

“Save the Bees”

Age 14, El Segundo High School, Class of 2025

I never did like thinking about death. However, when you find out you have a severe allergy to bees, the possibility of death gets more difficult to avoid.

Some parts of my first allergic reaction have faded away over time, buried deep in the memories of my eight year old self. **However, the adrenaline of the situation was enough to make me never forget it. (1)** I was bumping my volleyball in the backyard when I suddenly felt a sharp pain in my pinky toe. I ran to my mom, my face sopping wet with hot, salty tears, as the pain became even more blinding. My mom rushed me inside and it seemed almost an eternity before she finally found tweezers and ripped the black stinger out of my toe. I sat down on my mom's lap outside while she explained to my dad what had happened, and I remember feeling a blanket of calm wrap around me.

However, this feeling of comfort did not last very long. Immediately after I sat down, my entire body started to itch like I had thousands of mosquito bites covering me. I told my mom and we looked down to see angry red hives crawling up my legs and arms. Worry started to fill my chest as my parents rushed inside to find some Benadryl. The sickly sweet taste of the hot pink medicine made me want to gag as I reluctantly forced myself to swallow. **We sat there waiting for a sign that I was going to be okay. (2)** Unfortunately, the red hives on my skin only flared up more. I was going to have to go to the hospital.

We all piled into my mom's white Toyota to drive to the hospital. As we drove under a freeway underpass, I remember realizing that my vision was slowly going dark. The edges were blurred and black and it felt like the walls of the car were closing in on me. When we finally pulled up in front of the emergency room and I stepped out of the backseat of the car, I felt my head go woozy. Just as everything went black I remember murmuring, “I can't see anything.”

The next thing I remember is waking up in the trembling arms of my dad. The familiar smell of rubbing alcohol cut through the frigid air. My parents put on their best fake smiles trying to reassure me. I don't remember much of what happened after that. **The doctors gave me a shot of epinephrine to help stop the reaction my body was having. (3)** After that shot, I began to drift in and out of feverish sleep. Laying there in the stiff sheets of the hospital bed, I knew that I would ultimately be okay, but my perspective had changed forever.

When you're a little kid, you have no responsibility except to have fun. You have little to no knowledge of the outside world and the only thing that matters is what adventure you're going to have next. However, at some point, everyone experiences something that makes that precious childhood bubble smaller. Growing out of childhood can be a sad thing, but I don't think we ever truly leave it behind. For example, resilience is a trait that we take with us, even after childhood ends. Just as a kid will keep getting back up on their bike after they

fall, I will never let the possibility of death stop me from doing something, even when it's all around me.

Word Count: 586

Summarizing, Paraphrasing, Thoughts, Reactions, Questions, Predictions

Annotations

1. The adrenaline of what situation?
2. What sign were they looking/waiting for?
3. I predict that epinephrine is some sort of treatment for bee stings.

Your Name: Theodore Bong

Title of Work: Save the Bees

Author: Unknown

1. Provide a summary of the text.
 - a. The author wrote a personal narrative article detailing a personal experience they encountered. The author described the time they were stung by a bee in their backyard and had a severe allergic reaction. The author detailed their parents' reaction and how they were treated at the Emergency Room in the hospital.
2. What did you like best about this text?
 - a. I liked the moral of the story that the author shared at the end. They explained how even though there is a possibility of death in many things that you do, it shouldn't deter you from doing it.
3. Share a favorite quote from the text - why did this quote stand out to you?
 - a. My favorite quote was "...I will never let the possibility of death stop me from doing something, even when it's all around me." This was my favorite quote because it really sums up what the author learned from the experience detailed in the article.
4. What feelings did this text evoke for you?
 - a. This text evoked feelings of shock and surprise. The text was very surprising since not many people have that kind of reaction to a bee sting. I was shocked to hear that the author had a near death experience with a bee sting.

5. If you got the chance to ask the author of this text one question, what would it be?
 - a. The question I would ask the author would be whether or not they have been stung by a bee after the event detailed in the article. If so, I would ask if they had a different reaction or similar reaction.
6. What idea(s) was the author trying to get across OR what do you feel was the author's purpose in writing this text?
 - a. I think the author's purpose was to share her experience and what they learned from that experience. I think that the author wanted to share why she believes that the possibility of death shouldn't stop you from doing something.
7. What aspect of this text did you most relate to?
 - a. I related to the part of the text when the author got stung by a bee because I too have been stung by a bee.
8. What feedback would you give the author?
 - a. I would tell the author to give more detail on the events following the Emergency Room so the reader can better understand what the end result was and how the author was affected by the experience.