



# CHARACTER BUILDING ACTIVITIES

## IT'S NOT FAIR!

### Story Description

Life couldn't have been better for Buzzie Bee, until she overheard some disturbing news. Buzzie became furious and started a revolt among the younger bees. The angry bees left the hive to start their own. In the new hive the young bees argue and fight over who should do the work. They finally discover that working together with a leader is the only way to have a happy hive. They return and follow the Queen Bee.

This intriguing story demonstrates the influence of an angry thought and the power of a wise answer. Sommer teaches the importance of citizenship, teamwork and responsibility.



### Major Objective

To define and present the following virtues so they can be integrated into the life of each student:

- Citizenship: having the rights, privileges, duties, and responsibilities of where you live
- Teamwork: working together toward a common goal or purpose
- Responsibility: being trustworthy to complete assignments and duties



### Story Time Interaction

Read the story, **It's Not Fair!**, and then write these three virtues on the board: citizenship, teamwork, and responsibility. Define and discuss these virtues. Discuss the main characters:

Buzzie	Fuzzy	Fanners
Danny	Wizbee	Queen
Mary	Worker Bees	Caretakers
Tilly	Guards	

### Activities

**Objectives:** To use the following activities to help reinforce the virtues of citizenship, teamwork, and responsibility. Also to help students consider that working together can help them overcome obstacles and complete seemingly impossible tasks

## Science: Busy as a Bee

You may have heard the phrase “busy as a bee.” Bees are insects that live together (as a colony) in very close quarters called a hive. Each bee in the hive has a very important job that contributes to the well being of the others. Bees stay very busy because they are working to help others. There may be as many as 70,000 bees in one colony.

Each colony has one queen bee that does nothing but lay thousands of eggs. Without her eggs, the colony would die because it continually needs new workers. The drone bee mates with the queen bee to make the eggs fertile. The worker bee gathers all the nectar and pollen, feeds the queen and the young bees, supplies water, secretes beeswax, builds the honeycomb, helps keep the hive cool by fanning its wings, and many other jobs.

Worker honeybees travel about 55,000 miles to gather enough nectar to produce one pound of honey. Each worker bee will produce only about ½ teaspoon of honey and about 1/80<sup>th</sup> of a teaspoon of beeswax. But through teamwork the whole colony can produce as much as 200 pounds of honey a year.

Worker bees collect nectar from inside the flower blossom and carry it in pouches in their bodies to the hive where it is put into a beeswax comb made up of six-sided cells. The extra water evaporates from the nectar and after a while the nectar becomes pure honey. Honey bees’ wings stroke 11,400 times per minute, making the buzzing sound so often heard.

When there are too many bees in a hive, the queen will leave, taking about half the bees with her and look for a new place to make a new hive.

**Explain the life cycle of a bee:** The egg about the size of a pinhead is laid by the queen bee in each cell and hatches into larva. The larva is a small white legless worm. It feeds on beebread in a cell covered over with beeswax and becomes a pupa. The pupa grows into a young bee that bites its way out of the cell about 21 days after the egg is laid.

**Draw:** Have students draw and label the life cycle stages.

**Additional Information:** For further information, go on line and search for Life Cycle of Bees.

### Marshmallow Bee Hives

Cut egg carton bottoms out and link together to create an example of the cells and hives. Then make the following edible beehives.

- 1 ½ tablespoon margarine
- 2 cups miniature marshmallows
- 2 cups Cheerios or other ring-shaped cereal
- Food coloring (optional)

Raisins or chocolate chips  
Melt margarine & marshmallows. Add food coloring (if desired). Stir. Add cereal. Cool slightly. Press spoonful into empty egg carton for hives.  
Makes 16-20 hives. Enjoy!

## All It Takes Is Teamwork

Buzzie learned the hard way that working together with her friends made a happy hive. Discuss teamwork. Ask for ideas/words that go along with teamwork. Why is teamwork important? Does being a part of the team make you lose your individuality?

Let the class use their heads and hands together on these projects.

## Ball Toss

**Objective:** to have each student touch the ball in the least amount of time.

**Rules:** Game can be played indoors or outdoors. Have students hold hands to make an even circle. Each person has to touch the ball in as short a time as possible, and at no time can two players have their hands on the ball at the same time. The teacher is to time the event. When the ball is given or tossed to every person, the game stops. The time is written down.

Try it again. See if the class can beat the time. Write down the new time.

**The challenge:** to find ways to beat their previous time. Stop and brainstorm (think as a team!). Reorder the lineup if desired. Try again. The key—instead of tossing the ball, drop the ball into the person's hand. See if the students can come up with the idea by themselves. Notice: to get the quickest time, there must be teamwork where everyone cooperates.

## We Really Do Need Each Other

*(It's a puzzle!)*

**Goal:** To teach teamwork.

**Preparation:** Divide the class into two groups of students, one group is A and the other group is B. Then divide A in half and B in half. Take two small puzzles and mix up the pieces for Group A, and do the same for Group B.

**Objective:** To see which group finishes its puzzles first. The greater the teamwork of all members, the faster the puzzles can be put together. Switch the puzzles and do it again. This can be done a number of times with different puzzles.

## Is There a Problem?

Buzzie became discontented with her work when she overheard

what Danny and Mary said. This happened because she was looking only at herself and could not see the “big picture” of how the colony worked *together*. She finally saw how everything fit together and the need for a leader when she sought out Wizbee’s advice. Use the following activity to discuss a better way to work through perceived problems.

### **I’ve Got a Problem!**

**Goal:** To teach the importance of leadership.

**Activity:** Write on the board the word *leaders*. Have the class name leaders they know: principal, teacher, librarian, father, mother, mayor, governor, president of the United States, etc.

Explain why it’s important to have leaders. Ask these questions:

1. What would happen if there were no leaders in schools?
2. What would happen if there were no leaders in government?
3. What would happen if the father or mother would not be a leader in the home?
4. What happened to Buzzie and her new hive because they did not have a leader? Use the storybook, *It’s Not Fair!*, to emphasize the lesson.

### **Community Workers**

**Goal:** To help students realize the different kinds of work people do just in their class.

**Procedure:** Students are to make a list of the different kinds of work that people do in their community. Without everyone’s help, there would not be a community. Some of the occupations are doctors, nurses, engineers, fishermen, plumbers, electricians, machinists, sales personnel, fire fighters, police, school teachers, principals, guidance counselors, librarians, etc.

### **Tying It All Together**

Buzzie Bee was very important to her colony of bees. Others depended on her. Each student is an important part of his or her family at home and at school. The job that the student does affects his or her family and classmates. But having those jobs also brings a connection as an essential member of that team—a feeling of belonging and being needed. With the feeling of belonging comes the responsibility to do the jobs that make him or her a part of the group. This in turn brings a sense of happiness and contentment—the same things Buzzie was searching for. Buzzie originally had happiness and contentment, but she didn’t recognize it!