

Usborne Phonics Readers



# Bee makes tea



Lesley Sims & Fred Blunt

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Lesley Sims

Illustrated by Fred Blunt

Meet Bee.



Bee lives  
beside the sea.





Today she's all a-flutter, for it's  
Queen Bee's birthday tea.



Bee buzzes home  
and starts to bake.



Soon her rooms fill up with cake.



Chocolate cheesecakes on the chairs...



Cherry cupcakes up the stairs...



Pies piled high with plums and pears.

Ant runs in and grins with glee.  
“You’re making tea!”



“Her birthday tea is by the sea.”

“I’ve planned a grand tea on the sand.  
It must go well.”





They stack up cups and fill the pot.  
Bee starts to frown. It looks a lot.



“Oh Ant, how will I carry that?”

“Wait there,” says Ant.





He finds his friends and lines them up.







Two take the milk.  
Three take the pot.

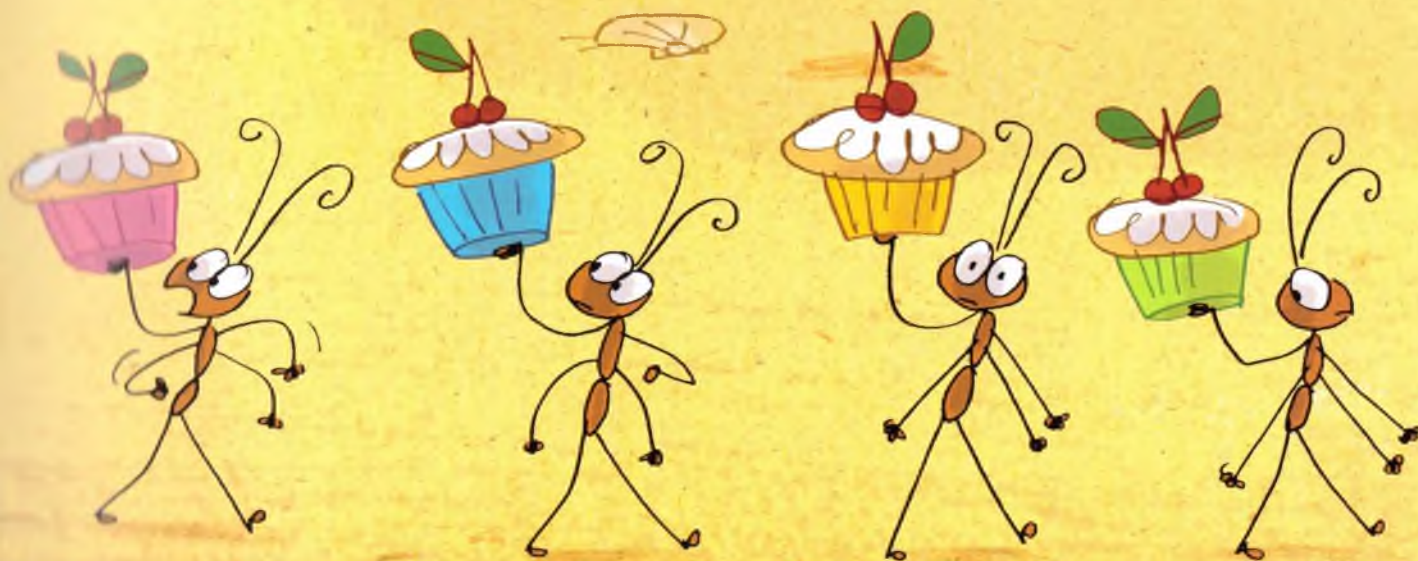




“Look out!”  
calls Bee.



That tea  
is hot.






“Wow!” says Ant.  
“That cake is tall.”



“Be careful now.”



Don't let  
it fall.



“Speed up!” shouts Ant.  
“Move that cake faster.”



Then one ant slips and trips...  
Disaster!



“Oh no!” Bee cries.  
She sobs and sighs.

That was my  
Queen Bee’s big  
surprise.



“The Queen will be so mad with me.  
She’ll say that I’m a bad, bad bee.”

“Collect it all,” Ant tells his team.  
“Now quick, Bee!  
Whip some buttercream.”







“You need to use the cream like glue...  
See? Stuck together, good as new.”

The Queen Bee gasps and laughs,  
“Hee, hee! A special cake  
that looks like me?”





“Thank you for my birthday tea!”



# About phonics

Phonics is a method of teaching reading used extensively in today's schools. At its heart is an emphasis on identifying the *sounds* of letters, or combinations of letters, that are then put together to make words. These sounds are known as phonemes.

## Starting to read

Learning to read is an important milestone for any child. The process can begin well before children start to learn letters and put them together to read words. The sooner children can discover books and enjoy stories and language, the better they will be prepared for reading themselves, first with the help of an adult and then independently.



You can find out more about phonics on the Usborne Very First Reading website, [www.usborne.com/veryfirstreading](http://www.usborne.com/veryfirstreading) (US readers go to [www.veryfirstreading.com](http://www.veryfirstreading.com)). Click on the **Parents** tab at the top of the page, then scroll down and click on **About synthetic phonics**.



## Phonemic awareness

An important early stage in pre-reading and early reading is developing phonemic awareness: that is, listening out for the sounds within words. Rhymes, rhyming stories and alliteration are excellent ways of encouraging phonemic awareness.

In this story, your child will soon identify the *ee* sound, as in **bee** and **tea** or **queen** or **team**. Look out, too, for rhymes such as **chairs** – **stairs** and **sighs** – **surprise**.

## Hearing your child read

If your child is reading a story to you, don't rush to correct mistakes, but be ready to prompt or guide if he or she is struggling. Above all, do give plenty of praise and encouragement.





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A lively story with irresistible illustrations, this book is a delight to share with very young children. It can also be enjoyed by children who are beginning to read for themselves. The simple rhyming text helps to develop essential language and early reading skills, and there are guidance notes for parents at the back of the book.



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