



***The Grumble Bee* - Kyle Mewburn**

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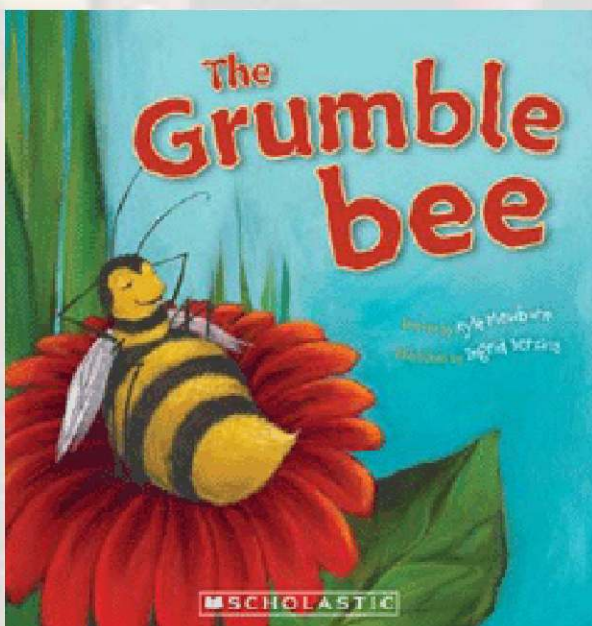
The bees are busy collecting pollen before the winter. One bee dances in the hive to show the way to find the sweet flowers. The directions are complicated and Glib has trouble understanding where to go. He buzzes after the other bees and grumbles when he can't keep up with them. When he finally catches up, the bees laugh at him and there's only a little pollen left for him to gather.

One day Glib smells a pollenicious scent. He flies off in search of the source and finds himself amongst tall, city buildings. The delicious smell leads him on until he sees a hillside covered with flowers. He returns to the hive laden with pollen. Glib knows he should tell the other bees about the garden, but he's too shy to dance the directions in case they laugh at him. So he keeps the sheltered hillside a secret. Soon the frosts come and the bees can't find enough pollen to feed the hive. The bees become too weak to fly, except Glib. Does he have the strength and courage to save the hive?

Colourful illustrations by Ingrid Berzins highlight the vivid flowers and busy bees. Close-up detail inside the hive gives a fascinating glimpse of bees going about their work. The artist's brushwork adds texture to the plump bees and movement to swaying grasses and windswept trees.

A reassuring story that shows how everyone has abilities of value, providing they have the determination to succeed.

Reviewed by children's book author, Jean Bennett.



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