

# The Beehive

AUTHOR

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ILLUSTRATOR

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**RECOMMENDED FOR:** Lower to Mid Primary



## SYNOPSIS

An amazing look into the native stingless bee, the heroes of pollination, from celebrated teacher librarian and author Megan Daley and CBCA shortlisted illustrator Maxine Hamilton.

It's finally hive day! Willow has been waiting all year for groundskeeper Tom to split the school's native stingless beehive in two so she can take home her very own hive. Everything needs to be just right to help so that the bees forage and thrive in their new home.

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Megan Daley is a Teacher Librarian and has been awarded the Australian Teacher Librarian of the Year from ASLA and the Queensland Teacher Librarian of the Year, as well as the national Dromkeen Librarian's Award. A former national vice-president of the Children's Book Council of Australia, Megan is also a regular literary judge, curator of 2023 Brisbane Writers Festival Word Play program, a workshop presenter, the creator of the popular website Children's Books Daily and co-creator of the Your Kid's Next Read podcast.

## ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

Max Hamilton is an award-winning illustrator, graphic designer and most enthusiastically a maker of children's books. She enjoys noticing the little details in things, loves to get lost in the world of illustration and stories, and through her art aims to raise awareness of the importance of protecting our Australian fauna. Max lives in Sydney with her partner, two young daughters and a couple of guinea pigs named Dumpling and Noodles.

## STUDY NOTES

### BEFORE READING

- Before reading, view the cover and title of the book and identify the following:
  - The title of the book
  - The author/illustrator
  - The publisher
  - The blurb.
- What do you think the story might be about from looking at the title only? Do your ideas change after seeing the cover?
- Look at the front cover, read the blurb on the back to gather clues and use any prior knowledge you may have to

predict some events that might happen in this story.

- Write your own story using the title of the picture book.
- 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 attentions and give them some idea of what the book is about.

## WHILE READING

### Exploring the Text

- Who do you think the audience for this book is? Why?
- Is the book an imaginative, informative or persuasive text? How can you tell?
- Literary techniques allow a writer to convey a deeper meaning in their text. What techniques can you find in this text? eg. metaphor, imagery, alliteration, personification
- What deeper meaning can you draw from the text?

### Exploring the Illustrations

- How do the illustrations add to the story?
- Do you think the illustrator has effectively told the story visually?
- Cover the text in the book and write your own story following the illustrations.
- Choose one of the spreads and have a class discussion about the following illustration decisions:
  - How do you think the people are feeling? What clues might there be in the pictures?
  - Is there a main colour in this spread? How does it make you feel?
  - Do the colours change from spread to spread? Why might that be?
  - Do the pictures take up the whole page, or are they framed?
  - Are any of the words bigger on the page than the others? Why could that be?

## AFTER READING

- What did you know about native bees, their hives and how they live before reading *The Beehive*? What do you know now?
- Notice the descriptive words and language used throughout the text. List some of the descriptive words and phrases. How do they make you feel? Why do you think the author used those words in the book?
- This book is a dual text book. It uses two different types of language, one to tell a story and the second to share facts about native bees. What can you say about the different types of language used in each story (eg. emotive words are more commonly used in the story, whereas clear language is used to share facts). Research your favourite native animal and create a dual text story like *The Beehive*.
- Find objects in *The Beehive* that feature different shapes, eg. the hive, garden beds, flowers, honeycomb, etc.
  - Draw the shapes. Label the shapes. How many sides does each shape have? How many corners?