

PERCY

and  
Amina



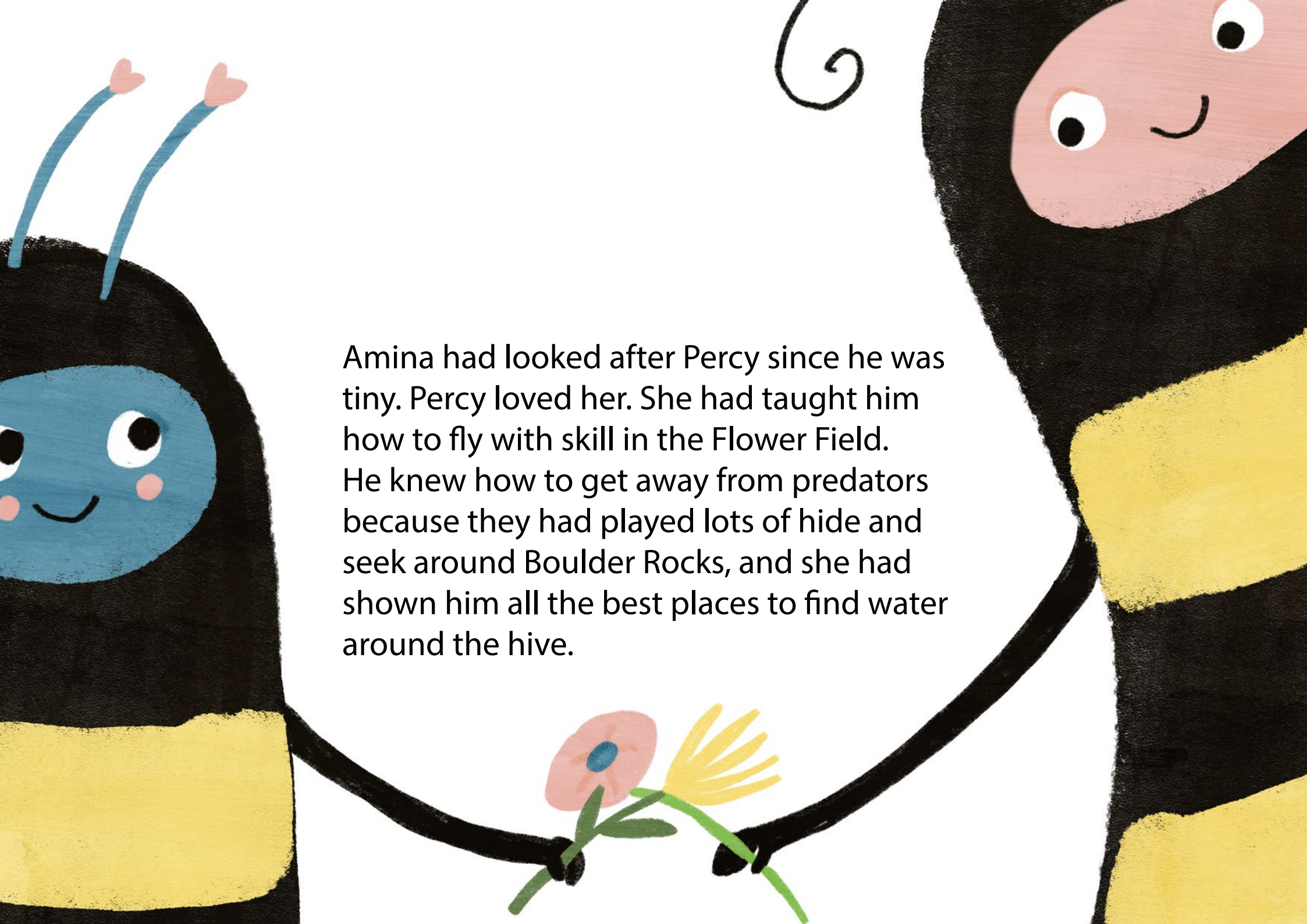
Australian  
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Percy felt nervous and excited as he waited at the hive entrance. It was almost time for his first pollen collecting mission. He was old enough now to do this on his own. He had been training for this day for a long time. Percy looked up at Amina. She seemed nervous as well. "Percy have you been to the toilet?" she enquired. "You've asked me that three times already" replied Percy with a little grin.



Amina had looked after Percy since he was tiny. Percy loved her. She had taught him how to fly with skill in the Flower Field. He knew how to get away from predators because they had played lots of hide and seek around Boulder Rocks, and she had shown him all the best places to find water around the hive.

Amina waved goodbye as Percy flew off. He rocketed towards a meadow of flowers in the nearby forest. He was rolling around in pollen and shoving handfuls of it into his pockets when he felt the first drop of rain. Percy ignored the changing weather and went on collecting pollen. He was keen to return to the hive with overflowing pockets. He wanted the other bees to be proud of him.



As the rain got heavier, Percy finally decided it was time to leave. He leapt into the air, only to be met by a powerful wind. Like a strong ocean current the wind flung Percy off in the wrong direction. He fell through the wet air for a long time, before slamming into an enormous tree that stood above the rest of the trees in the forest. Percy collapsed into one of the tree's hollows. He scrambled up to look out and get his bearings. He didn't recognise this part of the forest. Where was he? How was he going to find his way back to the hive?



After the storm passed Percy flew out of his safe hollow to look for anything that seemed familiar. It was no good, he was lost. His heart felt heavy and his body began shaking with worry. He was blinking back tears when he spotted a waterfall below and flew down for a drink.



Percy looked up from his drink at the waterfall. A tiny spark of a memory twitched in his mind. Maybe he did know this place? Maybe this was the far away waterfall that Amina had shown him when he was little? With his spirits raised, Percy went on, although doubts soon returned as time passed and nothing else seemed familiar.

Percy came to a shelf of rocks. As he arrived, he heard Amina's voice, "ready or not here I come." He spun around in mid-air at the shock of it. "Mina?!" he exclaimed. There was no one there.



Percy flew through a hole in the rock shelf. He came out on the other side of the rocks and looked back at it from a different angle. A realisation dropped into Percy's mind. This place was 'hide and seek' Boulder Rocks! It was unmistakable. Percy felt a rush of joy. He knew where he was. And what's more he knew the way home.





Percy sprang off the rocks and sprinted on. Before long he rounded the Flower Field that he and Amina had visited hundreds of times and soon his hive appeared before him. He had never felt so glad to be home. He could see Amina sitting by herself at the hive entrance. "Ready or not, here I come" Percy bellowed as he flew towards her. Amina leapt up as Percy flew in and nearly knocked her over. "Oh, Percy, I was so worried" Amina stammered as she enveloped him in an enormous hug. "I couldn't have made it without you Mina" Percy whimpered into her shoulder. They hugged for a long time, before disappearing into the hive for some honey and a big rest.





### **Questions for Children**

- What are some important things that adults have helped you to learn?
- Who are the adults in your life that care for you?
- What places are important to you? Why?
- Have you ever felt lost or unsure about what is ahead for you? If so, what was that like for you?

### **Questions for Parents/Carers**

- What places are important to you and your children?
- What are the most important landmarks or places you have known in your life?
- Who/what helps you to feel orientated in your life?
- How do you help your children feel orientated in their lives?