

Finding ESME

When you find it, you will know



FUN FACTS

The Honeybee

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When a worker bee discovers a new source of nectar, she'll do a special dance called a "waggle dance" to tell other bees where to find it!

Honeybee Facts

Honeybees are the only insect that makes food we can eat. Every day, worker bees collect nectar from flowers and bring it back to the hive, where it can be turned to honey. The queen bee is responsible for laying eggs, and lays around 1000 a day. She can choose to lay either male or female eggs. Most of the bees in a colony are female worker bees. The male bees are called “drones,” and their only job is to fertilize other queen bees.



Although a single bee makes just 1/12th of a teaspoon of honey in her whole life, together, a colony of bees can make over 110 pounds of honey a year. Colonies can be as many as 20,000 to 60,000 bees. To produce a single pound of honey, the colony will have to visit about 8 million flowers. No wonder people like to say, “busy as a bee!”

Extra Fun Fact

Honey is one of the only foods that doesn't spoil, as long as it's stored properly. The water content is too low for bacteria to survive in it – less than 20%.

Discussion Questions

Why is Esme so afraid of the bees and how is it connected with her grieving the loss of her father? List some of the imagery of bees and honey throughout *Finding Esme* and what the author might be trying to convey. What ultimately breaks the “honeycomb chain of sorrows” for Esme?

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