flowers so that they can carry the nectar back to their hive.
4. A single bee worker produces about 1/12th of a teaspoon of honey in her lifetime, which is five to six weeks.
5. It takes 22,700 bees to fill a single jar of honey. A single jar of the honey you buy in a store requires a million flower visits!
6. A hive or colony has only one queen bee and up to 60,000 bees, 2000 of which are drones, and the rest are worker bees. Male bees are called drones and female bees are called workers.
7. Bees fly about 88,500 kilometers to make just one pound of honey - 2.2 times around the world!
8. Bees are fabulous flyers. They fly at a speed of around 25 kilometers per hour, and beat their wings 200 times per second!
9. Honey bees communicate by performing their '**waggle dance**'. When the worker returns to the hive, it moves in a figure eight and waggles its body to indicate the direction of a new food source.
10. We can all do our part to support bees by planting flowers and herbs rich in nectar, such as lavender, forget-me-nots, bluebells, chives, onions, lemon balm, mints, and fruit trees.

Agriculture in the Classroom



Agriculture in the Classroom-Canada (AIRC) member organizations celebrate Canadian Agriculture Literacy Month (CALM) every March in classrooms across the nation. Agriculture comes alive in Canadian classrooms as students participate in activities to learn about, connect to and understand this important industry. Events and activities run throughout the month to celebrate the fact that agriculture is all around us, every day!

To learn about our school programs and teaching resources visit:

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