



PERCY

Percy Finds his Place



Australian
Childhood
Foundation

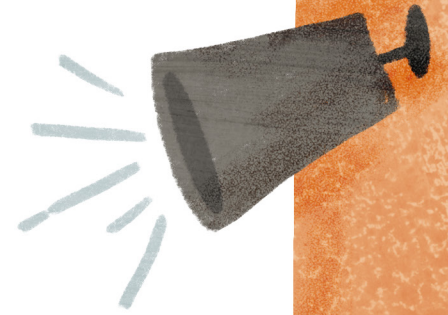
childhood.org.au

© 2020, Australian Childhood Foundation

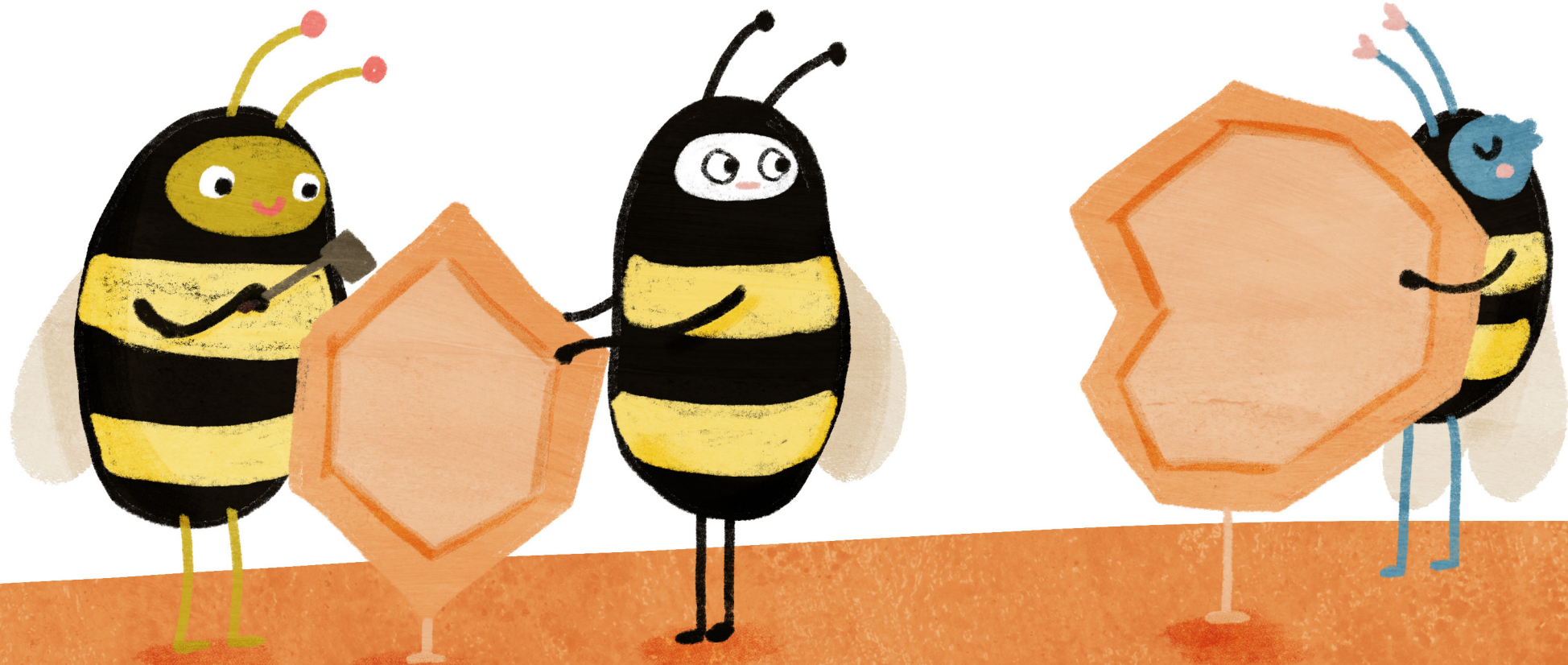
Setting up a new hive is a very tricky business. Percy's bee family were recently forced to move to a new tree when their old backyard hive tree got bulldozed. While many bees were sad to leave, everyone was very happy with their new home tree in the forest behind the backyard. The new tree was known as the 'Big Tree.' It was the tallest and strongest tree in the forest.



Percy's family were busy and hard-working bees. Everyone's efforts meant their new hive was almost finished. Despite the progress, Percy had been having some problems. He couldn't seem to find his place in the new hive. Every morning Queen Bee would make an announcement across the loud speaker, encouraging the bees to keep working hard. Every morning Percy would hear her words and feel guilty, because work wasn't working out for him.



After they first moved, Percy had tried helping the builder bees make honeycomb hexagons for honey storage and baby bee cots. However, Percy couldn't build the right honeycomb shapes, and the other builders kept getting distracted by his whistling as he worked. Percy had been encouraged to try something else.



Percy tried to help the cleaner bees clean up the hive, by sweeping, dusting, and polishing. He liked to hum his favourite songs when he cleaned, although sometimes he got carried away.

Percy had tried helping the nurse bees feed different kinds of honey medicine to sick bees. The sick bees enjoyed Percy's songs, but the nurses did not enjoy him mixing up their honey medicine the wrong way.





Percy was put on guard duty and stationed at the hive entrance. His job was to help the guards to keep out bees from other hives. Percy found that the hardest thing about this job was watching out for sneaky stranger bees while he was in the middle of one of his air guitar solos.

It wasn't long before Percy had tried all the jobs on offer in the hive and hadn't succeeded at any of them.

One morning Percy was dragging his feet around the hive, when Queen Bee's morning announcement came over the loud speaker. This message was different from her others, it sounded urgent. Scout bees had picked up that an enormous storm was headed for the hive. All the bees would need to work extra hard to get the hive storm proofed before the bad weather arrived. Bees around Percy groaned. They were exhausted. They had been working flat out since the family arrived, how could they work any harder?



That was when a big idea landed in Percy's mind. He marched through the hive to the room where Queen Bee made her daily announcements. There was the loud speaker and a wide array of TV screens which showed all the working areas of the hive.

Percy switched on the loud speaker, cleared his throat, and began to sing. His voice was as smooth as honey. He knew the tunes his bee family liked, because he'd tried out many songs working beside them in all of his previous jobs. Percy watched the screens as he sang. He saw bees on every screen bopping their heads and smiling as they worked. He watched as energy levels lifted, and the bees worked at a pace never seen before.





By the time the storm arrived, the hive was protected, and Percy had found his place. From that day on Percy became the family's singing bee, and his hive became the most efficient and successful hive in the entire forest.



Questions for Children

- Have you ever found it hard to find your place?
- What's it like for you being a part of your family?
- Can you draw a picture of your family?
- If your family were bees in a hive, what jobs would they have?
- What jobs do you have in your family?