To QUEEN BEE or NOT to QUEEN BEE?

HEY LOOK!

IT'S THE QUEEN!

GREETINGS, OH MAJESTIC QUEEN MOMMY!

STOP THAT. I'M NO QUEEN.

I'M A SERVANT!

YOU GIRLS MAKE ME LAY 1000 EGGS A DAY.

I'M TIRED. I WANT MY ROYAL NAP!

KEEP WORKING, QUEENIE.

SHE LAYS 1000 EGGS A DAY?

THAT'S WHY SHE'S SO MUCH BIGGER THAN US. SHE'S FULL OF EGGS.
AND MOST OF THOSE EGGS GROW UP TO BE OUR SISTERS.

HAVE YOU NOTICED HOW CROWDED THE HIVE IS GETTING?

YEAH, THERE ARE BEES EVERYWHERE!

TOO MANY BEES.

PRETTY SOON A BUNCH OF US ARE GOING TO LEAVE WITH THE OLD QUEEN AND START A NEW COLONY.

NO FOOLING?

YEP. BUT BEFORE WE CAN DO THAT, WE NEED TO MAKE A NEW QUEEN TO STAY HERE WITH THE OLD HIVE.

PFFT. YOU CAN'T JUST MAKE A QUEEN. OF COURSE WE CAN.
First we build a gigantic cell. Then, the old queen lays an egg in it.

Is it a special royal egg?

Nope, just a regular egg.

Why do you get to be queen?

Just lucky, I guess.

When she hatches, we'll feed the baby queen tons of royal jelly.

Does it contain a lot of vitamin bee?

No. And that's not funny.

Then how does royal jelly work?

Do you remember what you ate when you were a larva?
Yeah, it was a mix of pollen, honey, and bee spit.

The nurse bees called it "bee bread," but I called it "yummy."

Right. Well, "bee bread" is full of plant chemicals from pollen that turn off our ability to lay eggs.

But we leave the pollen out of the royal jelly, so when the queen grows up she can lay eggs just fine.

Apparently, a lot of eggs.

It really is getting crowded in here.

Yeah, all these bees are giving me hives.

You're hilarious.