

Phonics Challenge: The Sounds of Nature with Bea the Bee

Learning objective: To identify and use words containing the 'ough' and 'ei' grapheme-phoneme correspondences.

Read the short story aloud. Look closely at the highlighted words. Then, answer the questions to show how well you understand these tricky spelling patterns.

Bea the honeybee buzzed through the garden. She thought about how much nectar she had collected today. She carried eight heavy droplets in her basket. Her neighbour, a friendly beetle, watched as she landed on a tall sunflower. 'Look at the height of that flower!' the beetle said. Bea had brought plenty of pollen home, and she needed to weigh it carefully to make sure the hive was ready for winter.

Word bank: thought · through · eight · neighbour · weigh · brought · height

1. Find two words in the passage that contain the 'ough' letter string but make a different sound. Write them below. (2 marks)

2. Why did Bea need to weigh the pollen? Use a full sentence in your answer. (2 marks)

3. The word 'neighbour' contains the 'ei' sound. Can you find another word in the passage that uses 'ei' to make the same sound? (1 mark)

4. Which word in the passage rhymes with 'fought'? (1 mark)

5. If Bea gathered 'eight' droplets of nectar, write the number as a digit. (1 mark)

Draw: Draw a picture of Bea the honeybee visiting a tall sunflower in the garden. Label the 'height' of the flower and show the 'eight' droplets of nectar.



Extension challenge: Choose two words from the word bank and write your own creative sentence for each, ensuring they are grammatically correct and use a fronted adverbial.