“I’m tired of reading, Grampa.” Mary Ellen sighed. “I’d rather be outdoors running and playing.”

“So you don’t feel like reading, eh? Feel like running, do you? Then I expect this is just the right time to find a bee tree!” he said, taking down a jar and putting on his lucky hat.

“What’s a bee tree, Grampa?” Mary Ellen asked.

“Well…it’s where the bees make their home. It’s where they keep the honey…the sweetest in the land!” Grampa chirped excitedly.

“But we already have honey, Grampa,” Mary Ellen said.

“Ah, but not honey like this,” her grampa answered with a wink.
Mary Ellen and her grampa put on their coats and went outdoors. They walked down past the hollyhocks to the garden and found bees gathering pollen from the flowers. Her grampa carefully trapped some in the glass jar, making sure not to hurt them.

When he was sure that he had enough, he smiled and leaned close to Mary Ellen. "They’ll take the pollen back to the hive to make it into honey, and we’ll be right behind them."

Then he slowly loosened the lid of the jar and let one single bee escape. It stayed on the mouth of the jar for a moment, flew straight up, then buzzed toward the cornfield.

"Quick now, RUN!" Grampa called out as he began to chase the bee.
The Bee Tree

When Mary Ellen gets tired of reading indoors, her grandfather knows that a trip to the Bee Tree is just the thing to rejuvenate her.

“The newest gem from Polacco’s treasure chest of family stories extols the virtue of reading—and of taking a study break. . . . Polacco’s rollicking text provides a bubbly, adventurous tone for her cumulative romp. . . . Like Mary Ellen, readers will emerge refreshed from this respite, ready to seek out new adventures.”

—Publishers Weekly

“Marvelous . . . Both the writing and artwork are fresh and inviting.”

—School Library Journal (starred review)

“Young readers will savor this fast-paced adventure story.”

—Horn Book

A Parenting Magazine Best Book of the Year