



New Zealand Post
**CHILDREN'S
BOOK AWARDS**

**2010
FINALISTS**



JUNIOR FICTION



Sting

Raymond Huber

Walker Books

ISBN 978-1-921150-89-0 pb RRP \$16.99

Target age 8+

Ziggy's not your average bee in a box. Life's pretty sweet in the hive, but he knows he's different from the other bees.

When Ziggy leaves Bee City to find out why, he soon learns that the truth can sting.



Raymond Huber lives in Dunedin. He has been a social worker, gardener, primary school teacher, lecturer, and is currently a writer and editor. He's written Science and English textbooks and short stories for children. *Sting*, published by Walker Books, is his first novel.

Great Activity and Event Ideas

1. When the story begins Ziggy lives in a bee city. Design a bee city.
2. What would happen to us if there are no more bees?
3. What can you plant in your garden to attract bees?
4. What should you do if you are stung by a bee?
5. We put honey on your toast. What else can you use honey for?



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Activity - Experiment

Can bees see in colour?

Conduct this experiment to discover the answer.

What You'll Need:

- Sugar
- Water
- Pan
- Coloured paper
- Safe scissors
- Clear plastic cups
- Outdoor table
- Heavy washers
- Notebook

Directions

Step 1: Make nectar to attract bees by mixing one quarter-cup of sugar with one cup of water. Heat the mixture slowly in a pan on the stove until the sugar dissolves. Let the mix cool.

Step 2: Cut squares of coloured paper four inches on each side. Use red, orange, yellow, green, blue, deep blue, violet, white, black, and gray.

Step 3: Cut the bottoms out of as many clear plastic cups as you have squares of paper. Tape the squares to the top of an outdoor table. Set one cup bottom on each square. Add a washer to weigh it down, then pour in some nectar.

Step 4: Wait patiently for the bees. Which colours do they land on? To keep track, make a table in your notebook. Every ten minutes, check the experiment.

Count the number of bees on each colour, and write that down next to each color.

The next time you check, put your counts in another column of boxes. At the end of the day, remove the dishes.

Step 5: The next day, do the experiment again. Do the bees visit their favourite square even if no food is on it?

Step 6: Now confuse the bees. Next to the coloured squares, set out gray squares similar in shade to the coloured squares. If bees see colour, they should land mostly on the coloured squares. If they can't, they should visit the gray squares too.