

DR. KOOKABURRA - BEES

written by

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A banner hangs over the chalkboard: SHOW AND SHARE!
Tino, Kel and Yindi sit at their desks with their presentation items ready to go; Tino has a brightly coloured flower, Kel has a skateboard, and Yindi has a plush puppy dog toy with a veterinarian kit. We see Oscar at the front of the class giving his presentation, he's brought a bunch of ingredients and a mini-oven with him. Dr. Kookaburra watches proudly.

OSCAR (READING)

For my science show and share
thingy I present to you; the
chemistry of cooking!

The class claps modestly.

OSCAR (CONT'D)

Using some delicious chemistry, I'm
going to whip up some fresh baked
banana bread for everyone to enjoy!

The class claps and applauds wildly with excitement.

TINO, KEL, YINDI, DR.KOOKABURRA

[Cheering sounds]

OSCAR

All it takes is some margarine,
flour, sugar, yeast and a few good
overripe bananas - all smooshed
together and baked for about 30
minutes.

DR. KOOKABURRA

Ooh, that sounds tasty!

OSCAR

Yeah get THIS! The yeast I'm using
is actually a live fungus! While
it's cooking, it eats the sugar and
burps out air bubbles that cause
the bread to rise!

DR. KOOKABURRA

(A little grossed out)

Ok that makes it sound a little
LESS tasty...

(Suddenly very happy)

But your science is top notch!
Great job, Oscar! Well done!

Tino, Kel and Yindi clap and applaud.

TINO

It smells SO good!

OSCAR

Thanks Buddy! Now. While we wait
for it to cook, let us commence
with the time honoured tradition...
the licking of the spoo-
(Interrupted)
AHH!!

Oscar is suddenly terrified of something he's seen and he
dives down for cover. Everyone quickly turns to see what the
trouble is; a bee has landed on the windowsill. Tino and Kel
are immediately panicked and dive down next to Oscar.
Conversely, Yindi is smitten by the bee. Dr. Kookaburra is
stunned, taking in the situation.

TINO

(Terrified)
Ahh! A bee!

YINDI

(Smitten)
Aww, a bee!

KEL

(Commanding)
Everyone get down! This is not a
drill!

OSCAR

It must have come because it
smelled my cooking!

Oscar takes a lick of the spoon.

OSCAR (CONT'D)

My incredible, delicious cooking!

KEL

Maybe if we throw the banana bread
out of the window it'll go away!

TINO, OSCAR

(shocked and appalled)
No way!!

YINDI

(To the bee)
Hee hee! You're just so bee-autiful
aren't you!

KEL

Yindi! What are you doing? That
thing is an unstoppable stinging
machine!

The bee flies over to Tino's desk and lands on the flower.

TINO
Oh no! It's come for my flower!

OSCAR
So it was YOU who summoned it here!

TINO
I've doomed us all!!

Dr. Kookaburra collects himself and calmly steps in.

DR. KOOKABURRA
Class, class! Everything's ok. It's just a honeybee, it's not going to hurt you.

OSCAR
(Scared)
But it's so buzzy!

YINDI
(Happy)
And fuzzy!

KEL
Yindi! Please!

OSCAR
Dr. Kookaburra, we HATE bees!

TINO, KEL
Yeah!!

DR. KOOKABURRA
Ok that does it. I'm throwing out today's lesson plan!

We see Dr. Kookaburra toss a huge thick book into the recycle bin, the front cover reads 'Advanced Paleomagnetism'.

DR. KOOKABURRA (CONT'D)
It seems this class has a lot to learn and admire about bees!

Yindi continues to happily admire the bee.

YINDI
[Happy giggling and playing noises]

DR. KOOKABURRA
Well... most of you do...

The bee takes off from the flower and flies away out of the window. Tino, Kel and Oscar nervously come out from under the desk.

TINO
Phew.

YINDI
 (Calling)
 By bee! Come back soon!

OSCAR
 Never come back!

KEL
 EVER!

DR. KOOKABURRA
 Ok ok quickly now! Imagination
 stations everybody!

The kids all take their seats at their desks and close their eyes. Tino, Oscar, and Kel suddenly open their eyes again and look nervously toward the window, scared the bee might return. They pick up their desks and scoot as far forward as they can go. Dr. Kookaburra rolls his eyes, smiling.

DR. KOOKABURRA (CONT'D)
 Ok little birds, let's imagine
 ourselves lifting up and away!

Everyone lifts up out of their bodies, becoming their imagination forms.

TINO
 Where are we going today, Doc?

DR. KOOKABURRA
 We're going to travel to the home
 of that little honeybee who came to
 visit us.

YINDI
 YAY!!

TINO, OSCAR, KEL
 [Unconvinced murmuring]
 Ok.. I guess... I 'spoze.

DR. KOOKABURRA
 Off we go!

In their imagination forms, Dr. Kookaburra leads the class out of the classroom window. Followed enthusiastically by Yindi, and very tentatively by Tino, Oscar and Kel.

2 EXT. FORREST (DAY)

2

We see the class descend through the tree tops, down into the forest below.

DR. KOOKABURRA

Our journey begins! There are over twenty thousand different types of bees, but the honeybee is the only one that can make...

Dr. Kookaburra raises his hand expectantly for a high-five.

OSCAR

Milk?!

DR. KOOKABURRA

Honey.

OSCAR

Oh.

Dr. Kookaburra lowers his hand.

DR. KOOKABURRA

You'll get the next one, Oscar!

OSCAR

[Chuckles]

Dr. Kookaburra begins to explain the anatomy of a honeybee and we see a diagram of one take shape on screen.

DR. KOOKABURRA

The honeybee has a teeny tiny brain, about the size of a sesame seed, but don't let that fool you, bees are incredibly smart!

YINDI

Wow! Cute AND smart?

DR. KOOKABURRA

They have four wings, six legs and five eyes; three kind of normal eyes plus two big compound-eyes that are each made up of about seven-thousand lenses. Bees don't have vision like us, but, they see what they need to see very, very well!

YINDI

(Dreamily)

Wow...

TINO

What do bees eat?

DR. KOOKABURRA

Excellent question, Tino! Hold that thought!

Tino and Dr. Kookaburra high five. Tino smiles, getting a little less nervous. The class reaches the forest floor, hovering just above the ground.

DR. KOOKABURRA (CONT'D)
Ah ha... who have we here?

The honeybee we saw in the classroom is close by, resting on the base of a tree.

YINDI
Sprinkles! There you are!

Perplexed, the class turns to look at Yindi.

YINDI (CONT'D)
What? I named her Sprinkles.

Sprinkles, the bee, suddenly flies away toward a clearing.

DR. KOOKABURRA
Righty-o. Let's follow Sprinkles
and see where she's off to!

The class fly off toward the clearing, where they discover a huge beautiful field of flowers.

3

EXT. FIELD OF FLOWERS (DAY)

3

KIDS (ALL)
(Amazed, in awe)
Woah!

DR. KOOKABURRA
Tino, THIS is where bees come to
eat.

TINO
Bees eat flowers?

KEL
I think they eat the stuff that's
ON the flowers.

DR. KOOKABURRA
Ding ding ding! Correctamundo Kel!

Dr. Kookaburra and Kel fist bump.

KEL
Boo yah!

Dr. Kookaburra picks one of the brightly coloured flowers and uses it to demonstrate.

DR. KOOKABURRA

These flowers make NECTAR. Bees LOVE to eat nectar. It's like a wet sugary snack.

OSCAR

I love wet sugary snacks...

DR. KOOKABURRA

Ah! You and bees have something in common, eh Oscar?

Oscar smiles, contemplating this.

DR. KOOKBURRA

Bees also like to eat POLLEN from flowers too. And let me tell ya', pollen is very, very important.

YINDI

Why?

DR. KOOKABURRA

Ah, "why". A classic, but always GOOD question!

Yindi and Dr. Kookaburra quickly high-five.

DR. KOOKABURRA (CONT'D)

Pollen is a powdery substance, made up of very, very small grains. Side note! The wind can blow pollen into the air and some people are allergic to it when they breathe it in.

TINO

Oh yeah! Hay-fever. My mum has that. The pollen makes her eyes water and she sneezes a lot.

KEL

Oh no!

DR. KOOKABURRA

Yep, that part's not great. But, when pollen makes it from one plant to another plant, it's called...

OSCAR

Ooh! I think I know this! Um, Uh... Pollination!

DR. KOOKABURRA

Wow! Excellent stuff Oscar!

TINO, KEL, YINDI
 (Clapping)
 Good answer, good answer!

Oscar and Dr. Kookaburra high-five.

OSCAR
 REDEMPTION!

DR. KOOKABURRA
 So - what does pollination mean?

OSCAR
 No idea.

DR. KOOKABURRA
 (chuckles)
 No worries! let's take a look.

The class spot the honeybee in the middle of a flower, collecting and eating pollen.

DR. KOOKABURRA (CONT'D)
 Our little friend here-

YINDI
 Sprinkles!

DR. KOOKABURRA
 Right... Sprinkles... has been lured to this flower by the brightly coloured petals. Bees love bright colours.

TINO
 I like bright colours...

Dr. Kookaburra smiles, and continues.

DR. KOOKABURRA
 Like all bees, Sprinkles is kind of a messy eater. As she eats the pollen, her hair gets covered in the stuff! Look, even her eyes have hair that get covered in pollen.

KEL
 Woah! Bees have hairy eyes?!

DR. KOOKABURRA
 Yep! Pretty weird right?! But look what happens as she lands on the NEXT flower...

OSCAR
 What? What?

Wee see the bee fly over to the next brightly coloured flower.

DR. KOOKABURRA

Whammo! Sprinkles, the messy little eater, has just carried pollen from one flower to another. The pollen from the first flower mixes with the pollen from this flower, and boom! That will help NEW flowers grow.

KIDS (ALL)

(Understanding)

Ohh.

DR. KOOKABURRA

And that my friends, is pollination. All made possible by this little honeybee.

TINO, OSCAR, YINDI, KEL

Sprinkles.

DR. KOOKABURRA

Sprinkles.
And there's more! Lots of fruits and vegetables, like apples cucumbers and mangos, all grow on plants that NEED pollination. Without bees like... Sprinkles...

YINDI

(Approvingly)

Thank you.

DR. KOOKABURRA

...We wouldn't have all of these delicious fruits and vegetables. Just think about that! Without bees we wouldn't have fresh strawberry ice-cream!

KIDS (ALL)

WHAT?!

TINO

I LOVE strawberry ice cream...

DR. KOOKABURRA

Ah hah! You see! Suddenly bees aren't so bad, right?

YINDI

(Happy rage)

BEES ARE AWESOME!!

TINO, OSCAR, KEL
Yeah!!

TINO, OSCAR, KEL, YINDI
(Chanting)
BEES, BEES, BEES, BEES, BEES!

The honey bee takes off again.

DR. KOOKABURRA
Oop, there she goes! Quickly class!

DR. Kookaburra take off, leading the class across the flower field toward the forest on the other side.

4 EXT. FORREST, FAR SIDE (DAY)

4

YINDI
Sprinkles! Sprinkles where are you?

We see Sprinkles flying towards some trees.

DR. KOOKABURRA
Looks like she's heading back home!

KEL
Where do bees live?

DR. KOOKABURRA
Ooh... in amazing structures they build themselves, called beehives.

Dr. Kookaburra gestures to the beehive on the tree. We see Sprinkles fly inside.

OSCAR
Looks cozy!

TINO
We'll need to imagine ourselves smaller to fit in there.

DR. KOOKABURRA
You kids want to go inside?!

KIDS (ALL)
Yeah!

DR. KOOKABURRA
Oh! Well, alrighty then! Let's go!

Dr. Kookaburra and the kids shrink down to bee-size and fly up into the bee hive.

5

INT. BEE HIVE (DAY)

5

The class enters the beehive. It's beautiful inside. Bees are scattered all around and we see delicious honey dripping from the golden combed walls.

KIDS (ALL)

(Awe struck)

Wow!

DR. KOOKABURRA

Isn't it amazing, class? Bee hives may look small on the outside, but on the inside they're home to one big happy family!

KEL

Wow, imagine having this many brothers and sisters!

TINO

Wait - are there girl bees and boy bees?

DR. KOOKABURRA

There certainly are! And there's a big difference between them. Girl bees, also called 'workers', are the ones who go out, collect pollen and make all the honey.

TINO

Oh. What do boy bees do?

DR. KOOKABURRA

Not much! Boy bees, also called 'drones', mostly just sit around and eat honey all day!

KEL AND YINDI

What?! That's not fair!

DR. KOOKABURRA

(Laughs)

No, I suppose not.

We see Oscar laying on his back, letting honey trickle down into his open mouth.

OSCAR

I'd make a GREAT boy bee!

DR. KOOKABURRA

Yes, I bet you'd love that!
But - only the girl 'worker bees' have stingers!

TINO AND OSCAR
 (Disappointed)
 Aww.

KEL AND YINDI
 Boo yah!

Kel and Yindi high-five.

DR. KOOKABURRA
 The most important bee around here,
 however, is... HER!

Dr. Kookaburra directs their attention to one specific bee,
 twice as big as the others.

YINDI
 Wow, who's that?

DR. KOOKABURRA
 That's the QUEEN bee!

YINDI
 [Excited Gasp!] Your majesty!

The kids all bow.

DR. KOOKABURRA
 Each honeybee hive has one queen
 bee who pretty much runs the place!
 And she gives birth all of the baby
 bees.

Dr. Kookaburra gestures to a group of baby bees.

YINDI
 Aww! Bay-bees!

TINO
 Hey. They're actually pretty cute!

DR. KOOKABURRA
 Fuzzy little guys, hey?! The Queen
 Bee can lay up to two-thousand-
 five-hundred baby bee eggs every
 day.

KIDS (ALL)
 (Fascinated)
 Woah.

DR. KOOKABURRA
 Now, who can guess? How much honey
 does each worker bee make in its
 entire life?

The class thinks it over for a second.

TINO

Five jars?

We see Tino hold up five honey jars.

KEL

Six jars?

One more jar appears.

OSCAR

Enough to swim in?

Oscar swims by, doing back-stroke through a river of honey.

DR. KOOKABURRA

Nope, not even close! Each bee, in it's **WHOLE** life, will make about one twelfth of a tea spoon of honey.

Dr. Kookaburra presents a spoon, one twelfth filled.

KEL

But that's just a couple of drips!

YINDI

So how is there so much honey around here?

DR. KOOKABURRA

Ah! You need to remember just how **MANY** bees there are in here! Each honeybee hive is home to around fifty-thousand bees. With **THAT** many bees all making a little bit of honey, you get a **LOT** of honey!

KEL

What a team!

YINDI

Except the boy bees. They don't do much.

KEL

Right.

KIDS (ALL)

[Giggle].

DR. KOOKABURRA

Ah! Look who's back!...

Dr. Kookaburra directs the kids' attention to Sprinkles who flies into the centre of the room.

DR. KOOKABURRA (CONT'D)
It's Sprinkles!

YINDI
Ooh! Hi Sprinkles!

DR. KOOKABURRA
And Sprinkles has something very
important to tell everyone.

OSCAR
What? Bees can't talk!... Can they?

Oscar leans down to stare one of the bees in the face.

OSCAR (CONT'D)
(To a bee. Speaking slowly,
loudly and clearly)
HOW'S. IT. GOING?

DR. KOOKABURRA
Bees don't talk like you and me.
But! They can communicate...
through dance!

Music drops. We see Sprinkles start to dance in rhythm. All
the other bees stop what they're doing and take notice.

TINO
What is happening right now?!

DR. KOOKABURRA
Ok, maybe there's no actual
music...

Music scratches to a stop.

DR. KOOKABURRA
But bees really have figured out
how to talk to one another by
dancing!

Wee see Sprinkles continue to move rhythmically.

YINDI
What are you saying, Sprinkles?

DR. KOOKABURRA
Remember that big field of bright
flowers we just visited - with all
that delicious nectar and pollen?

YINDI
Yeah...

Well, Sprinkles is telling all the
other bees how to get there!

KEL

Oh! Then they can ALL eat!

DR. KOOKABURRA

You got it!

Lead by Sprinkles, all of the bees fly up and out of the hive. The class follows.

DR. KOOKABURRA (CONT'D)

Let's go!

6 EXT. FIELD OF FLOWERS (DAY)

6

The bees fly gracefully over the field, then each land onto one of the colourful flowers. Dr. Kookaburra and class follow and hover overhead.

OSCAR

All these flowers! It's like an all-a-bee-can-eat buffet!

DR. KOOKABURRA

You said it best, Oscar!
There they all go; collecting pollen to make honey, helping new flowers grow, and maybe they'll help other plants grow too, ones that make fruits, vegetables...

TINO

And strawberry ice cream!

OSCAR, YINDI AND KEL

Yeah!!

DR. KOOKABURRA

Ding ding ding!

7 INT. CLASSROOM (DAY)

7

As Dr. Kookaburra says the third 'Ding', Oscar's mini oven dings at the same time. The class all open their eyes and come back to reality.

OSCAR

Yes! My banana bread is done!

The kids all race from their chairs to gather round, they dreamily smell the sweet aroma. Dr. Kookaburra helps Oscar remove the delicious looking banana bread from the oven. It looks fantastic.

OSCAR (CONT'D)

Ahh. Perfection.

KEL

Wow, Oscar!

YINDI

It smells amazing!

TINO

Can we eat some now?!

OSCAR

Not quite yet. That whole adventure got me thinking one ingredient is missing... this banana bread needs HONEY.

DR. KOOKABURRA

Ah, we're in luck! I always keep a jar of honey around here somewhere.

Dr. Kookaburra heads to the shelf and starts looking.

DR. KOOKABURRA (CONT'D)

Lets see here... magnesium, sulphuric acid, ah here we go! One jar of pure honey!

OSCAR

YES!

Ok, just a little here, and a little there...

Oscar helps serve everyone some banana bread with honey spread on top. Dr. Kookaburra holds his slice. The kids all take a bite.

TINO, YINDI AND KEL

[Happy eating noises]
Oh! So good! Wow!

OSCAR

Aw, thanks everyone!

DR. KOOKABURRA

Outstanding presentation, Oscar!
Great work!

OSCAR

Awesome!! What grade do I get?

DR. KOOKABURRA

Hm. Maybe I should give you a...
BEE?

The kids all smile politely, but don't really react.

DR. KOOKABURRA (CONT'D)

Just kidding! For a presentation
THAT good, you get an A!

Dr. Kookaburra takes a bite of the banana bread, his eyes close in delight.

DR. KOOKABURRA (CONT'D)
(Dreamily)
Make that an A plus!

KIDS (ALL)
Boo yah!

The school bell rings.

DR. KOOKABURRA
(swallowing his food)
Wow, it is that time already!

YINDI
(Happy Rage)
RECESS!!

DR. KOOKABURRA
One more thing before you go! Did you know that honey doesn't go bad?

OSCAR
Huh?

TINO
You mean it doesn't expire?

DR. KOOKABURRA
Yep! If preserved correctly, honey will be good and safe to eat for years and years and years. In fact, some honey was once discovered from Ancient Egyptian times, still perfectly good to eat.

KIDS (ALL)
Wow!

DR. KOOKABURRA
Your homework is... see if you can find out WHY.

KIDS (ALL)
Ok!

TINO
Let's play wing ball!

OSCAR
Yeah we need a rematch!

KEL
It's on!

KIDS (ALL)
(Chanting happily)
Roo roo roo roo roo!

The kids race out of the classroom.

DR. KOOKABURRA
(To himself, relaxing)
Good class today.

Dr. Kookaburra takes another bite of the banana bread.
Suddenly a bee flies up to the windowsill and lands on Tino's
flower.

DR. KOOKABURRA (CONT'D)
Oh! Welcome back, Sprinkles!

Beat.

DR. KOOKABURRA (CONT'D)
I owe you one.

END.