Plan-B Theatre Company’s Seventh Annual Free Elementary School Tour
a world premiere by Morag Shepherd created specifically for grades K-3
running time 25 minutes + 5-minute pre-show + five-minute post-show

Contact Sharah Meservy, Education Coordinator, at sharah@planbtheatre.org or 801.297.4200
to bring this FREE assembly to your school October 2019-May 2020
(booking preference given to Title I schools)

Visit planbtheatre.org/fest for more information
as well as our free playwriting curriculum and script library
The mission of the Free Elementary School Tour (FEST) is to authentically connect what students see onstage with what they envision themselves creating as artists, expecting as patrons and supporting as citizens. Utah State Board of Education Arts Core Standards Strand 3 (Respond) and Strand 4 (Connect) are organically and thoroughly integrated into FEST. Additionally, simple, low-prep, pre- and post-assembly classroom activities are detailed in the Study Guide, incorporating Strand 1 (Create) and Strand 2 (Perform), as well as play-specific Core Standards, as outlined below.

This season’s Free Elementary School Tour is a humorous and heartwarming tale of foster care, the importance of the hive and the power of friendship, created specifically for grades K-3. FLORA MEETS A BEE by Morag Shepherd is the story of eight-year-old Flora, who has lived in six foster homes since the age of five. One day Flora meets Bee and their budding friendship changes everything. Bee understands Flora no matter what language she speaks or how much she avoids sharing her true feelings. Flora sees the kindness just below the surface of Bee’s rough, worker-bee exterior that most people may not take the time to see.

For the Teacher: Why FLORA MEETS A BEE?
More than 400,000 children are currently in the foster care system nationwide; 3,000 of those children are in Utah. Your students may never have met another child in foster care, or perhaps don’t know they have! Being placed in foster care is an emotionally fraught and confusing experience. School can play an especially valuable role in the lives of these children by offering them structure, boundaries, and a place to belong. Children in foster care are often resilient problem solvers and have frequently been forced to assume more responsibility than their peers. Taking extra care when discussing family structure and dynamics in the classroom while also seeking out ways to bring these students’ unique strengths and assets to our classrooms, will create a more inclusive and supportive school community for all students.

FLORA MEETS A BEE allows children in foster care to see themselves reflected on stage and challenges assumptions and stereotypes surrounding foster care, helping students develop empathy (rather than pity) for children like Flora.

BEFORE THE PERFORMANCE: Preparing Students to See FLORA MEETS A BEE

General Vocabulary Words in English: Flora speaks English in the play, which Bee easily understands.
Nectar, pollen, allergic, suspicious, detective, risky, adorable, exhausted, squishy, cozy, hysterical, chatter (chatterbox), borrowing, lending, snapdragons.

General Vocabulary Words in Spanish: Flora also speaks Spanish in the play, which Bee easily understands.
Paleta (popsicle), azul (blue), madre (mother), te extrano tanto (I miss you so much), suerte (luck), centavos (cents).

Kindergarten Social Studies Standard 1: Similarities and differences in families.
Ask students, “What is a family?” Allow them to share their impressions.

Explain that sometimes families are together from the time they are born. Sometimes families can’t stay together and a new family has to be created. Sometimes these new families last a long time and sometimes they last for a short time. Have students think about the ways these families might be different and the ways these families might be the same.

Read aloud “Who’s in a Family?” by Robert Skutch - we are providing your school with a copy of this book!

continued
Tell students that they are going to see a play that talks about a different kind of family - the kind of family that is created just like the family in the read-aloud.

First Grade Speaking and Listening Standard 5: Add drawings or other visual displays to descriptions when appropriate to clarify ideas, thoughts, and feelings.

Ask students, “What do you think of bees? What would happen if one flew in our window right now?” Students may comment that they are afraid of bees. Probe further, “Why do you think we are afraid of bees?” Discuss how people are afraid of bees often because they don’t know a lot about them. Share some helpful facts about bees such as: drone bees store more honey than they need which allows us to enjoy honey too; bees make it possible for us to enjoy flowers, fruits, and vegetables.

“Now that we know that bees are important, what would you say to a bee if you could?” Have students write or illustrate a comic illustrating a conversation they might have with a bee if this were possible.

Tell students that they will be hearing a conversation between Flora and Bee in the play they are about to see. Children can compare their conversations with that of Flora and Bee.

Second Grade Science Standard 4, Objective 2: Identify basic needs of living things and their abilities to meet their needs.

Tell students the play they are going to see features a bee. Have students share what they know and want to know about bees. Read an informational book about bees or a webpage designed for kids, such as https://www.natgeokids.com/au/discover/animals/insects/honey-bees/. Have students communicate verbally and in writing how the physical characteristics of bees allow them to meet their basic needs.

Ask students “What do you know about foster care?” Tell students the play they are going to see also features a child in foster care.

Third Grade Human Development and Relationships Standard 3: Understand and respect self and others related to human development and relationships.

Foster care is a way for children who have been separated from their families to be safe and taken care of until they are able to be reunited with their families.

Discuss with students why children might end up in foster care: sometimes, parents are not able to care for their children and they need help from another family to do so; sometimes, children lose their parents and need to be raised by a family member or by another caring family; other times, children may not be able to stay with their families because of laws that determine who can legally live in the United States.

Discuss with students why a family might take in a child that needs a home. Why might this be important?

Read aloud a book such as “The Star: A Story to Help Young Children Understand Foster Care” by Cynthia Miller Lovell.

Tell students they are going to see a play where the main character, Flora, is living with a foster family temporarily until she can be reunited with her mother.
AFTER THE PERFORMANCE: Discussing FLORA MEETS A BEE

General Comprehension Questions (adaptable for any grade level - to be discussed or written about):
- Why does Bee take such a liking to Flora's name?
- Why do you think Flora has such a difficult time with things that don't belong to her?
- Why do you think Bee is so grumpy?
- How do Flora and Bee become such good friends? Does their friendship remind you of a friendship in your life?

General Discussion Questions (Adaptable for any grade level - to be discussed or written about):
- What is the difference between foster care and adoption?
- How are families alike? How are they different?
- Why is it important to talk about foster care?

Kindergarten Foundational Reading Standard 2a: Recognize and produce rhyming words.
Flora and Bee are very good at rhyming. Invite students to rhyme using some nonsense words like Bee does (relax, belax, chillax). Invite students to rhyme using real words like Flora does (knee, bee, three).

Kindergarten Writing Standard 1: Use a combination of drawing, dictating, and writing to compose opinion pieces.
Flora and Bee talk a lot about the fact that their favorite food is honey. Ask students, “What is your favorite food?” Allow sharing. Then provide a sentence frame for students to write their own sentence about their favorite food, with a picture. “My favorite food is ______.” Allow students to stretch out the words associated with their favorite foods and approximate the sounds they hear. Take time to share stories.

Flora sees a lot of things in the eyes of Bee. Have students use books as references to draw a picture of a bee with big eyes. Their bees can look like a cartoon if they would like. They can fill in something they think they might see in the eyes of a bee and then label their pictures with, “I can see ______ in the eyes of Bee.”

First Grade Writing Standard 3: Write narratives to recount two or more appropriately sequenced events, include some details regarding what happened, use temporal words to signal event order, and provide some sense of closure.
Have students write a one-page play about an interaction with a bee. What would they say? What would the bee say?

First Grade Literature Standard 9: Compare and contrast the adventures and experiences of characters in stories.
Invite students to compare and contrast the things Flora experiences in the play with their own experiences and with the experiences of characters in other stories they have read.

Second Grade Social Studies Standard 1, Objective 2b: Describe contributions of cultural groups to our state and nation.
Flora is from Mexico. Spanish is her first language. Spanish is spoken all over the world, all over the United States, and all over Utah. Many schools have Spanish-immersion programs. The population of the United States is 1/4 Latinx. The population of Utah is 1/7 Latinx. Discuss with students the contributions of Latinx immigrants to the United States and Utah (culture, foods, names of places, et cetera).
To ensure the conversation doesn’t depend on or perpetuate stereotypes about Latinx immigrants, consider using materials from https://www.scholastic.com/teachers/collections/teaching-content/bring-hispanic-heritage-month-life-collection-resources/ or reading aloud “I Love Saturdays y domingos” by Alma Flor Ada and “Dreamers” by Yuyi Morales - we are providing your school with copies of both books!

**Second Grade Writing Standard 1: Write opinion pieces.**
Have students write an opinion piece about the value of immigrants to the United States generally and Utah specifically.

**Third Grade Informational Reading Standard 5: Use text features and search tools (e.g., key words, sidebars, hyperlinks) to locate information relevant to a given topic efficiently.**
Have students research bees using a variety of books and online materials. Emphasize how students can use informational text features and online search tools to research a topic related to bees efficiently.

**Third Grade Informational Reading Standard 3.3: Describe the relationship between a series of concepts in a text, using language that pertains to time, sequence, and cause/effect.**
Have students investigate how a bee makes honey and summarize their learning in sequential order or using a cause-effect graphic organizer.

**Third Grade Science Standard 2: Organisms depend on living and nonliving things within their environment.**
Have students observe interactions between living and non-living things in a flowerbed around the school. If unavailable, they could watch a YouTube video. Discuss the interactions between living and non-living things in a flowerbed ecosystem.

**Third Grade Writing Standard 1: Write opinion pieces on topics or texts, supporting a point of view with reasons.**
Have students write an opinion piece on why it is important to protect bees.

**Fun Honey Facts**
- Honey is mostly sugar and a little bit of water (82% to 18%).
- Honey bees are the only insects that make food for humans (thanks bees!).
- Honey’s flavor or taste is determined by where the hive is located, the flowers that are its source of nectar and pollen, and what is surrounding the hive. (If there are oranges nearby, this might change the taste and color of the honey!)
- Honey has been used throughout history to dress or cover wounds.
- If you don’t like eating spinach, tell your parents that you’d like some honey instead. Honey does a good job of keeping you healthy in the same way that vegetables and fruits do - it’s a super food! Use honey instead of sugar!
- The next time you have a cold, tell your parents that you’d like some honey in warm water - honey stops a cough better than cough drops or other medicines!

**Websites About Foster Care**
Talking to Kids About Foster Care: https://www.kidsmatterinc.org/get-help/for-families/talking-to-kids-about-foster-care/
Myths About Foster Care Adoption: https://davethomasfoundation.org/five-myths-about-foster-care-adoption/
Utah Foster Care: Learn more about foster care in Utah at https://utahfostercare.org
Foster Focus, a monthly magazine dealing exclusively and entirely with foster care: https://www.fosterfocusmag.com
Foster Club, an organization providing foster kids with a peer support network and resources: https://www.fosterclub.com
Books About Foster Care

“Maybe Days: A Book for Children in Foster Care” by Jennifer Wilgocki and Marcia Kahn
“Little Miss Spider” by David Kirk
“The Star: A Story to Help Young Children Understand Foster Care” by Cynthia Miller Lovell
“Kids Need to be Safe: A Book for Children in Foster Care” by Julie Nelson
“Hopper the Lonely Frog: An Adoption Story for Children” by Kimberly Lee
“Murphy’s Three Homes: A Story for Children in Foster Care” by Jan Levinson Gilman
“All Kinds of Families” by Norma Simon
“Families Change: A Book for Children Experiencing Termination of Parental Rights” by Julie Nelson and Mary Gallagher
“Finding the Right Spot: When Kids Can’t Live with Their Parents” by Janice Levy
“Let’s Talk About Living with a Grandparent” by Susan Kent
“Mama Bear Baby Bear” by Linda Silvas
“Robert Lives with His Grandparents” by Martha Whitmore Hickman
“Who’s in a Family?” by Robert Skutch
“I Miss My Foster Parents” by Stefon Herbert
“Zachary’s New Home: A Story for Foster and Adopted Children” by Geraldine Molettiere Blomquist, Paul B. Blomquist and Margo Lemiux

Creating FLORA MEETS A BEE and this Study Guide

Throughout the process of creating FLORA MEETS A BEE, playwright Morag Shepherd consulted with playwright/designer/actor Iris Salazar and Plan-B Theatre Company’s Board President/former Utah State Representative Rebecca Chavez-Houck to ensure cultural authenticity. She also consulted with Utah Foster Care’s Retention Services Specialist Tina Porter and licensed foster parent Becky Anderson Pickle to ensure the play is clinically sound and age-appropriate. It is also valuable to note that playwright Morag Shepherd and actor Brenda Hattingh (who plays Bee) are immigrants from Scotland and South Africa, respectively; director Jerry Rapier, who was adopted at the age of eight, is the son of a Japanese immigrant; and actor Ariana Broumas Farber (who plays Flora) is a licensed foster parent and the daughter of an immigrant from El Salvador.

This study guide was created by educator Jim Martin (a former elementary school principal and kindergarten, first, fourth and fifth grade teacher, currently teaching sixth grade) with input from Tina Porter, Retention Services Specialist, Utah Foster Care and two Plan-B Theatre Company staff members: Sharah Meservy, Education Coordinator and Jerry Rapier, Artistic Director.
Statewide Facts:
Children in Foster Care

In Utah, there are more than 2,800 children in foster care at any given time and some 1,450 licensed foster/adoptive families.

Children in foster care often have special needs due to neglect, abuse or separation. Substance abuse is a contributing factor in two out of three foster care cases.

In Utah, most children are in foster care for about 12 months; some children may stay in foster care for much longer. The length of time a child is in foster care varies depending on their family’s individual circumstances.

Two-thirds of children who enter foster care return to live with their birth parents or another relative. Foster families have the opportunity to mentor and support parents who are working to have their children returned to them.

Many children are adopted thru foster care. Last year (FY17), 603 children were adopted from foster care in Utah. Most are adopted by their foster parents.

Children in foster care are between the ages of 0-19. The greatest need is for families who are able and willing to care for children over age 8.

Most children enter foster care with brothers and sisters. Families are urgently needed for sibling groups of three or more.

Children in foster care come from all racial and cultural backgrounds. There is a need for families of all races and cultures to come forward. Children do better when placed with families who can help them maintain their cultural and racial identities.

Latino and Hispanic children are over-represented in the foster care system in Utah:

- In Utah, they make up more than one in every five children in foster care (21%).
- Culturally-sensitive placements can help to ease the trauma experienced by children who are removed from their homes and placed in foster care.
- It helps when families who are fluent in both Spanish and English care for Latino/Hispanic children—but it is not required. All foster families must be legal US residents.

In Utah, foster parents may be married or single. They may own or rent their homes. It takes 24 hours of in-class training, additional online classes, and the ability to pass a criminal background check to become a foster parent. Utah Foster Care and Utah’s Division of Child & Family Services provide ongoing training to foster and adoptive parents throughout the state.

Utah Foster Care is a private, non-profit organization contracted by the Division of Child & Family Services (DCFS) to find, educate, and support foster and adoptive families to care for the children in Utah’s foster care system.

Updated: May 2018
FLORA MEETS A BEE by Morag Shepherd

FLORA is a foster child of 8
BEE

SETTING the yard of FLORA’s new foster family.

FLORA enters with a blue sucker.

No puedo creer que suerte la mia, yo encontre una paleta. Una paleta azul. Mi color favorito.
(I can’t believe my luck. I cannot believe out of everything I could find, I found a sucker. A blue one. My favorite color.)

Pues, es posible que no lo encontre. Es posible que yo tome la paleta del tarro de dulces. No me importa. Yo soy una buena chica. Ellos no lo saben, pero yo me he portado bien. Yo hice todo lo que tenia que hacer. Tendi mi cama. Creo que si, Creo que tendi mi cama. bien. Yo me porte bien. Y azul es el mejor sabor.
(Okay, so, maybe I didn’t find it. Maybe I took it from the candy jar. Whatever. I was good. They don’t know it, but I was so good today - I did all the things I was supposed to do. I made my bed. I think. I think I made my bed. Oh, well. I was good. And blue is the best flavor.)

Bee enters, and rummages about the yard, looking for something.

FLORA watches BEE.

FLORA

BEE tries to hide. FLORA follows her.

FLORA
Are you a bee?

BEE
Um!

FLORA starts to cry.
What are you doing?

FLORA
I’m sorry, you’re just so adorable.

BEE
Okay, well - don’t do that. That’s … annoying.

FLORA
I want to buzz like a bee. EVERYONE BUZZ WITH ME.

Everyone buzzes with FLORA.

BEE
How can you even see me?

FLORA
Easily. I’m good at seeing.

FLORA cries again.

BEE
Stop that.

FLORA
You’re a grumpy bee, that’s so cute.

Bee looks around and behind herself.

BEE
How many fingers am I holding up?

FLORA
Four.

BEE
Yep. You’re right - dang.
FLORA
I’m really good at counting.

BEE
Counting is tricky.

FLORA
One, two, three, four. Easy.

BEE
Can you hear everything I’m saying?

FLORA
Are you a doctor?

BEE
Do I look like a doctor?

FLORA
Yes.

BEE
I’m not.

FLORA
Do you want to see my tongue?
Yo encontre esta paleta azul! Y la chupe hasta que se acabo.
(It’s blue. I found a sucker! And I sucked on it till it was gone.)

BEE
You’re teeth will fall out.

FLORA
Are you a dentist?

BEE
Do you have a cold?

FLORA
I have allergies.
She sneezes.
*BEE gasps, kind of grumpily.*

I will not bless you.

There's another one coming.

*She sneezes again.*

Oh, dear. I think I'm allergic to you.

Maybe you should leave.

You're funny.

I'm a bee. An important one, and I don't have time to stand around chatting to some kind of a... whatever, that's allergic to pollen.

I'm not a whatever.

Who are you?

Are you grumpy cause you're sleepy?

I'm busy.

Have you lost something?

No! What made you think that?
I saw you looking for something.

No you didn’t.

I did.

You didn’t.

I did.

You did not.

I didn’t.

You did.

Ha!

Were you spying on me?

I could be a spy, do you wanna see me be one?

You look suspicious. I’m suspicious of you!

Are you a bee detective?
BEE
No.

FLORA
You looked like you were searching pretty hard.

BEE
It was nothing. You will see nothing in three, two, one.

Nothing happens.

FLORA
Yay, are you doing magic? I love magic!

BEE
Your mind is erased.

Nothing happens.

FLORA
It’s not erased. Boo. That’s a shame.

BEE
It never works when people are looking.

FLORA
Do you want me to turn around?

BEE
Yes.

She turns around.

BEE
You will remember nothing, in one, two, three.

Nothing happens.

FLORA holds up four fingers.
Four.

Rats!

Can I help?

With what?

With whatever you were doing?

I was doing nothing.

Can I watch?

No. That is a terrible idea. Cover your eyes.

Fun.

_She puts her hands over her eyes. BEE starts to leave._

I can hear you leaving.

Plug your ears.

Are you trying to escape, you crazy little bee.

Look, it’s too risky.
FLORA
That's tricky. Do you know any tricks?

BEE
No.

FLORA
Make honey appear.

Quickly.

BEE
I was not looking for nectar to make honey, in case that's what you were thinking!

FLORA
Honey is my favorite food.

BEE
Mine too.

FLORA
We're twins.

BEE
We're not!

FLORA
Do a spell so I won't lose everything.

BEE
You're not a kid are you?

FLORA
No! What made you think that? Psh. I'm an adult. With a job, that I go to, in my car. That I own, and bought with the money I make/ from my job.

BEE
What's your job?
FLORA
I make bunny.

BEE
No - I make bunny. Honey. I make honey.

FLORA
That’s cool. You’re cool. I’m cool. All the world is cool.

BEE
You sound like a kid!

FLORA
I’m an old lady and I drink tea, with other lady-folk, and we chat about books. And they call that, a book tub. Bub. Rub. Flub.

BEE
It’s a club.

FLORA
I know!

BEE
I have an appointment I need to get to.

FLORA
For your eyes. Cause you’re a bee that needs adorable glasses?

BEE
You should stop guessing, cause you’re awful at it.

FLORA
You’re not gonna get away from me. I’ll stick to you like glue.

BEE
You’re a nightmare!

FLORA
Look at your hands. There’s something all over them.
BEE
It’s pollen. It attaches to me, and then sticks to other plants so they can make fruit, vegetables, and stuff.

FLORA
Ah, so you’re an important Bee?

BEE
All I know, is that I have work to get done… and I don’t have time for all this chitter, and chatter.

FLORA
mi madre used to call that: Yo no tengo tiempo para ser chismosa. (I don’t have time to be a busy body)

BEE
She’s right.

You speak Spanish?

BEE
I speak all languages.

FLORA
That’s smart. Did you have to go to bee university, and wear a backpack with books and snacks in it? Do you have tiny books that fit into your tiny bee hands?

BEE
I just came that way.

FLORA
Like Santa?

BEE
I’m nothing like Santa. I don’t like kids and I don’t have time for chats.

FLORA
I have plenty of time to chat! All the time, actually. I have nothing else to do.
BEE
Be gone. Get outta here.

FLORA
Aw, you grump bee. You’re just exhausted from being important.

BEE
I am not exhausted.

FLORA
Your little cute face is so squishy and sleepy.

BEE
You’re exhausting.

FLORA
See, you’re all worn out.

BEE
You’re wearing me down.

FLORA
You look all tired, so tired, it’s making everything sleeping and cozy.

BEE
You are making me so tired.

FLORA

BEE
I can’t.

FLORA
Do it.

BEE
Need to...

FLORA starts to sing in Spanish.
Duerme pequeno
Y un poco mas
El viento sopla
Y el te arrullara

...work.

FLORA sings some more.
Si algo te pasa
Mami estara
Siempre con tigo
Cuidando estara

BEE

What are you singing? Are you singing straight honey? It sounds like sleep honey is going straight into my ears.

FLORA
Sleeeeeeep.

BEE
Give me the honey.

FLORA
Close those sleepy sleepy honey eyes.

Bee falls asleep.
FLORA sees a honey stick popping out of Bee’s pocket. FLORA tears open the honey stick, eats it, and gets it all over her fingers. Bee wakes up with a jolt, and hurries about.

BEE
I had a dream that mermaids were singing to me.

FLORA
I am your mermaid.

BEE
If you’re a mermaid, I’m an elephant.
That's hysterical.

It's not hysterical. I have things to do.

You need to breathe.

*Bees starts to do her things.*

What are you doing?

Stop interrupting.

I'll try, but I'm chattery. They call me a chatterbox.

Stop.

I can't.

Try.

I have a lot to tell you.

*They stare at each other. Bee is testing her not to talk.*

You have pollen on your face.

Do I?
FLORA
Yes, right there… I’ll get it.

BEE
No. Stop it. You’re distracting me. I’m busy.

FLORA
You’re distracting me, I’m so so so busy. I’m a bee and I’m busy - look. Look how busy I am, I’m the queen of France.

BEE
You’re making fun of me.

FLORA
Look, I’m a very important bee. Everyone buzz with me.

EVERYONE BUZZES.

BEE
You’re all very loud.

FLORA
You’re ignoring me, and people ignore me all the time, because they’re busy and stuff, and you’re, just. Like. Them!

BEE
I’m nothing like them. How dare you. I’m a bee, and I keep this whole planet alive.

FLORA
Oh, yeah. Well, I’m a kid. I’m who you’re doing it for.

BEE
I knew it. I knew you were a kid. You’re a sticky, little, get your hands on everything, sticky, get everything sticky, kid.

FLORA
I am not sticky. Look.

*FLORA puts her hand on BEE’s arm. They are stuck. They struggle to get unstuck. They get unstuck.*
BEE
Did you steal a honey stick and then get it all over your hands?

FLORA
You're sticky.

BEE
Of course I'm sticky - I make honey - I'm a bee. All you do is get it everywhere.

FLORA
Of course I get it everywhere. I'm eight years old.

BEE
I knew you were eight. I could tell by your face.

FLORA
I could tell you were a bee, because of how you look. And... because you have wings, and are so so so cute. Wouldn't it be darling if you had little bee boots?

BEE
No, it wouldn't.

FLORA
And a tiny bee hat?

BEE
You're a kid, and you're sticky.

FLORA
Everything tasty is sticky, and all the fun things are gluey and glittery.

BEE
I don't have time for sticky kids.

FLORA
You have to give me time, I'm standing right in front of you.

BEE
I have a lot to get done.
FLORA
Okay, well, let me ask you this: are you digging for buried treasure?

BEE
No.

FLORA
Are you burying treasure for a treasure map?

BEE
No.

FLORA
Are you stealing flowers?

BEE
I’m not a thief.

FLORA
So, you’re not a pirate?

BEE
Or a doctor!

FLORA
Are you planting seeds?

BEE
Do you just say whatever comes into your mind?

FLORA

BEE
I’m not going to tell you what it is, cause then you’ll want it.

FLORA
I really want honey, is it that?
BEE

Have you ever chatted to a bee before?

FLORA

I was stung by a bee, on my knee, when I was three, and then /another time...

BEE

Where are your parents?

FLORA

I don’t have parents. I mean, I do, but I just don’t right now. Mi madre had to leave and go back to where she is from, so I have foster parents.

BEE

You don’t have a queen?

FLORA

I borrow a family, and they raise me. Or they borrow me. I’m not sure.

BEE

Where is she?

FLORA

She’s in Mexico.

BEE

Just go there.

FLORA

Can you?

BEE

Of course.

FLORA

Will you take a message to mi madre? Can you tell her, Te extrano tanto. (**I miss you so much.**) 

BEE

You should just go, and tell her yourself.
FLORA
I don't have wings, or money to fly, or a car. I'm just a kid.

BEE
I would let you borrow mine. But, I don’t do borrowing. Or lending.

FLORA
Have you seen her?

BEE
I don't even know your name.

FLORA
Florenica. But, everyone calls me Flora. You can call me Flora.

BEE
Your name is Flora?

FLORA
Hi.

BEE
My name is Bee.

FLORA
Your name is the thing that you are.

BEE
You have the best name out of any name. It’s almost annoying.

FLORA
You really like it?

BEE
Your name is literally the thing that I try to find everyday.

FLORA
You try to find me?

BEE
Yes.
I knew it.

Well, not you.

It’s meant to be. You’re going to find mi madre and tell her where I am. And we’re going to be stuck together for the rest of our lives.

Nope.

Let it happen.

Back it up, sister.

I am your sister.

I’m a bee.

We’re twins.

I’m an actual bee.

We’re best friends.

We’re not.

You’re a bee that buzzes around. Buzz with me.
EVERYONE BUZZES.

BEE
I have a million siblings and I don’t have space for friends.

FLORA
Bee, oh bee, I wish I had a million siblings or just a hundred, or fifty, or even just one.

BEE
It's not as good as it sounds.

FLORA
I love sharing.

BEE
I hate it when sticky fingers touch my stuff.

FLORA
I don’t really have stuff.

BEE
Well, when you do, you need to hide it, or bury it, so no one else will steal it.

FLORA
I wouldn’t mind.

BEE
You’re only saying that because you don’t own anything.

FLORA
Tell me a joke.

BEE
If I tell you a joke, it no longer belongs to me, it would belong to you, and I’m afraid I just can’t do that. If I did, I would own hardly anything at all.

FLORA
Tell me a joke that’s not yours.
BEE
I own all of my jokes. I own them most of all.

FLORA
I see.

BEE
What?

FLORA
I see what you mean.

BEE
You didn’t see any of my jokes did you?

FLORA
I don’t think so.

BEE
Have a look about, and let me know. If ideas, or jokes, and stuff like that start coming out of myself, I won’t know who I am.

FLORA walks around Bee.

FLORA
The only thing I see, is you.

BEE
That’s okay. No one can take that, so I’m fine with people seeing me.

FLORA
Can I borrow a joke?

BEE
I don’t do borrowing. When borrowing happens, no one knows who owns what, and things get very confusing. When I’m confused, I don’t know where to look, and my eyes go like this.

FLORA
Your eyes are purple tulips.
They are?

They look like hands that are covering their faces.

I can't see it.

Bee gets angry.

Aww, your eyes are angry flowers.

I'm not angry.

Mi madre dice que solo los reyes y las reinas pueden ver tulpanes morados y, como todo podemos verlos, todos somos realeze. (My mother said that purple tulips mean royalty and because we can see them, we are all royalty.)

My eyes are just black bee eyes. The most boring of all.

Your eyes are full of flowers. They’re beautiful.

You shouldn’t use make-believe. It doesn’t belong to you.

I use and borrow things all the time. All these clothes were lent to me by other kids. I borrow twigs. Songs. Words. I even have this.

She pulls out a penny from her pocket.

Mi madre me dio el que me fui. Creo que me trae Buena suerte. (My mother gave it to me before she left. I think it’s lucky.)
BEE
Parece que podria traer suerte.
(It looks like it could be lucky.)

FLORA
I always keep it in my pocket, and when I get sad or something, I feel it there - and it makes me feel better.

BEE
I have this.

*BEE feels for the honey stick in her pocket, but it isn't there.*

BEE
My honey is gone.

FLORA
You have honey. I have money.

BEE
It must have fallen out of my pocket. I'm the unluckiest bee there ever was.

FLORA
I ate it!

BEE
That's why you're hands are so sticky, you little thief!

FLORA
I didn't mean to. I just saw it sticking out of your pocket, and I couldn't help it. The next thing I knew it was in my stomach and on my hands.

BEE
This is why I don't talk to anyone. Everyone is always trying to take my honey.

FLORA
Will you ever forgive me?
I'm busy, I have work to do.

You're my best friend in the whole wide world.

You should get out more.

Let's flip for it.

No, I'm not going to flip for it.

Yes you will.

No.

FLORA flips the coin in the air.

Heads or tails?

Heads.

It's tails. I win.

You just tricked me into staying friends with you.

You want to be friends with me. In three, /two.

Are you using my magic on me?
FLORA
Your mind will be erased in one, /two, three.

BEE
You will disappear in four, five/...

FLORA
Six.

BEE
You’re ruining my magic.

FLORA
Can we just agree that you’re not very good at magic?

BEE
I will not negotiate with a child.

FLORA
Just admit that I’m your best friend!

BEE
You’re not.

FLORA
And that you need my help to get the nectar.

BEE
I don’t.

FLORA
And that you’re never going to leave me, like everyone else does.

BEE
I’m leaving right now.

FLORA
No you’re not.

*FLORA puts her hands on Bee. They are stuck together.*
BEE
Are you kidding me?

FLORA
I’m not sure I’m good at jokes. Shall I try?

BEE
No.

FLORA
There was an old lady, who swallowed a /bee.

BEE
I hate it already.

FLORA
Be honest with yourself, you really like me.

BEE
You’re a lot to take.

FLORA
Is that a good thing?

BEE
No!

FLORA
Seeing as though we’re stuck together, what should we talk about?

BEE
I want to be angry - quietly.

FLORA
I’m sorry, but that’s the most adorable thing I’ve ever heard, and I can’t stay quiet about it. EVERYONE BE ANGRY.

BEE
NOW BE ANGRY QUIETLY.
BE HAPPY LOUDLY.

BE HAPPY QUIETLY.

FLORA

Everyone did such a good job.

BEE

Are you a thief?

FLORA

People have definitely told me that, yes.

BEE

I knew it.

FLORA

I don’t do it on purpose. I just see stuff that looks good, and then the next thing I know, it’s in my hand.

BEE

Or in your mouth!

FLORA

I’ve stolen ice-cream, pie, candy - lots, and lots of candy. Suckers.

BEE

Suckers are candy.

FLORA

Bread. Sandwiches. Cake.

BEE

You have problems.

FLORA

If I see a can of soda, I can’t even help myself. And I’m going to tell you a secret: soda is the greatest invention that ever mentioned.
BEE
You need help.

FLORA
It’s like it’s not even me that’s doing it, it’s the soda.

BEE
Try growing up.

FLORA
I’m trying, believe me, but my age is going very slow. I’m only eight, and I own hardly anything at all.

BEE
You owe me, kid.

FLORA
I can tell you a story.

BEE
I don’t have time for a story. We’ll be here till the morning. You owe me money.

FLORA
Te daría me centavo, pero no es mio para dar.
(I would give you my penny, but it’s not really mine to give.)

BEE
What do you mean?

FLORA
It was mi madre’s, and it was her mother’s, and she got it because it fell from the sky right after she threw one into a wishing well. So, I could give it to you, but it might lose its luck, and then it would be worthless.

BEE
When you say it like that, it makes me think I don’t own anything at all.

FLORA
Unless it’s a rock, you probably don’t.
BEE
Great - now I'm worried.

FLORA
The kids don't look worried, and they have less than you.

BEE
That might be true. I guess you're smart, for an eight year old.

FLORA
I don't think I thought of it though. I might have borrowed the idea, or something.

BEE
I need to get away from you.

BEE tries to get off of FLORA. FLORA tries to hold on to BEE.

FLORA
You can't leave.

BEE
You can't keep me here.

FLORA
You want to stay, you just don't know it.

BEE
I do know it.

FLORA
You're just grumpy because you're so tired.

BEE
I'm not falling for that again.

FLORA starts to sing.

Duerme pequeno
En poco mas
BEE

Stop it.

*FLORA continues to sing.*

Sobre las nubes
Volando esta

BEE

It's not fair. It sounds so so good. And you have such a good name. Nooooo.

FLORA

Tell me what you were doing, or I'll never stop.

BEE

I was collecting nectar from that kid right there.

FLORA

I knew it. Let me help you.

BEE

You'll steal it for yourself.

FLORA

I won't.
I might.
I'll try not to.

BEE

And I have to get it done. Today. Now.

FLORA

How do you carry it?

BEE

I collect it with my tongue. And store it in my honey stomach.

FLORA

You have a stomach just for honey?
BEE
Don’t you?

FLORA
I don’t think so.

BEE
That’s weird.

FLORA
What does it taste like?

BEE
Like sugar. But, better.

FLORA
I want it.

BEE
You don’t have the stomach.

FLORA
I want a honey stomach.

BEE
You’re not a bee.

FLORA
I want to be a bee.

BEE
You’re a kid, kid!

FLORA
And then what do you do?

BEE
When my stomach is full, I carry it back to the hive, and give it to the worker bees, who chew it for about half an hour. They pass it from bee to bee, until eventually it turns to honey. Then they store it in the honeycomb cells, and fan it with their wings to make it dry and more sticky.
FLORA
Like this?

Flora waves her hands.

BEE
No. Like this.

BEE flaps her hands.

FLORA
Wow, you’re so important. Everyone should help to keep you alive.

BEE
And everyone should help to keep you alive.

FLORA
You love me.

BEE
And, then, when it’s ready, they seal it with a wax lid to keep it safe, so no one can take it or steal it. Or eat it!

FLORA
I wouldn’t take it. I might. But, I wouldn’t steal it.

BEE
A long time ago, before people lived on the Earth, Bees and flowers worked hard to make honey last a lifetime. But they used to just hold the nectar in their mouths, and it would fly out and get stuck on the night, and that’s how the stars are there. They are hardened rocks of honey, that shine like yellow glass. So, now, we swallow it and keep it in another stomach.

FLORA
You’re the luckiest, best bee I’ve ever met. I mean, I’ve never talked to another bee, so I wouldn’t really know. But, I wouldn’t want another one - you’re the grumpiest, luckiest, sweetest little bee in the world.

BEE
I’m not.
You are.

Look.

*BEE produces a whistle out of thin air. She hands it to FLORA.*

How did you do that?

It's a joke!

It's a joke?

It's funny, huh?

*I mean. I guess if you blow it for long enough - that could be funny!*

Why would you blow it?

It's a whistle. It's for getting people's attention. Or dogs. I don't think it would work for fish though.

That's silly.

*FLORA blows the whistle. BEE starts to laugh.*
BEE
My joke is funnier than I ever thought.

FLORA
It’s not that funny.

BEE
It’s the funniest joke that ever happened.

FLORA
I have a joke:
EVERYONE SAY, “KNOCK KNOCK.”

*Everyone says, knock knock.*

BEE
What?

FLORA
Say, “who’s there.”

BEE
Fine.

FLORA
KNOCK KNOCK.

BEE
Say, who’s there.

FLORA
No, that’s not right.

BEE
Who’s, “No that’s not right.”

FLORA
Forget it.

BEE
You’re terrible at telling jokes.
FLORA
No I'm not.

BEE
You are.

FLORA
I'm better than you.

BEE
You're not.

FLORA
I am.

BEE
You're not.

FLORA
I am.

BEE
You're not.

FLORA
I'm not.

BEE
You are.

FLORA
I'm not good at telling jokes.

BEE
You're the best joke teller I've ever heard in my life.

FLORA
I won.
BEE
You tricked me.

FLORA
One time I saw something shiny in a puddle. I put my hand in, and pulled out a piece of gold. And then, I put my hand back in, and guess what?

BEE
Nothing.

FLORA
I pulled out another piece of gold. And so I put my hand back in and pulled out another piece of gold. So, I put my hand in a fourth time, and guess what happened?

BEE
You found another piece of gold!

FLORA
No. I only found three bits, but I learned something important: de vez en cuando algo puede pasar (anything can happen once). A kid and a bee can be the best of friends.

BEE
I wonder if honey will fall from the sky today?

FLORA
Anything can happen once.

FLORA
I won you over, didn’t I? We’re best friends forever, now. Right?

BEE
Maybe.

FLORA
Yay.

BEE
How long are you going to live here?
FLORA
I stay until they move me. Since I turned five, I've lived with lots families. I've come and
gone so many times that I talk to people like I've already met them. There’s no use in
waiting to say things, I think.

BEE
Yes, but you shouldn't talk to strangers.

FLORA
You’re not a stranger.

BEE
I was.

FLORA
Everyone is, at first.

BEE
That is confusing.

FLORA
Your eyes are full of snapdragons.

BEE
I can’t see it.

FLORA
Las flores parecen una boca cuando una abeja aterriza en los petalos.
(Snapdragons look like a mouth when a bee lands on the lip of its flower.)

BEE
How do you know that?

FLORA
Mi madre told me that you can find comfort and love in the eyes of a flower. They’re full
of love. And bees. Maybe she was sending me a clue?

BEE
I think you’re a magic Flora.
You really think so?

*She starts to tear up.*

Don't cry about it.

You're crying.

I'm not.

Just, don't ever leave, okay?

I have work.

Visit me.

Okay.

Because, we're friends.

We're best friends.

Yay.

Don't be so happy.
I'll be half-happy.

Okay. Half-happy can be alright.

The End.