



Lyman Allyn

Book of the Month

Buzzing About

This month's project is inspired by a temporary installation, *The Bee Project* developed by Grant Wood Fellow and Project Director, Elena Smyrniotis. Your first task will be to determine if you would like your bee to be placed inside or outside.

Below is a list of materials we used for our bees intended for the outdoor installation.

- Recyclable containers: We found that the thicker the plastic bottles, glass jars or metal cans were easier to work with
- Tape: We used yellow and black electrical tape to create the stripes as it would withstand weather
- Plastic caps: this includes the tops of water bottles, juice containers or any interesting, shaped lid
- Googly eyes: A fun way to give your bee a little personality
- Thin metal wire: These would be helpful to create wings, legs, antenna, or even a stinger
- Bubble wrap: This made for an interesting material for wings to give them more texture
- Plastic straws: These can also be used for wings but can also be assembled to give your bee a smiling face

All these materials were assembled using a generous amount of hot glue, as they not only had to withstand rain but also wind. Feel free to use any other recycled materials you can collect and think would survive the outdoors.

Another important step is if our container no longer has a cap, you will need to ensure the open end is facing down to avoid collecting water. You may want to check it every few weeks anyway to ensure any water build up is taken care of.

If your bee will live inside, your material options may remain the same or look a little different. Below is a list of suggested materials for a bee that won't be fighting the elements.

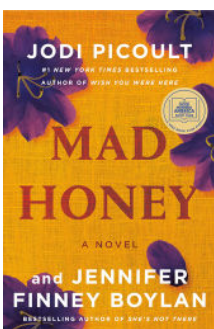
- Paper towel/Toilet Paper Rolls: These can be used as the body of the bee instead of a recyclable container
- Paint: Instead of tape, you can use paint to create your stripes
- Paper: Using colored paper to cover containers is another way to create the bee stripes, especially if you do not want the mess of paint
- Pipe cleaners: We did include some of these on outdoor sculptures, but the materials will likely last longer inside
- Fabric or yarn: If you want your bee to have a different texture, fabric or yarn is a great way to do this.
- Cardboard: This can be cut into different shapes to become various body parts from wings and legs to facial features.
- Craft stick: If your bee body is round, attaching a craft stick or popsicle stick to the bottom will help give your bee a flat surface to rest on. You don't need to worry about this if you wish to hang your bee instead.

Of course consider using any other materials you have on hand or can collect. This project is intended for creativity and repurposing everyday objects into our art.

Don't forget to share your work with us using #LymanAllynAtHome!



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Our older readers will also dive into the world of honeybees, but best-selling authors Jennifer and Finney Boylan story is one that isn't as sweet. With a foundation of suspense and a love story, this novel will encourage readers to explore how secrets play a role in who we become.



Did you know honeybees can dance? Author and illustrator Rick Chrustowski teach our younger readers about why and how these small bees break out their sweet moves.