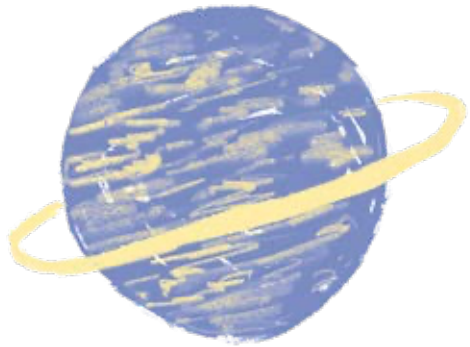






BEE

A story that celebrates our differences

Story and music by
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Illustrations by
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Play the music

Wherever you see this picture you can listen to the music from the ballet and create your own movement and dance! Ask a grown-up to scan the code and click on the track title.

CHAPTER ONE • BEE



Hey! I'm Sprout. Once upon a time I had a special friend called Bee who could see and hear things others couldn't. When Bee looked at flowers they'd laugh, and the grass would sing songs. Even the trees seemed more alive, glowing with beautiful green light when Bee looked at them.

Bee could also see and talk to fairies like me! And Bee could fly! – through forests and up into the sky with us. Sometimes we flew all the way into space to investigate the planets, stars and galaxies.

Play the music

'IN THE PLAYGROUND'

But Bee found school hard. It was tough to pay attention in class and Bee often got in trouble for daydreaming. Even break time was tricky.

One day, Bee came to me feeling sad. "I tried to play with the others, Sprout, but I didn't understand what they were doing."

"You just see and feel things differently from them Bee. It's easy to notice differences like hair colour or height, but it's harder when differences are on the inside. But that's okay. Everyone has things they're good at and things they find tricky. You might not understand the game those kids were playing, but you can see fairies. As for me? I can't swim, but I can fly! Our differences make us special and unique," I explained.

After chatting a bit more, we decided to go for a fly around. But we got so distracted that Bee missed the school bell and ended up being very late for afternoon class.

CHAPTER TWO • AT HOME

Play the music

'AT HOME'

When Bee got home, Mum and Dad were arguing.

"Bee needs to be more like the other kids and stop daydreaming, wandering off during breaks and being late for class," Dad said.

"But Bee isn't like the other kids. Bee loves science and the art teacher says Bee is the most talented student she's ever seen!" Mum added.

Mum and Dad went quiet when Bee walked in. Bee didn't say anything.

I checked on Bee at bedtime.

"I'm going to try harder," Bee said. "I need to fit in more. I need to pay attention and not wander off with you guys. Maybe we can just fly on weekends?"

ABOUT THE BALLET AND MUSIC FOR BEE



Once upon a time, I wrote a story about a character named BEE. This story was very special because it was based on my own experiences as a child.

I quickly decided that instead of using words, BEE's story should be told through movement and dance. You see, sometimes it's hard, especially when we are young, to say how we feel just with words. But our bodies can show our feelings so clearly through dance and movement.

So, I decided to turn BEE's story into a ballet!

I then composed the music for it. For each part of BEE's adventure, I created music that showed not only how BEE was feeling, but also what was happening in the story.

And that's how BEE's story came to life through beautiful ballet and enchanting music!

A performance of BEE has been co-produced with Royal Ballet and Opera Learning and Participation. You can find out more about it at www.beetheballet.com.



I dedicate this book and music to every child who has ever felt different and struggled to fit in. Also, to all the children around the world who show kindness and compassion when they see another child struggling to find their way.

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