

# The Flight of the Bumblebee

**A classroom playscript**

**Links learning focus in the arts /music curriculum**

**Adapted from the New Frontier edition picture book & CD, illustrated by Mini Goss**

ISBN: 97819210422508

**by Hazel Edwards**

**[www.hazeledwards.com](http://www.hazeledwards.com)**

*A clumsy bee-prince, with no sense of direction, Bumble must find and pollinate flowers or food won't grow. In a drought-stricken Palace garden, Bumble takes zoom-flying lessons despite bullying by the Workers and the Queen Bee who tells him where to go. This time, Bumble gets his flightplan, right with the help of a kindly Drone. Movement to music is the answer.*

## **CAST**

Min: 6 actors Max 30 including choruses

Narrator (big part) holds BIG book

Bumble, a clumsy, young bee

Workers' Chorus (any number) worker bees

Queen Bee, who is the boss

Drone

Bees Chorus (buzzing, but non-speaking)

Butterfly (non-speaking)

**SFX** 'The Flight of the Bumblebee' by Rimsky Korsakov

Music Box series CD with book can be used.



**PROPS** Big flowers

Big book labelled 'The Flight of the Bumblebee'

**SCRIPT:**

BEES CHORUS BUZZ ACROSS THE STAGE, WITH BUMBLE FOLLOWING

**NARRATOR;** Bumble was clumsy.

For a bee whose job was to target flowers, that was a problem

**BEES CHORUS:** Buzz. Buzz. Buzz.

**NARRATOR** Bumble bumped into branches,

missed petals,

and got lost, even inside the dry Palace Garden where drought threatened the

crops.

**WORKERS:** 'Bumble' is the right name for you.

**QUEEN BEE:** Bumble, you need a sense of direction in life.

**BUMBLE:** Yes M'am,' said Bumble.

**QUEEN BEE** Bees must be quick and on target. No bumping into scarecrows in the vegetable garden.

**NARRATOR** Bumble increased speed.

**BEES CHORUS:** Buzz Buzz Buzz.

**NARRATOR** He flapped his wings.

He fluttered.

He nose- dived.

And missed the orange blossom, again

**QUEEN BEE** Go back to Flying School.

**BEES CHORUS:** Buzz. Buzz. Buzz.

**BUMBLE:** Can I do lessons in Flying?

**NARRATOR:** He did crop dusting and pollen dancing.

**WORKERS** Bumble tried so hard.

He flapped, and

he zizzed.

**BUMBLE:** (Hitting the ground) I never get to the right place at the right time.

**QUEEN BEE** No sense of direction. Fix it.'

**DRONE:** Practice. That's what I tell all my child bees.

**BEES CHORUS:** Buzz. Buzz. Buzz.

**WORKERS** Try wing- flapping at the entrance of the hive.

**NARRATOR:** Whirr Whirr Whirr

Bumble was a great fan.

**BUMBLE:** (WATCHING BUTTERFLY) So beautiful.

**QUEEN BEE** Butterflies just flutter by. You're a working bee AND a bee prince. Act like one.

**BUMBLE:** I'm too large and hairy.

**QUEEN BEE** True. You do have an image problem. But we can do an extreme makeover.

**DRONE** (KINDLY) Let's try music. A composer created 'The Flight of the Bumble Bee' about a King and a bee-prince.

**SFX** Music

**WORKERS** (SNEERING) The Fright of the Fumble-Bee.

**BEES CHORUS:** Buzz. Buzz. Buzz.

**WORKERS** (laugh loudly at Bumble and point)

**NARRATOR** Bumble blushed as much as was possible for a large yellow and black bee.

**BUMBLE:** (blushing) Is the King a bee? I thought there were only Queen Bees.

**QUEEN BEE** There is only ONE Queen Bee around here... That's ME!

**DRONE:** Use the music as a flight plan to visit flowers.

Just fly in tune.

**SFX** Music starts.

**BUMBLE:** O.K. I'm onto it.

**NARRATOR** Bumble flew in and out, flapping in tune.

This time, he got it right. Movement to music.

**BEES CHORUS:** Buzz. Buzz. Buzz.

**BUMBLE::** So dry below, but I can see a few blossoms!

Down Down Down.

**NARRATOR** Bumble hovered above the Palace Garden

in tune with flying.

**QUEEN BEE** So the Flight of the Bumble Bee was successful?

**BUMBLE:** Watch me fly. I am in search of orange blossoms...

What a buzz!

**BEES CHORUS:** Buzz. Buzz. Buzz.

(All fly past, flapping their wings)

Flight of the Bumblebee

Written by Hazel Edwards and illustrated by Mini Goss

Audio CD-read by Antonia Kidman

\$27.95

HB & CD included

ISBN: 97819210422508

32PP

Ages 4-10yrs

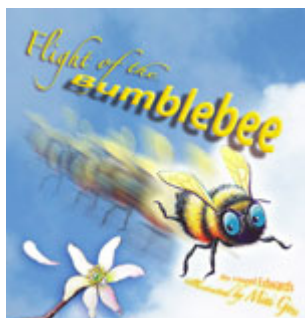
This is the first book in a new classical series *Music Box*.

Bumble (a bee) is having difficulty flying. The Flight of the Bumblebee music has been incorporated into the story as Bumble learns to fly to the sound of the music. This book is illustrated by Mini Goss. Included at the end of a book is a short biography on the composer Rimsky-Korsakov and the opera the music (Flight of the Bumblebee) is taken from- The Tale of Tsar Saltan. The book comes with an audio CD read by Antonia Kidman. Both the story and the music are included on the CD, with a message from the famous conductor Sir Charles Mackerras.

## Activities & Notes: Flight of the Bumble Bee

by Hazel Edwards.

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1. **Names:** Imagine being called Bumble. What does it mean? Often people do not like the names their parents have chosen for them, or the names don't suit.
  - a. Do any children have 'flower' names in your class?
  - b. Violet, Rose, Lily, Iris, Tulip, Camellia, Blossom, Ivy and Daffodil are all 'flower names', which are popular for people too. Design your flower garden (from a bee's viewpoint) and include some of these. Check what they look like and when they are likely to come out
  - c. Although Sage and Basil are names of herbs and of people, generally girls or boys are not named Mint or Parsley. Why do you think this is so?
  - Give three examples of names which do or do not suit the people.
  - If you could change your given name on your 21<sup>st</sup> birthday, what would you prefer to be called?
  - Bea is often the short version of the girl's name Beatrice. Write a short story about 'A Day in the Life of Bea, the bee.'

### 2. Composer.

Experiment with your own music, using any instruments. Compose your own 'Flying' music.

### 3. Wing Flapping.

You are the personal trainer or coach. What kind of exercises will you suggest for a bee who needs better wing flapping? Show us.

### 4. Pollen dancing

Work out a pollen dance which last 1 minute. You may dress up.

## 5. Queen Bea.

**You are the Queen Bee. What are some of your jobs?**

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