

Every Bee's Birthday

Beatrix was a honeybee who lived in a nest with thousands and thousands of other bees. She loved being a bee. But there was one day a year when being a bee wasn't so good: her birthday.

You see, Beatrix shared her birthday. But she didn't just share it with one or two friends; she shared it with 1999 other birthday bees.

When thousands of them hatch in the same place on the same day, it doesn't feel that special, so bees don't celebrate birthdays. Every day feels like every bee's birthday!

One birthday, when Beatrix was out looking for nectar, she noticed a mouse called Mallow having a birthday party. 'His birthday is the same day as mine!' Beatrix thought.

Beatrix hid and watched as Mallow and his friends had the most amazing birthday party. If they could celebrate then why shouldn't the bees?

On her next birthday, Beatrix woke up determined to enjoy the day.

"It's my birthday!" she said, jumping up with excitement.

"And ours," said Abbee and Beena as they cleaned their antennae.

"And mine," shrugged Rubee. "It's pretty much every bee's birthday!"



"Have a great birthday, Debbee," said Beatrix as they ate breakfast.

"I'd forgotten about that," Debbee replied.

"You shouldn't forget about your special day!" said Beatrix.

"It's not really special," said Debbee. "It's no different from any other day."

Beatrix felt disappointed. Just because it seemed like every bee's birthday, it didn't mean that it wasn't a special day.

She headed off to collect nectar from the flowers near the hedgerow, hoping that Mallow would be having another birthday party this year.

She hid behind a leaf so that she couldn't be seen and watched the mice hanging bunting and banners from the flowers.

"Surprise!" they shouted as Mallow arrived. Then, they all sang 'Happy Birthday'.

Just as the first party game started, a worm crawled over and blocked Beatrix's view.

She didn't want to miss anything so she used her wings to hover in the flower and peer over the top.

The only problem with bees' wings is... they buzz!

Mallow turned and saw Beatrix. "Oh, hello there!" he said. "Are you OK?"



"I'm sorry," said Beatrix shyly. "I didn't mean to spy. I just love watching your birthday parties. It's... it's my birthday as well."

"Happy birthday!" cried Mallow. "Why don't you join us?"

"Oh, but I haven't been invited," said Beatrix.

"Don't be silly!" he said. "The more, the merrier!"



Beatrix spent the whole afternoon with the mice. They ate delicious seed cake and played 'Musical Mushrooms'.

Beatrix even won at 'Pass the Petal'!

"I'd better get back to the nest soon," said Beatrix at supper time.



"Are you having a birthday party with the other bees?" asked Mallow.

"No," said Beatrix sadly. "Bees don't celebrate birthdays. Too many of us hatch on the same day."

"You can never have too many friends to celebrate with," said Mallow. "The more, the merrier!"

'The more, the merrier,' thought Beatrix as an idea began to form.

"Maybe I should plan my own party," said Beatrix. "Would you like to join us?"

"Better still, we can **help** you!" said Mallow. "We already have everything you'll need right here."

Beatrix and the mice packed up all the party things and sneaked back to the nest before the other bees got home from work.

When everything was ready, Beatrix waited near the nest.

"Surprise!" she shouted as all the bees buzzed past her. But there was so much buzzing that no one could hear her.



"Surprise!" she tried again... but it was no use.

"Quick! Use this," said Mallow, handing her a bluebell flower.

"SURPRISE!" Beatrix's voice boomed loudly through the flower. Suddenly, all the buzzing stopped as thousands of bees gathered to listen.

"What's going on?" asked Deebie.

"It's a party for all the birthday bees!" said Beatrix.

"There are far too many of us with a birthday today," said Rubee. We can't **all** have a party!"

"The more, the merrier!" said Beatrix, giving the band a wink to start the music.



Slowly, some of the bees began to dance, then a few more, then a **lot** more!



“This party is really great,” said Abegail. “I wish we could do this again tomorrow when it’s **my** birthday.”

“Maybe we can!” said Beatrix. “Just because lots of us share a birthday, it doesn’t mean that it isn’t special. Every bee deserves a birthday celebration!”

From then on, a daily party was held to celebrate all the bees born each and every day.

And even though every day felt like every bee’s birthday, every bee’s birthday felt special.



Questions

1. What type of animal is Beatrix? **Tick one.**
 - honeybee
 - bumblebee
 - mouse

2. Where does Beatrix live? **Tick one.**
 - in a mushroom
 - in a flower
 - in a nest

3. What special day is it for Beatrix? **Tick one.**
 - Christmas
 - her birthday
 - sports day

4. What happens when Beatrix meets Mallow? **Tick one.**
 - Mallow invites Beatrix to his party.
 - Mallow gets angry.
 - Beatrix flies away.

5. Beatrix wants every bee's birthday to feel... **Tick one.**
 - boring
 - scary
 - special

Answers

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Questions

1. Who is the main character in this story? **Tick one.**

- Debbie
- Beatrix
- Rubee

2. Fill in the missing word.

Every day feels like every bee's _____!

3. How does Mallow end up meeting Beatrix? **Tick one.**

- He sees her antennae.
- She stings him.
- He hears her wings buzzing.

4. Which phrase convinces Beatrix to plan her own party? **Tick one.**

- 'The more, the merrier.'
- 'Come one, come all.'
- 'Bigger is better.'

5. From then on, how often do the bees have a party?

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every day/daily

Questions

1. Who is the main character in this story?

2. Name one of the settings in this story.

3. Why don't bees usually celebrate birthdays?

4. Number the events from 1-4 to show the order that they happen in.
The first one has been done for you.

Mallow and his friends help Beatrix to throw her own party.

1 One day, Beatrix realises it is her birthday.

All the bees dance and enjoy the party.

Beatrix joins in with Mallow's birthday party.

5. Draw **three** lines and match each word to its meaning.

hatch

celebrate

antennae

to have a party or take part
in a fun activity to mark a
special event

when a baby animal comes
out of an egg

two feelers on an insect's head

6. Why do you think Beatrix is so keen for the bees to start celebrating birthdays?

Answers

1. Who is the main character in this story?

Beatrix

2. Name one of the settings in this story.

One of: nest/hedgerow

3. Why don't bees usually celebrate birthdays?

Because thousands of bees hatch on the same day, their birthdays don't feel very special. (Accept answers that are worded differently but have the same meaning.)

4. Number the events from 1-4 to show the order that they happen in. The first one has been done for you.

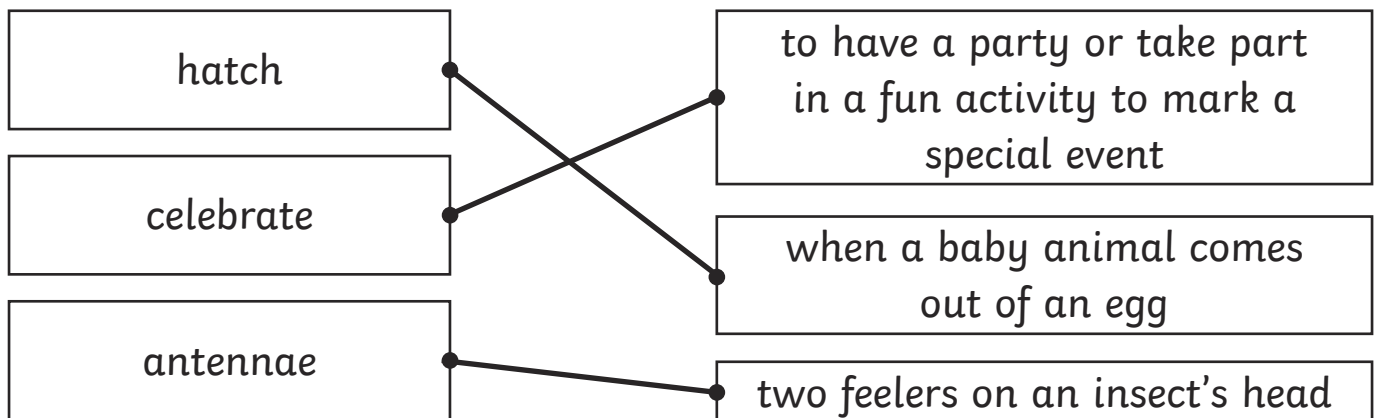
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5. Draw **three** lines and match each word to its meaning.



6. Why do you think Beatrix is so keen for the bees to start celebrating birthdays?

Beatrix sees how much fun birthdays can be and wants everyone to experience it. / Beatrix feels that every bee deserves a birthday celebration! (Accept answers that are worded differently but have the same meaning.)