

Señorita Mariposa!

by Ben Gundersheimer (Mr. G)

lesson plan

Length of Lesson: 45 minutes
(can be adjusted by eliminating
* items)



Check out SC's Learning
and Literacy Profile of
the ready kindergartner

Objective/Brief Description:

Let's join the Monarch
butterflies on their annual
journey from Canada to Mexico,
and visit a variety of places
across our continent as we
follow their cross-country
adventure.



Materials Provided: Construction paper,
butterfly wings

Materials from Home: Crayons



INTRODUCTION

Before the lesson, The Instructor should decide on an area that will act as a "Stage" where students can perform. There should be an entrance area that goes onto the stage, and an exit area that goes off of the stage to "backstage"—these can be behind a curtain, shelving unit, couch, etc.

As students enter the space (Living room, library, classroom, etc.), give each student a crayon to be their "Magic Key." This is the "key to their imagination." Instructor asks: "How does a butterfly move?" Have the students act out their butterfly as they make their way onto the "stage," and have students sit in a circle. After students enter and are seated, have them draw a picture of themselves as a butterfly—Let them know that "artistic skills" don't matter. Have students think about color of wings, size of the butterfly, emotional expression of the butterfly, etc.

Have students create an "audience" in front of your chosen "stage." Students then take turns going "backstage" to get ready for a short presentation. For the presentation, they each enter onto the "stage," cross to Center Stage (middle of the stage), say their name, share their butterfly drawing and something they would do if they were a butterfly. The Instructor should model an example for the students. During each presentation, the Instructor might ask questions like: "Could the butterfly be flying fast beside a car, or flying above flowers and stopping to sniff them, or landing on someone's nose?" When each student finishes, have them take a bow, exit to "backstage," and then sit back in the audience. Please have the audience applaud each student.



LET'S GET MOVING

The Instructor Asks, "What do you think it would be like to be a butterfly?" After, play a game called "Yes, Let's!" with the students. In this game, The Instructor is the leader at first and explains that in the theatre, actors agree to try new things. Instead of saying, "No," we always say "Yes, Let's!" The Instructor will make a suggestion of an activity (Building a sandcastle, exploring a cave, going to school, walking on the moon, going on a safari, baking a cake, etc.). The students respond by saying, "Yes Let's!" after each suggestion. Everyone (The Instructor as well) then acts out each activity on the "stage" at the same time. After a few suggestions from The Instructor, and as students grow more comfortable and confident with the game, the students can call out suggestions as well. The Instructor should give each student the opportunity to make a suggestion, but that is not mandatory—especially for some of our more reserved students.

TRANSITION

You are about to go to a pretend "library" to find your book. This can be any anywhere in your "classroom space" where you are keeping the book and materials. The Instructor Says: "Let's go to the 'library,' and see if we can find a book to learn more about the journey of the Monarch Butterfly!" The Instructor and students flap their wings and fly to the "library."

READ THE STORY

After the class goes to the "library," go back to your "stage." This time, The Instructor should be on the "stage" as the students sit in the "audience." The Instructor reads *Señorita Mariposa*, by Ben Gundersheimer, to the students, asking students story-related questions throughout. When the story is finished, talk about what the journey would be like. The Instructor might ask, "Do you think the butterflies get tired? Do you think it would be fun to fly all the way across the United States? What do you think it would be like to travel from one country to another?"

IDENTIFY THE PROBLEM AND HOW TO SOLVE IT

The Instructor facilitates a conversation using the following talking points: A lot of people travel to different countries to visit or spend time there. Have any of you ever traveled to or from another country? The Instructor gives the children a chance to express what they think it would feel like. This is a great opportunity to talk about different cultures and languages, if you have time.



IDENTIFY THE PROBLEM AND HOW TO SOLVE IT CONTINUED

The Instructor hands out butterfly wings to each student and explains that, in theatre, when an actor puts on different items of clothing, it becomes their costume. Actors must be very careful with their costumes and make sure they don't get damaged. Actors don't get to pick out their own costumes but are assigned a costume by a Costumer in a play.

The Instructor tells the students that they are going to play "Yes, Let's" again, but with the provided butterfly wings this time to use as "costumes." The Instructor asks: "Would it be different to do all the things we wanted to do if we were butterflies?" As a large group, redo some activities suggested when you first played, "Yes, Let's!" and discuss how the wings make it different. You may want to add some activities discussed in the book by asking the students, "what is something from the book you would like to try with their butterfly wings on?"

If you have time for an extension, discuss how butterflies help pollinate flowers. The Author's Note at the end of the book provides some additional ideas regarding this topic.

END OF CLASS

The Instructor allows each student an opportunity to show their butterfly choices as The Instructor plays some music. They can and should dance and fly around like butterflies. When the song ends, everyone takes a turn clapping as the audience, and then bowing as an actor. Clapping is a way for the audience to say, "Thank you for performing for us." Bowing is a way for the actors to say, "Thank you for watching us."



Thank you for taking a few minutes to fill out this brief survey!