

*A review of current publications affecting the teaching of science*

**Book Review: *Madigan's Discoveries: Bee Careful***

by **Susan Elwell**

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*Bee Grateful* is second in a series of books from author Susan Elwell. Book One is entitled *Madigan's Discoveries: The Magic of Transformation*, a review that can be seen in a previous issue of JVSE.

Along with the second book, Susan has created companion workbooks comprised of key vocabulary and three additional sections along with a writing rubric. Section one is a series of multiple choice questions that I could see students attempting and then working through in a group situation, as there are some that may spark disagreement and subsequent discussion. Sections two and three of the workbooks are identical regardless of the title within the series and address writing for creativity and writing for information.

The second book brings back many of the same characters, providing a familiarity for students. It begins with Mr. Wilbur Griffin, Maddy's next door neighbor, talking to Maddy about the bees in his hives appearing sick, and of course, there is a discussion of what healthy bees look like in comparison to sick bees. Maddy and her friend Arturo explore the life cycle, habits, behavior, and predators of bees. They learn what bees do for humans, how they function and what they need to survive, why we need them to survive, and what is happening that is affecting survival.

Once again, Susan has managed to present pertinent and interesting information in an engaging way. Not only that, she takes the time and attention to making sure the information is accurate. The set-up of the series draws attention from students who often struggle to engage with non-fiction science material. She has cleverly found a way to infuse a great deal of science content within a creative and endearing series of a girl's adventures. I thought to use the term 'age-appropriate' somehow, but in all honesty, this is really appropriate for anyone who wants to learn key information about bees, as I learned a great deal myself. Students and adults alike are attracted to information presented this way, which just goes to show how clever this series continues to be. The end of the second book introduces the concept of bats as taking over in nighttime pollination, and I have to say that I was just a little excited thinking that Madigan's next discovery might be about bats, but I know that there is pattern with insects (butterflies, bees). Obviously, I am already anticipating the third book.

To contact Susan Elwell or to purchase any of the books in the series, email [susan@madigandiscoveries.com](mailto:susan@madigandiscoveries.com). You can find more information on the book series at [www.madigandiscoveries.com](http://www.madigandiscoveries.com).