



## **Flight of the Bumblebee:** **A Collaboration in Writing** *by Marilyn Winter*

1. Select your favorite rendition of ***Flight of the Bumblebee***.
2. Instructions to Students: *“Lie back on the floor, close your eyes and listen to this piece of music. If you know the name of this piece, keep it a secret”*.
3. Play the piece for your students.
4. *“Select one word to describe what you were thinking as you listened to this music.”* List these words on the board.
5. *“I will tell you that this piece of music is about a living thing. Close your eyes and listen again. Can you determine what living thing this music is about.”*  
Students listen.
6. *“What do you think this piece of music is about?”* As the students respond, tell them, *“It could be.”* Take ideas from as many students as time permits.
7. Give clues to discover what the living thing is: (pause briefly between clues for contemplation and responses. The music could be played again in between discussion points.) Example:
  - *This “being” is in the animal kingdom. What is it?*
  - *It is considered to be an insect. Think of the music. What could it be?*
  - *This insect is a flying insect. Let the music guide your suggestions.*
  - *It is a very busy insect.*
  - *It carries pollen from plant to plant.*
  - *It is striped yellow and black.*

- *What is the name of this insect? **A bumblebee!***

7. *The title of this piece of music is **Flight of the Bumblebee**. Can you think of other words we might use to describe a bumblebee? Teacher lists the words on the board.*

8. *As we said, the name of the piece is **Flight of the Bumblebee**. The bee is going on a journey. Close your eyes and listen once again. As you listen, pretend that you are a bumblebee on a journey. Children lie down and listen with their eyes closed.*

9. *Turn and tell a neighbor what you experienced on your journey.*

10. *Did anyone hear an unusual story from your neighbor? Share*

11. *With a partner, write and illustrate a story entitled, **Flight of the Bumblebee**. Feel free to refer to the words on the board for your story.*

*COMMENT: The richness that comes through collaboration is quite amazing.*