

# RIF ACTIVITY: BEEHIVE BUILDERS

## BOOK SUMMARY



### **THE HONEYBEE MAN** by Lela Nargi

Fred lives with his dog (Cooper) and cat (Cat) in a brownstone in Brooklyn. Each morning after breakfast, Fred climbs a ladder to the rooftop where Fred “greet the rest of his family,” the queens and all the bees that live in his three hives. As Fred imagines what it is like to be a honeybee, his bees are busy working to make honey that he harvests and shares with his neighbors. Fred’s beehives are great examples of “going green” in an urban setting.

## DIRECTIONS

### **ESTIMATED TIME:** 30 MINUTES

Materials: play dough, straws cut in 4-inch pieces

1. Introduce yourself to the group. Ask students where they would expect to see honeybees. Read the story *The Honeybee Man* to the group.
2. Ask the students to identify the shape of beehive combs. Why would hexagons be the best design for the beehives? Make sure everybody knows what a hexagon is.
3. Tell children they are going to build beehives.
4. Pass out play dough and a handful of straws for each student. Have students construct hexagons with straws using play dough as a bonding agent. Challenge them to stack the hexagons together to form a honeybee hive.
5. Once done, have children share their hives. Discuss the students’ favorite ways to eat honey.

