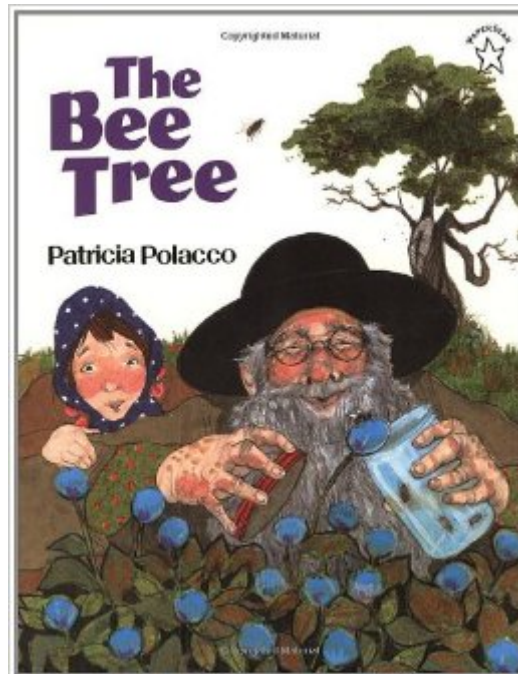


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# The Bee Tree



## Synopsis

When Mary Ellen gets bored with her reading, Grandpa knows a hunt for a bee tree is just what she needs. Half the town joins the exciting chase, but it's not until everyone returns home that Mary Ellen makes a discovery of her own: Sometimes, even the sweetest of things must be worked for. Polacco has created another charming picture book featuring a child learning from a grandparent in an idyllic pastoral setting. Both the writing and artwork are fresh and inviting. School Library Journal, starred review. The newest gem from Polacco's treasure chest of family stories extols the virtue of reading and of taking a study break. Like Mary Ellen, readers will emerge refreshed from this respite, ready to seek out new adventures. Publishers Weekly. Young readers will savor this. The Horn Book Patricia Polacco lives in Union City, MI.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: AD680L (What's this?)

Paperback: 32 pages

Publisher: Puffin Books; Reprint edition (May 4, 1998)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0698116968

ISBN-13: 978-0698116962

Product Dimensions: 8 x 0.1 x 10.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars See all reviews (53 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #18,784 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #63 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Family Life > Multigenerational #122 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Family Life > Parents

Age Range: 4 - 8 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 3

## Customer Reviews

Patricia Polacco, in her story *The Bee Tree*, tells a tale that emphasizes the important value of learning for its own sake. In this story, a young girl, Mary Ellen, tells her grandfather that she is tired of reading, that she would rather be outdoors running and playing. "In that case," responds her grandfather, "it must be time to find a bee tree." The grandfather goes outside with Mary Ellen, takes a sealed glass jar with him and leads his granddaughter to a garden full of bees pollinating flowers. The grandfather uses the jar to capture a number of buzzing creatures. He informs Mary Ellen that

the insects will lead them to a hive full of the sweetest honey she will ever taste. As the grandfather lets the first bee escape, the chase begins. Some of the most intriguing characters join in on the chase when they see what the grandfather and the granddaughter are doing. They see some of the most interesting landmarks as they run after the bees that lead to the tree that holds the sweet reward. When they finally reach their destination, the grandfather knows just the right procedures that enable him to pull the honey safely out of the hive. After he acquires the honey, he invites everyone back to his house for a celebration. During the party, the grandfather takes Mary Ellen away from the crowd. He says quietly to her, "Now child, I am going to show you something what my father showed me, and his father before him." He spoons a dab of honey onto the cover of a book. "Taste," he says, almost in a whisper. "There is such sweetness inside of that book, too. Such things ... adventure, knowledge, wisdom. But these things do not come easily. You have to pursue them.

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