

Learn From Characters Who Overcome Fears

Book Title: *Butterflies on the First Day of School* (Silvestro, 2019)

About the Book: Rosie has been waiting in anticipation for school to begin. When the first day finally arrives, Rosie has a tummy ache. While she is getting ready, her mom tells her she has butterflies in her belly and Rosie is a little confused. As she meets new friends, shares in class, and helps another girl who is also nervous, both the reader and Rosie see the butterflies float away.

To find a book like this one, look for the following:

- Characters or situations that are relatable to children
- Characters who overcome fears



Comprehension Conversation:

BEFORE READING

Notice the Cover Illustration:

- The illustrator, Dream Chen, chose a lot of different art tools to create this cover. What do you notice when you look at the cover? She used color pencils and paint for the pictures and collage for the butterflies. [For more information about the illustrations, you can find an interview with Dream Chen on Mel Schuit's Blog: <http://www.letstalkpicturebooks.com/2019/08/lets-talk-illustrators-116-dream-chen.html>.]

Set a Purpose: Do you remember how you felt on the first day of school? Did anything happen to change your mood? Let's read to find out why the title of the book is *Butterflies on the First Day of School*.

DURING READING

- *Rosie shuffled the pancakes around on her plate.* . . . page: What do you suppose her mom meant when she hugged her tight and said, "You just have butterflies in your belly?"
- *As she spoke, a butterfly flew from her mouth.* . . . page: Talk to a neighbor about what is happening on this page. Can you figure out why the butterflies are floating away?
- *Rosie took a deep breath.* . . . page: Let's ponder what happened to make Rosie feel a little better. Have you had an experience like Rosie's?
- *But the girl stood alone under the oak tree.* . . . page: Can you infer how the girl in the yellow dress is feeling? What would you do or say to make her feel better?
- *Her mother smiled.* . . . page: Look carefully at the illustration. What do you see? [Butterflies float away from mom.] Do you imagine your family gets butterflies when you are away from them?

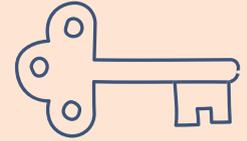


LEARNING TARGETS:

- I can understand how the character is feeling to better understand the story.
- I can think about how I would feel in the same situation.
- I can use what I've learned from this book in my own life.

AFTER READING

- Let's go back and notice Rosie's emotions at the beginning, middle, and end of the story. Were they the same or different?



KEY VOCABULARY:

- dashed
- floated
- soared



Extend the Experience:

Think about a time that you had butterflies in your tummy. Let's write some of your experiences on this chart (see Figure 2.1). What happened to make your butterflies go away?

- In the story, Rosie's feelings changed. Think about a time you had butterflies, but then your feelings changed. On the left side of this butterfly (see Figure 2.2 Butterfly Reproducible Response Page) draw a picture showing a time you with butterflies. Then, on the right side, draw what happened to change your feelings. Challenge yourself to add words to your illustrations.



Figure 2.1

Other similar titles:

Hannah and Sugar (Berube, 2016)

[Find a read-aloud experience for this title in *The Ramped-Up Read Aloud* (Walther, Corwin, 2019) on page 68.] <https://us.corwin.com/en-us/nam/the-ramped-up-read-aloud/book257402>

Jabari Jumps (Cornwall, 2017)

[Find a read-aloud experience for this title in *The Ramped-Up Read Aloud* (Walther, Corwin, 2019) on page 106.] <https://us.corwin.com/en-us/nam/the-ramped-up-read-aloud/book257402>

CHILDREN'S LITERATURE CITED:

Berube, K. (2016). *Hannah and Sugar*. New York, NY: Abrams.
 Cornwall, G. (2017). *Jabari jumps*. Somerville, MA: Candlewick.
 Silvestro, A. (2019). *Butterflies on the first day of school*. New York, NY: Sterling Children's Books.

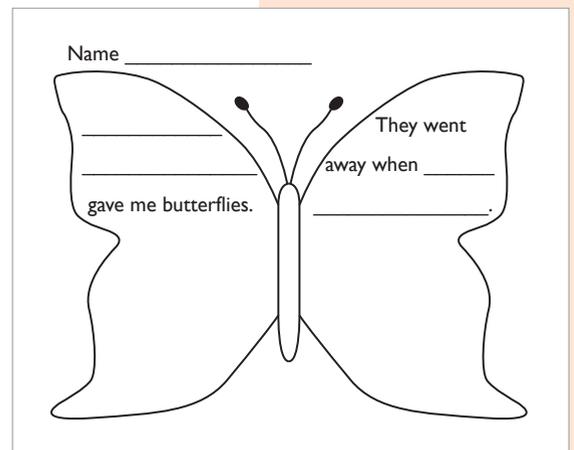


Figure 2.2