

QUICK CARD: *THE BEE TREE*



<i>Reference</i>	<i>The Bee Tree</i> , Patricia Polocco. (1998) ISBN: 8601422165548
<i>Plot</i>	Young Mary Ellen complains to her grandfather one afternoon that reading is boring. Seeming to humor her, he takes her on a hunt for a Bee Tree which results in a mad chase involving half the town. Honey discovered, Mary Ellen learns an unexpected lesson in the sweetness of stories.
<i>Setting</i>	A lazy summer day in a close-knit country community. All the places through which the characters crash on their mad chase bear familiar labels like: “Dead Man’s Tree” and “Dunks Woods” etc. This sense of familiarity sets the mood of the peaceful country town.
<i>Characters</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mary Ellen, the impatient, adventure hungry granddaughter who scorns reading • Grandfather, the wise old leader of the bee chase • The townspeople who join in the chase: Petra and Dorma Einar Tundevold “Klondike” Bertha Fitchwork Feduciary, the goat herder
<i>Conflict</i>	Man vs. Self- Mary Ellen must learn that some things are worth chasing even if they don’t come easily... both bees and books!
<i>Theme</i>	The sweetness of learning for its own sake The wisdom of one’s elders A hunt for sweetness draws community.
<i>Literary Devices</i>	<p>Onomatopoeia- Sound words like “Slap,” “Bump,” “Honk,” “Tweedle-Tweedle-Squeak!”</p> <p>Simile- Wisdom and learning is like honey: a sweetness worth chasing.</p> <p>Repetition- Each time a new character notices the careening crowd, the grandfather’s invitation becomes more boisterous and welcoming: “We are hunting a Bee Tree!”</p>