

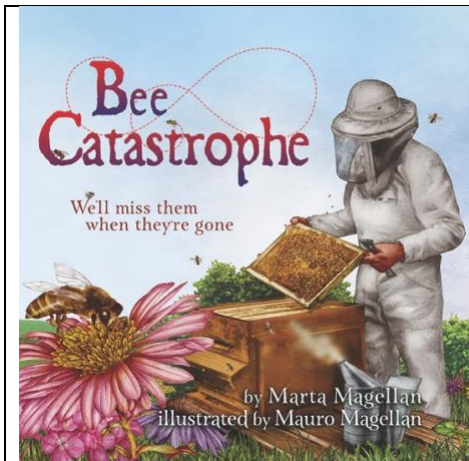


—Marta Magellan:

Teachers' Guide for:

Bee Catastrophe: We'll Miss Them When They're Gone

By Marta Magellan



About the Book: Not long ago, fields buzzed with the sound of bees. All types of bees did their part to help plants grow. But bees are in danger, and people depend on them for much of the food supply we take for granted. This beautifully illustrated book touches on several causes leading to the collapse of the bee population, especially the new super-pesticides. Children will learn how connected humans are to the natural world through one little insect.

Bee Catastrophe also includes backmatter offering a graphic illustrating the trajectory of the pesticide, known as neonics, extra facts such as how bees communicate to each other about the location of nectar, and information on how readers can help avert a bee catastrophe.

Before Reading the Book (include reading How to Avoid a Bee Catastrophe page)

- Engage children by asking them what they know about bees.
- Ask children to listen for information about
 - What foods people eat that depend on bees
 - How bees spread pollen to help plants grow
 - How a new super pesticide is killing bees
 - How farmers are trying to help avert the bee catastrophe
 - How children can help avert the bee catastrophe

Activities: Gardens. Botanical gardens are a wonderful resource although they usually require a fee. Some libraries have started butterfly gardens, which could be the source of an extra credit assignment or field trip if permitted: Go to the garden and write down the plants in the garden that also support bees. A letter writing activity to local school boards might create an interest in starting a butterfly garden at your school.