TO BE A BEE

AH! WHAT A LOVELY, LAZY AFTERNOON! SHANTI’S GONE TO MEET HER FRIENDS AND I’M GOING TO MEET MINE—SNACKS!

Bzzzz

AAAH! BEE!

SIGH: TIME FOR A LESSON. LET ME CALL MY COUSINS.

AND LET ME SIT BEHIND THESE PILLOWS. MORE BEES, MORE SCARY!

LOWER YOUR VOICE, BIG MAN! I’M A SOLITARY BEE. I DON’T STING.

LIES! ALL BEES STING! AND WHAT DO YOU MEAN YOU’RE SOLITARY?
I'm Xylocopa pubescens or simply, the carpenter bee!
I'm the biggest in town and quite handsome! Look at my stylish, coloured hair!

I'm Xylocopa latipes or the tropical carpenter bee!

I'm one of the largest bees in the world. Check out my muscles!

I'm Amegilla zonata or the blue banded bee.

I'm fast but I notice each flower. And diets? Pah! I detest them!

That's the best thing I've heard so far! You and I could be friends, blue banded bee!

I'm Megachile lenata or the mason bee!

I'm a redhead and a sweet homebody! I love creating and keeping beautiful homes.

Hey! I haven't introduced myself yet!

Neither have I!

We Megachilidae bees collect pollen on our abdomen, not on our legs!

Us girls have pointy tummies while the boys don't.
I'm *Xylocopa pubescens* or simply, the *Carpenter Bee*!

I'm the biggest in town and quite handsome! Look at my stylish, coloured hair!

That's the best thing I've heard so far! You and I could be friends, *blue banded Bee*!

I'm *Xylocopa latipes* or the *Tropical Carpenter Bee*!

I'm one of the largest bees in the world. Check out my muscles!

I'm *Amegilla zonata* or the *Blue Banded Bee*.

I'm fast but I notice each flower. And diets? Pah! I detest them!

Hey! I haven't introduced myself yet!

Neither have I!
I'M MEGACHILE LENATA OR THE MASON BEE!

I'M A REDHEAD AND A SWEET HOMEBOY! I LOVE CREATING AND KEEPING BEAUTIFUL HOMES.

WE MEGACHILIDAE BEES COLLECT POLLEN ON OUR ABDOMEN, NOT ON OUR LEGS!

US GIRLS HAVE POINTY TUMMIES WHILE THE BOYS DON'T.

"NOW THAT YOU CAN IDENTIFY SOME OF US, LET'S DELVE DEEPER!"

MUAHA!

"AS SMALL CARPENTER BEE SAID, SOLITARY BEES DON'T STING UNLESS YOU CATCH AND HURT US."

"STINGING IS A BEHAVIOUR EXHIBITED BY SOCIAL BEES. YOU SEE, THEY HAVE TO DEFEND THEIR HIVES!"

AAAH! I PROMISE I'LL BEEHAVE!

"DOES THAT MEAN YOU DON'T HAVE HIVES?"
"No, solitary bees live and eat alone. We build individual nests."

"And not all of us live in rural areas! There are so many of us who live in cities."

"But why? Isn't rural life better for you?"

"And you know that all bees don't make honey, right? Only some bees that build hives do."

"Not always. Our village cousins have tough lives too."

"Life in the village is peaceful, but I have to eat the same thing all day, every day!"
WE HAVE ACCESS TO A VARIETY OF CUISINES WITH THE MANY ORNAMENTAL FLOWERS IN THE CITY, BUT THE TRAFFIC IS TERRIBLE!

NOT AS TERRIBLE AS THE PESTICIDE SPRAYS! I'VE LOST FRIENDS TO IT!

THAT'S HORRIBLE! I HAVE IT A TAD EASIER, I GUESS. I JUST NEED A GOOD HOME TO STAY IN.

A HOTEL? A PROPER, CEMENTED ONE?

YUCK, NO! WE JUST NEED HOLLOW WOOD OR BROKEN BAMBOO SHOOTS TO STAY IN.

“IF NOT A HOME, EVEN A HOTEL WOULD DO!”
"You see, a lot of us are losing our homes with the reducing green spaces in cities."

That's why these little bee hotels are so important to us.

That's right, and these hotels are the least we can do for you. I know what surprise to give Shanti for her garden!

We are extremely efficient pollinators, and the majority of the world's crops need pollinators.

70 per cent of the food you eat is pollinated by us for free!

I believe in you! You'd be the bee's knees if you'd be our friends!

Maybe you too, dear readers, can make bee hotels with the help of your parents or an adult!

The End.