

Novel Study – Understanding Map for ‘HOW TO BEE’ BY BREN MACDRIBBLE

Content → Process ↓	People	Places	Events	Themes	Connections within the novel and with the reader's experience.	Structure and Methods (Use a range of reading strategies)
Consider Different Viewpoints What's another angle on this?	Write a diary entry as if you are Peony's mother explaining her perspective on wanting Peony to come to the city.	In 'How to Bee', How might the people in the city view those in the country. What makes you say that?				Find a section of dialogue in the novel that deals with a point of view of one of the characters and change it to mean the opposite.
Describe what's there What do you see and notice?	Describe the personalities of three of the main characters from the book. Support with quotes.	Describe the setting of the area that Peony lives at the beginning of the book.	What has happened to the bees?	What are the main themes of this book? Explain why you think that they are so.		Find five words that you previously did not know the meaning of, but now do. Include their definitions.
Make Connections How does this fit?	The author writes in the first person and in the present tense. Why do you think she does that? Can you think of any other novels that do this?	Are there any similarities in vocabulary choice within the book and common Australian specific vocabulary?	Find out about how the Hanyuan farmers in China pollinate their crops.	The genre of this book is dystopian. What does dystopian mean? Can you think of other books that are dystopian?	The novel considers the possibility of bees becoming extinct and the implications that will have for humans. What is your connection to bees currently? How do you feel about them? Has your opinion changed since reading the book and if so, in what way.	'First eat, then Bee' says Gramps at the beginning of the book. The word 'bee' is usually a common noun, but here it is used as a verb. How does this fit with the rest of the novel?
Wondering What am I curious about here?	Why do you think Peony does not use correct grammar when she speaks? Does it affect your understanding of her?	Where does the author, Bren Mac Dribble live? Do you wonder if the country in which she lives has been instrumental in her choosing to write a novel of this nature? Please explain your thinking.	I wonder if the author intends for the reader to be confused in the beginning of the book. Were you confused? In what way?			
Reason with evidence Why do you think so?	Do you think that you would like Peony if she walked in the classroom right now. Why do you think so?		Do you think that it is possible that bees may become extinct? Support your response with actual researched evidence.	Many of the farm children are named after flowers and fruit. Why do you think this is so?	Why do you think the people in the city are called Urbs?	
Build explanations What's really going on here?	Why does Peony's mum really want her to come to the city?		Why are bees important? What do they do? Why might they become extinct?			
Uncover Complexity What lies beneath the surface of this?	Why do you think Bren Macdribble wrote this book?					
Capture from the Heart				Capture the heart of this book in a few sentences.		