

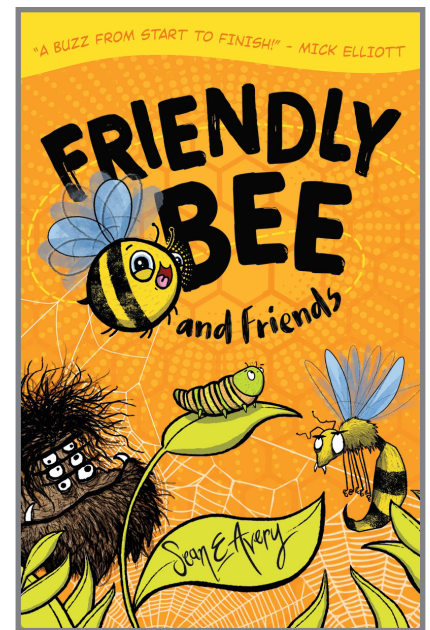
Friendly Bee and Friends

AUTHOR/ILLUSTRATOR
SEAN E. AVERY

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RECOMMENDED FOR: Lower Primary



SYNOPSIS

Meet Friendly Bee: he's a bee who puts himself out there, a bee who sees the best in other beings. Sometimes, Friendly Bee's cheerful attitude gets him into trouble—like almost being squashed by an excessively large shoe or becoming a delicious meal for the mildly homicidal Enormous Hairy Spider. Luckily, Friendly Bee's reluctant best friend Angry Wasp is there to save this buzzing buffoon from certain doom—if he really has to.

ABOUT THE CREATOR

Sean E. Avery is a teacher, writer-illustrator, sculptor and designer born in South Africa; living in Perth, Western Australia. Locally, he's best known as the writer/illustrator of well-loved children's picture books, *All Monkeys Love Bananas* and *Harold and Grace*. Internationally, he's best known as a sculptor who uses CDs and DVDs to create breathtaking works of art that reside in galleries and private collections all around the world. He is curious, enthusiastic and ready to work hard for the things he believes in.

STUDY NOTES

- Before reading the novel, view the cover and title of the book and identify the following:
 - The title of the book
 - The author
 - The publisher
 - The blurb.
- Based on the cover, what do you think this story is about? How do you think it will begin/end? Revisit your answer after reading the story to see if your predictions were correct.
- Discuss the title of the book. Do you think this is a good title? Why or why not? If you were asked to choose an alternative title for the book, what would it be? Remember, a good title should capture the audience's attention and give them some idea of what the book is about.
- The orientation sets the scene, mood and introduces the characters. As a class, discuss the following questions after reading the the opening scene of the novel:
 - Which character/s are we introduced to?
 - What mood is the author setting?

Write down all the descriptive words the author has used to describe the characters and setting.

- It is the author's job to create trouble for their characters. What trouble (complications) does the author create to make it difficult for the main character to achieve their goal/s?

- Characterisation is how the characters in a novel are described physically, their point of view, their personalities, their private thoughts and their actions. Draw your own version of a character from the book and then describe their personality in five words. Compare your descriptive words of that character with other people in your class. Did you choose the same person? Did you use the same words?
 - Did your drawing look different from the illustrator's drawing? Did the illustrator draw the characters how you wanted them to look?
- Consider the world the author has created in this novel and discuss the the following questions as a class:
 - Can you describe it?
 - How is it different to the world you live in?
 - Which elements of the world seem realistic, and which seems fantastical?
- How important were the illustrations in creating the world in this novel?
- How does the story conclude (resolution)?
 - Compare the ending of the story with how you imagined it ending at the end of the opening scene. Were you surprised by where the story went?
- Design your own cover for the book with new imagery and a new tagline that will persuade and interest people in reading the book.
- Choose a scene in the novel and rewrite it from the perspective of another character. Focus particularly on the character's attitudes and feelings, rather than simply recounting events. How might another character see and experience events differently to the character in the novel?
- Make a list of new words in the book that you didn't know the meaning of. Write some sentences using the words.