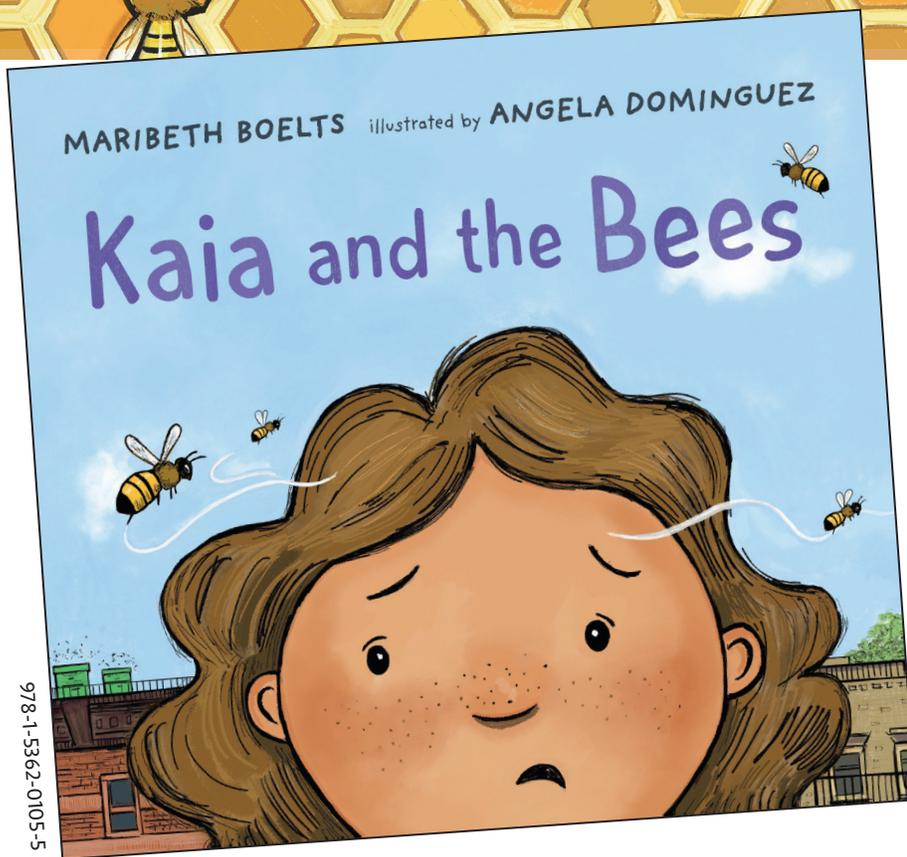


Classroom Guide



Kaia and the Bees

BY **Maribeth Boelts**
Author of *Those Shoes*

ILLUSTRATED BY
Angela Dominguez



KAIA IS THE BRAVE TYPE. Like hottest-hot-pepper brave. But there is one thing that scares her: BEES! And right now, thousands of bees live on her roof because Kaia's dad is a beekeeper. He says that the world *needs* bees. But only he goes on the roof, not Kaia—unless she can find a way to be the brave girl she always says she is. Buzzing with storytime potential, *Kaia and the Bees* is an honest and relatable tale about bravery and compassion, as well as the importance of bees to our world.

“Beekeeper Boelts infuses her narrative with both appropriate vocabulary and empathy. . . . Could be just the ticket for turning bee-phobes into beekeepers.” —Kirkus Reviews

maribethboelts.com angeladominguezbooks.com

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The Common Core State Standards (CCSS) and Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) addressed by the discussion questions, activities, and worksheets in this guide are noted throughout. For more information on the Common Core, visit corestandards.org; to learn more about NGSS, visit nextgenscience.org.

Discussion Questions



Unless otherwise noted, all discussion questions meet the following Common Core State Standards: [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.K.1](#); [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.1.1](#); [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.2.1](#); [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.3.1](#)

-  Kaia describes herself as the brave type. What does it mean to be brave? What examples does Kaia give of her bravery?
-  Kaia is not so brave when it comes to bees. What initially caused her to be so frightened of bees?
-  Why do you think that Kaia lets the kids in her building believe that she is a beekeeper? Why does Kaia feel “twisty inside” when they listen to her talk about beekeeping? [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.K.3](#); [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.1.3](#); [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.2.3](#); [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.3.3](#)
-  How is Kaia’s untruth about being a beekeeper revealed to her friends? How does Kaia respond to her friends’ reaction to the truth?
-  What does Kaia do to get ready to see the bees? The author slows down the action when describing how Kaia heads to the roof with her dad to visit the beehives. Why do you think that author told this part of the story step-by-step?
-  Describe how Kaia’s reaction to the bees in the rooftop beehives changes from the beginning of her visit to the roof with her dad to the end. [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.K.3](#); [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.1.3](#); [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.2.3](#); [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.3.3](#)
-  Though Kaia’s dad continues to invite Kaia to help with the bee chores, Kaia declines the daily invitation. What finally changes Kaia’s mind about helping her dad with the bees?
-  Use your five senses to describe the scene in Kaia’s kitchen when her family is filling jars with honey. Start with Kaia’s words and then add your own senses about what you might, see, hear, taste, touch, and smell as Kaia’s family fills jars with the harvested honey. [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.1.4](#); [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.2.4](#); [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.3.4](#)
-  What is the “mystery” and “magic” Kaia and her family feel about the honey they’ve jarred?
-  What incident in the kitchen causes Kaia to become afraid? How does she cope with this challenge?
-  What important lesson about herself did Kaia learn through her experience with the bees? [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.1.2](#); [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.2.2](#); [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.3.2](#)



Activities for students



A Bee's Life

Research the life of honeybees. Locate facts about how they live, make honey, and communicate. Make note of other interesting facts that you discover about honeybees. Use your research to write an informative piece about honeybees. Your piece could be in the form of a standard report, a poster report, a set of bee fact flash cards, or another type of creative written presentation. Consider sharing your research through a digital medium such as Seesaw.

[CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.K.2](#); [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.1.2](#); [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.2.2](#); [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.3.2](#); [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.K.6](#); [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.1.6](#); [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.2.6](#); [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.3.6](#)

Hotel for Bees

Design a bee hotel using an empty tin can with the top and bottom removed. Stuff the can with paper straws or hollow sticks so that the can is full of spaces for bees to call home. Thread a string through the can so that it can hang sideways. Use the string to suspend the can from a tree branch that is near flowers and a water source. Hive-loving honeybees won't move in, but you may attract more solitary bees like mason bees, leafcutter bees, and carder bees—all great pollinators! Watch to see if bees move in and make your bee hotel a home. [NGSS.K-ESS3-1](#)

Save the Bees

Bee populations are under threat from pesticides and other human-caused issues. Create a poster with a slogan to encourage everyone to save the bees. Decorate your poster with a colorful illustration and include tips on what people can do to help bees survive.

Point of View

Kaia has a strong negative reaction when she sees two bees climbing on the inside of the kitchen window. She is about to swat the bees, but then thinks, "Maybe they don't want to sting me. Maybe they want a way out. That's all." Rewrite this scene from the story from the point of view of the two bees in the kitchen window. What would they be thinking and feeling as they watched Kaia's family put honey in jars and when they see Kaia approaching them with a swatter?

[CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.1.6](#); [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.2.6](#);
[CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.3.6](#)

Sweet Treat

Make a honey recipe to savor the work of bees. Mix 8 tablespoons of honey with 1 cup of plain Greek yogurt and 1 cup of peanut butter, Combine until smooth. Serve the dip with sliced apples and/or pretzels.



The discussion questions, activities, and worksheets in this guide were created by Leigh Courtney, Ph.D. She teaches in the Global Education program at a public elementary school in San Diego, California. She holds both master's and doctoral degrees in education, with an emphasis on curriculum and instruction.

NAME: _____

Cause and Effect

The story events in *Kaia and the Bees* are all connected to each other. Look at the story events listed in the CAUSE column. Think about what happened in the story right after the event described. Draw a line to connect each CAUSE to its EFFECT.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.1.3; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.2.3; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.3.3



Cause

Kaia helps her family put honey into jars.

Kaia stepped on a bee when barefoot and it stung her.

Kaia takes off her wet glove and grabs a stick where bees are drinking water.

A bee lands on Kaia's arm when she's playing with her friends and she screams in fear.

Kaia is determined to overcome her fear of bees when her friends laugh at her.

Effect

The neighborhood kids don't believe that Kaia is a beekeeper.

Kaia goes up to the roof with her father to help with the beehives.

The kitchen has honey on the floor, on the table, and on the doorknobs.

Kaia became terrified of bees.

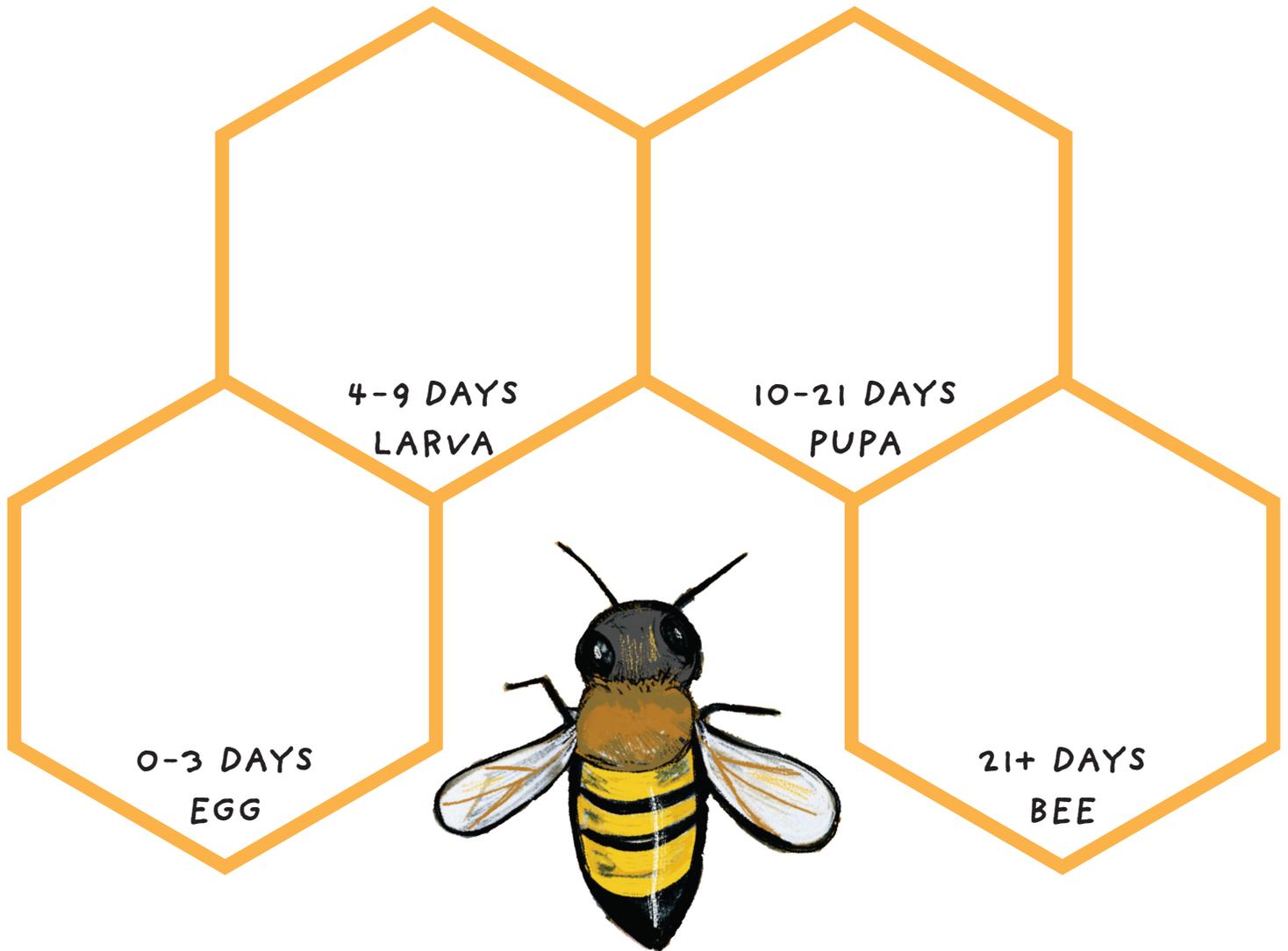
Kaia is stung by a bee while helping her dad with the hives on their roof.

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From Egg to Bee



Read the different stages in the development of a worker bee. Cut out each step and glue it into the chart in the correct order. [NGSS.3-LS1-1](#)



- In the pupa stage, the body has three parts and looks like a soft, white bee.
- The Queen lays tiny eggs.
- A fully developed worker bee emerges to serve the hive.
- The eggs hatch as larva with no legs or eyes.

NAME: _____

Similarities and Differences

Like Kaia's dad, author Maribeth Boelts loves bees! She was a beekeeper for many years near her home in Iowa. Compare the photo of Maribeth holding a frame of bees with the illustration created by Angela Dominguez of Kaia doing the same action.

What do you notice that is similar in the two images? What's different? [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.K.7](#); [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.1.7](#); [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.2.7](#); [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.3.7](#)



SIMILARITIES

DIFFERENCES
