

DECODABLE • 53

The Bee and the Flea



Written by Cheryl Ryan • Illustrated by Catalina Rankin

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A Reading A-Z Decodable Book • Word Count: 246



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ELEMENTS USED IN THIS BOOK	
New phonic element	long /e/ digraph: ea, ee, ie
Words with new phonic element	Bea, beach, bee, breeze, clean, deal, each, east, eat, feast, field, flea, free, lean, leave, Lee, queen, sea, seat, sheep, sweet, three, tree, weed, week
Reviewed phonic elements	consonant digraphs: open vowels
Story words	dear, near, nectar, squeaky work
New high-frequency word	
Special considerations	inflectional endings -ed, -ing, -s; plural ending -s; possessive 's; two-syllable decodable words



In a field near the sea,
there lived a wee bee.
She lived near a wee lean flea.
Bea the Bee lived in a hole in a tree
near the beach where a breeze
came from the east.

The Bee and the Flea • Long /e/ Digraph

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For three days a week,
Lee the wee flea lived on a sheep.
The sheep lived in the weeds.
The sheep ate leaves from the weeds.





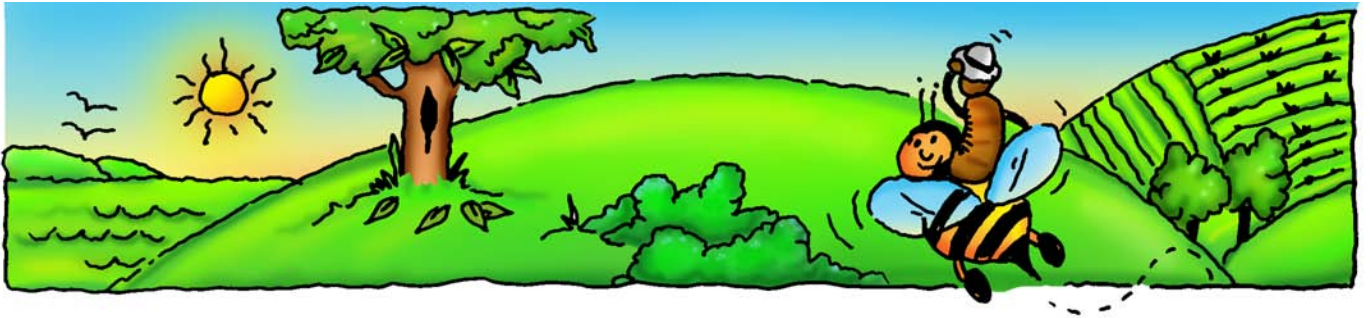
Lee was not like other fleas.
He liked to eat sweet nectar from roses.



One day Bea saw Lee eating nectar.
“What are you doing?” screamed Bea.
“Fleas do not eat sweet nectar.”
“But I like eating sweet nectar,” said Lee.
“I do not want to be a flea.
I want to be a bee.”

“Come with me to my hive,” said Bea.
“You can meet the queen bee.
We can see if she will let you
live in the hive.”

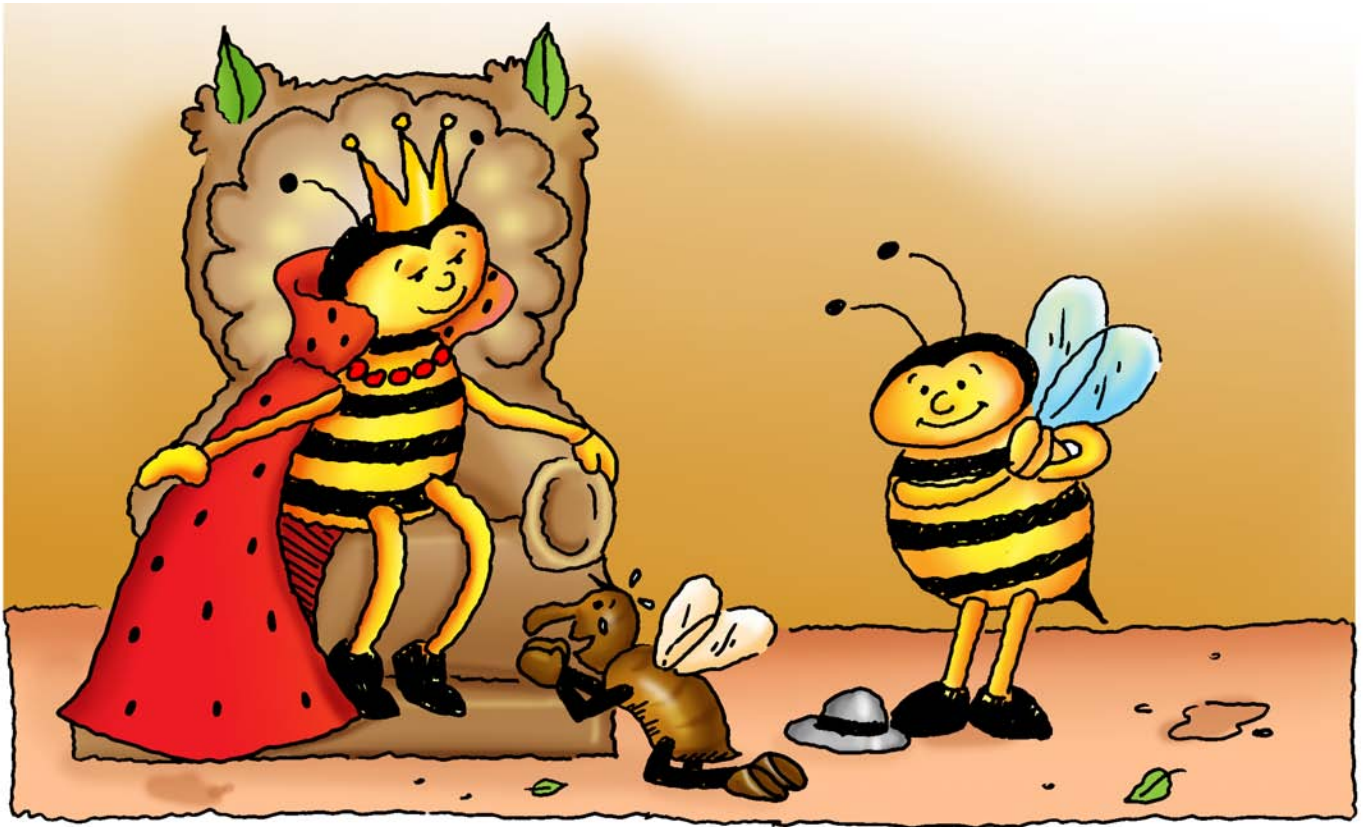




So Lee leaped on Bea's back
and off they went to the tree.

"I have always dreamed
of being a bee," said Lee.

They went to the hive to see the queen.
She was sitting in the big seat.
"I have come to speak to you,
dear queen," said Bea.
"Can Lee the Flea live in the hive?"
"It's a deal," said the queen.
"He can live in the hive for free
if he keeps it clean."



The Bee and the Flea • Long /e/ Digraph

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Each day, Lee would sweep the hive three times.
 He kept the hive squeaky clean.
 And the queen let Lee feast on sweet nectar.

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