



CHARACTER BUILDING LESSONS

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IT'S NOT FAIR!

About the Book

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.



Main Virtues

**Citizenship/Teamwork/
Responsibility**

Other Virtues

Appreciation, Caring, Cheerfulness, Civic Virtue, Cleanliness, Commitment, Community Service, Compassion, Cooperation, Courage, Courtesy, Diligence, Dignity of Labor, Fairness, Forgiveness, Friendship, Humility, Kindness, Loyalty, Peacefulness, Positive Mental Attitude, Respect for Others, Respect for Law, Respect for Elders, Responsibility, Trust, and Unity



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Citizenship

As Buzzie flew by a house, she saw some flowers on a windowsill. “Oh good!” she said.

As she gathered pollen from the flowers, she exclaimed, “This is great! These flowers have lots of pollen. I’ll be able to take lots of food back to the hive.”

Buzzie was a good citizen, she was eager to share with others the food that she found. Notice that good citizens are happy people.

Team Work

Then Buzzie saw other flowers on the table. “Look at them!” she exclaimed.

Buzzie quickly flew to the other flowers. “This is great!” she said as she gathered the pollen. “These flowers also have lots of pollen. I can’t wait to tell the other bees about my great find.”

Along with being a good citizen, Buzzie was a team worker. She gladly wanted to tell others when she had found food. Now as a team they could work together.

Complaining

Before this, Buzzie was a very happy bee. But Buzzie heard everything that Danny had said.

As she flew back to the hive, she began complaining. “It’s not fair! Why do we worker bees have to do all the work? We gather all the food, clean the cells, make the honeycomb, take care of the babies, feed the queen, air-condition the hive, and guard against enemies. All we do is work, work, work! It’s not fair!”

The more Buzzie thought about it, the angrier she became. When she got back to the hive, she was furious.

We need to think before we act on what we hear. Buzzie believed she was a foolish worker bee—but she wasn’t. She became bitter and complained because she believed the bad report.

Seeking Advice From the Wise

“Look at us poor workers!” complained Buzzie. “We gather all the food, clean the cells, make the honeycomb, take care of the babies, feed the queen, air-condition the hive, and guard against enemies. All we do is work, work, work! It’s not fair!”

Then a guard named Fuzzy pointed to her stinger and explained, “When we use our stingers, like Tilly just did, we die. It’s not fair that we have to give our lives for the hive.”

“That’s right!” complained all the young guards.

“Wait!” yelled Wizbee, the oldest bee. “It is fair! It’s been proven—working with a leader brings happiness.”

But Buzzie was not interested in what Wizbee had to say. She was furious.

If you want to avoid problems and become successful, seek advice from the wise. One of the best sources of advice is from your parents.

Being Rebellious

Then Buzzie announced, “Everyone who is unhappy, follow me! I know where we can start a new hive.”

“Hoorayyyy!!!” yelled the young worker bees.

“Wait!” yelled Wizbee. “It is fair what we have! Let me explain it to you.”

But the young bees were mad. They ignored Wizbee and flew out of the hive.

Buzzie convinced the other younger bees of the unfairness of their hive. Now they were so mad that they started a riot in the hive; and they had no interest to listen to anyone’s ideas. They wanted to start their dream hive.

Being Unselfish

The angry bees followed Buzzie to a large oak tree. When they gathered together, Buzzie asked, “Does anyone have any ideas?”

They began offering suggestions. The smaller bees spoke first. “The bigger bees should guard the hive because they’re the strongest.”

“No!” yelled the bigger bees. “The smaller bees should be the guards. They fly the fastest.”

And so it went. No one wanted to be a guard because they were afraid they might have to die. Everyone wanted what they thought was the easiest job—a fanner.

Instead of wanting what was best for their hive, the selfish bees were looking out only for themselves.

Leadership

When Buzzie arrived at the hive, the older worker bees were happily working together. Buzzie flew to Wizbee and asked, “Do you have any suggestions on how we can have a happy hive? We’re having lots of problems working together.”

“Who is your leader?” asked Wizbee.

“We don’t have a leader,” mumbled Buzzie.

“You can’t have a happy hive without a leader,” explained Wizbee. “You need a queen bee.”

Everywhere you go there are leaders. Classes have teachers, schools have principals, businesses have presidents, homes have parents, the military has generals or admirals, cities have mayors, states have governors, and countries have rulers or presidents. Leaders are essential for success.

Apologizing

When the bees arrived, they bowed their heads before the queen bee and

said, "We're sorry for complaining."

It isn't easy to say you're sorry when you do wrong. However, the mark of a great person is their willingness to apologize when they do wrong and say, "I'm sorry."

Forgiveness

"I forgive you," said the queen bee.

"Thank you," said the workers.

When the young worker bees said they were sorry, the queen bee forgave them. We should do the same. When others apologize to us, we should forgive them.

Working With a Leader Brings Happiness

That night Buzzie said to Wizbee, "You were right. Working with a leader brings happiness."

From that day on, no bee ever complained about her work. And if any bee ever heard someone say, "Look at the poor worker bee," she would not listen. The bees knew that happy bees are those who obey their leader and work together.

Now whenever bees went looking for food, they would sing this song:

Working together,
How happy we'll be.
Working and helping,
Big smiles we'll see.

Questions

1. In the beginning how did all the bees work together?

In the beginning all the bees worked together as one happy family

2. What did Buzzie say as she began gathering pollen from the flowers on the windowsill?

Buzzie said, "This is great! These flowers have lots of pollen. I'll be able to take lots of food back to the hive."

3. Buzzie was a good citizen. Why is being a good citizen good for a society?

A good citizen is interested in helping others.

A good citizen is a good person. Buzzie was a good citizen because she was eager to share the food she found.

4. What did Buzzie say as she began gathering pollen from the flowers in the house?

Buzzie said, "These flowers also have lots of pollen. I can't wait to tell the

other bees about my great find.”

Buzzie wasn't lazy; she was a team worker. She gladly told others when she found food.

5. What did Danny do because it was chilly in the room?

Danny closed the window.

6. What did Buzzie do when she heard the window shut?

Buzzie flew to the window and hit it full force.

7. Where did Danny get his knowledge about bees?

Danny got his knowledge about bees from reading about them.

8. Why is reading important?

Reading is important because we can learn from others.

There are many things we would never know if we did not learn to read.

9. Name at least three things that Danny said worker bees do.

Remove stale air.

Keep the hive at the right temperature.

Gather all the food.

Clean the cells in the hive.

Build the comb where honey is stored.

Guard the hive.

10. Before this Buzzie was a very happy bee. What happened to her when she heard Danny's remarks?

Buzzie became furious.

11. Why did Buzzie become furious?

Buzzie became furious because she believed everything Danny had to say.

12. What should Buzzie have done about the information from Danny?

Buzzie should have checked out Danny's information to see if it was true.

13. What did Buzzie complain about as she flew back to the hive?

Buzzie began complaining, "It's not fair! Why do we worker bees have to do all the work? We gather all the food, clean the cells, make the honeycomb, take care of the babies, feed the queen, air-condition the hive, and guard against enemies. All we do is work, work, work! It's not fair!"

We need to think before we act on what we hear. Buzzie believed she was a foolish worker bee—but she wasn't. She believed the bad report and bitterly complained. Notice what happened to Buzzie and her hive because of her complaining.

14. Who were the first ones Buzzie began complaining to?

Buzzie began complaining to the guards.

15. What invaded the hive as Buzzie was speaking to the guards?

A mouse invaded the hive.

16. What did Tilly do to the mouse?

Tilly stuck the mouse with her stinger.

17. What happened to Tilly?

Tilly fell to the bottom of the hive and died.

18. What did the guards do after Buzzie complained to them?

The guards began complaining.

19. What did Wizbee say to Buzzie and the guards when they began complaining?

Wizbee said, "It is fair! It's been proven—working with a leader brings happiness."

20. How did Buzzie react to when Wizbee said, "It is fair! It's been proven—working with a leader brings happiness"?

Buzzie was not interested in what Wizbee had to say.

If you want to avoid problems and become successful, seek advice from the wise. One of the best sources of advice is from your parents.

21. Why did Buzzie refuse to listen to what Wizbee had to say?

Buzzie refused to listen to Wizbee because she thought she knew what to do.

22. Why is it so important to listen to advice from teachers and parents?

It is important to listen to teachers and parents because they are older and have much experience.

It is particularly important to listen to parents. Parents love their children and they want what is best for them, so it is always good to trust and obey them.

23. What did Buzzie announce to all the unhappy bees?

Buzzie announced, "Everyone who is unhappy, follow me! I know where we can start a new hive."

24. What did the young bees do when Wizbee said, "Wait! It is fair what we have! Let me explain it to you"?

The young bees ignored Wizbee and flew out of the hive.

Buzzie convinced the other younger bees of the unfairness of their hive. Now they were so mad that they started a rebellion in the hive, and they

wouldn't listen to anyone who disagreed with them. They left to start their dream hive.

25. Who did the smaller bees suggest to guard the hive?

The smaller bees suggested, "The bigger bees should guard the hive because they're the strongest."

26. Who did the bigger bees say should guard the hive?

The bigger bees said, "The smaller bees should be the guards. They fly the fastest."

27. Why did no one want to be a guard?

No one wanted to be a guard because they were afraid they might have to die.

28. What job did all the bees want to have?

All the bees wanted to be a fanner.

29. Why did all the bees want to be a fanner?

All the bees wanted to be a fanner because they thought being a fanner was the easiest job.

Instead of wanting what was best for their hive, the bees were selfish.

30. What did all the bees do when they could not agree?

All the bees began arguing and yelling.

31. What did one of the bees yell back when Buzzie screamed, "Stop!!!!

This is no way to have a happy hive"?

A bee yelled back, "Who made you the leader over us?"

32. Why did Buzzie go to Wizbee for advice?

Buzzie went to Wizbee because she was the oldest bee.

If you want to be wise, learn to seek advice from older people, and especially your parents.

33. What did Wizbee ask Buzzie when she said, "Do you have any suggestions on how we can have a happy hive? We're having lots of problems working together"?

Wizbee asked, "Who is your leader"?

34. What did Wizbee say when Buzzie said, "We don't have a leader"?

Wizbee said, "You can't have a happy hive without a leader. You need a queen bee."

Everywhere you go there are leaders. Classes have teachers, schools have

principals, businesses have presidents, homes have parents, the military has generals or admirals, cities have mayors, states have governors, and countries have rulers or presidents. Leaders are essential for success.

35. What did Wizbee say was important to let the leader do?

Wizbee said, "It's important to let the leader tell the other bees what kind of work they should do."

36. What did Buzzie say that working with a leader would bring?

Buzzie said, "Working with a leader brings happiness."

37. Why does working with a leader bring happiness?

Working with a leader brings happiness because it allows a trusted leader to make decisions that will benefit everyone.

Without a leader there is chaos because everyone is doing what he or she wants to do instead of for the common good.

38. What was the song Buzzie began to sing as she flew back to the younger bees?

*Buzzie sang,
Working together,
How happy we'll be.
Working and helping,
Big smiles we'll see.*

39. What were all the young bees doing when Buzzie came to their hive?

The young bees were arguing and complaining.

40. What did the young bees want to do after Buzzie explained to them how they needed a leader to have a happy hive?

The young bees wanted to go back to their hive.

41. What did the young bees say when they met the queen?

When the young bees met the queen they said, "We're sorry for complaining."

It isn't easy to say you're sorry when you do wrong. However, one of the marks of a great person is their willingness to apologize when they do wrong and say, "I'm sorry."

42. What did the queen bee say when the young bees said, "We're sorry for complaining"?

The queen bee said, "I forgive you."

When the young worker bees said they were sorry, the queen bee forgave

them. We should do the same. When others apologize to us, we should forgive them.

43. What did the young worker bees immediately begin to do?

The young worker bees immediately went back to work.

43. That night what did Buzzie say to Wizbee?

That night Buzzie said to Wizbee, "You were right. Working with a leader brings happiness."

44. From that day on what did no bee ever complain about?

From that day on, no bee ever complained about her work.

45. What did the bees know about happy bees?

The bees knew that happy bees are those who obey their leader and work together.

If you follow this advice of obeying your leaders and working together, you too will discover happiness.