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BEES

I think that William Shakespeare did a very good job of telling people about bees in his poem. It was surprising to me that his information is mostly right! Shakespeare was a poet and a playwright but it seems to me that he was also a scientist. I think this because his information was very accurate, he must have studied honeybees very carefully to get this knowledge.

When Shakespeare says "So work the Honeybees" he is correct. Most hives have about 35,000 workers. They build cells from the tiny strips of wax that come from the glands on the underside of their stomach. Workers gather pollen and nectar from flowers. They also guard the hive from unwanted bees from other hives, because they will try to steal honey from the hive.

Shakespeare said "The singing masons building roofs of gold" he means that workers are building cells and adding on the hive. Shakespeare is correct about, "The lazy yawning drone" because drones do not do any work in a hive, their only job is to mate. The sentence "Delivering o'er to executors pale" is also correct because the drones are given to executors in the fall. The executor-workers sting or throw out the drones unless the hive has no queen. This happens because drones are just more mouths to feed, once they are thrown out of a hive they are left to starve.

Shakespeare's theme in this poem seemed to be war because he put in lines like "Which pillage with merry march home" (the pillage is nectar from flowers). Bees do not take nectar from flowers without giving something back. For example when bees drink the nectar from a flower the pollen from other flowers is mixed with the flower's own pollen. Flowers and bees need each other to survive. Bees pollinate flowers and flowers give bees food. Another incorrect fact in this poem is that bees do not have a king but have a queen. The only job of the queen is to lay eggs. A natural thing that the queen does is give off a scent that maintains order, but scientists do not know exactly how it works. Shakespeare had a small inaccuracy about when bees pollinate flowers. Bees only pollinate flowers that are fully open. The poem says "Make boot upon the summers velvet buds".

Shakespeare described the life of a bee with similes and metaphors. I had to read this poem many times to find the meaning of it. I also read four library books about honeybees. I compared them to Shakespeare's poem and found that the poem was more interesting but also informative. Shakespeare crammed almost 4 books into 18 lines, but he still taught me about honeybees.