

The Nest

By Kenneth Oppel

Annotation

Steve's baby brother is very sick and everyone is worried. At night in his dreams, Steve is visited by what he thinks is an angel who convinces him that she will make the baby perfect as long as he agrees to help. Steve soon discovers that the angel is really a queen wasp from the colony outside his house who, in fixing the baby, plans to make a replacement baby instead.

Book Talk

You probably haven't given much thought about wasps other than that they can be annoying and unpleasant. When the queen wasp first visits Steve in his dreams, he thinks she is an angel. She knows that his baby brother is sick, and claims she can fix him. All he has to do is say "yes". But "yes" may be the very word he regrets saying the most.

Book Trailers

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7ZdbWYGHJ80>

Author on the Internet

- Website: <http://www.kennethoppel.ca/>
- Twitter: <https://twitter.com/kennethoppel>
- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/KennethOppelFan>

Items to use in a library display

- Wasps / Nest
- Baby Doll
- Toy phone
- Flyswatter

Book Club Discussion Questions/Topics

- http://www.kennethoppel.ca/images/The%20Nest_RGG.pdf

First Line of the Book:

- "The first time I saw them I thought they were angels."

Non-Fiction Companion Titles

- *Zombie Makers: True Stories of Nature's Undead* by Rebecca L. Johnson
- *Swarmed by Bees* by Sue Hamilton

What to Read Next

- *Stung* by Bethany Wiggins
- *Mothman's Curse* by Christine Hayes
- *Skellig* by David Almond

Other Books by this Author:

- *Boundless*
- *Airborn*
- *Silverwing*

Additional Resources

- Art/craft activity: Make a paper mache “nest” around a balloon.
- Interview with the author: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aDW5F8m4uvc>
- Lesson ideas: http://www.kennethoppel.ca/images/The%20Nest_RGG.pdf page 3