Quick Card:

*The Bee Tree*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Reference | *The Bee Tree,* Patricia Polocco. (1998)ISBN: 8601422165548  |
| Plot | Young Mary Ellen complains to her grandfather one afternoon that reading is boring. Seeming to humor her, he takes her on a hunt for a Bee Tree which results in a mad chase involving half the town. Honey discovered, Mary Ellen learns an unexpected lesson in the sweetness of stories. |
| Setting | A lazy summer day in a close-knit country community. All the places through which the characters crash on their mad chase bear familiar labels like: “Dead Man’s Tree” and “Dunks Woods” etc. This sense of familiarity sets the mood of the peaceful country town. |
| Characters | * Mary Ellen, the impatient, adventure hungry granddaughter who scorns reading
* Grandfather, the wise old leader of the bee chase
* The townspeople who join in the chase:

Petra and DormaEinar Tundevold“Klondike” Bertha FitchworkFeduciary, the goat herder |
| Conflict | Man vs. Self- Mary Ellen must learn that some things are worth chasing even if they don’t come easily…both bees and books! |
| Theme | The sweetness of learning for its own sakeThe wisdom of one’s eldersA hunt for sweetness draws community. |
| Literary Devices | Onomatopoeia- Sound words like “Slap,” “Bump,” “Honk,” “Tweedle-Tweedle-Squeak!”Simile- Wisdom and learning is like honey: a sweetness worth chasing.Repetition- Each time a new character notices the careening crowd, the grandfather’s invitation becomes more boisterous and welcoming: “We are hunting a Bee Tree!” |