

Learning Outcomes

- To understand that all good things come after a struggle or hard work
- To understand the thrill of imagination and of experiencing the beauty of nature
- To identify the rhyming words in the poem
- To enjoy reciting the poem with expression

Summary: The poet describes the beauty of a butterfly in flight across grassy meadows, against a clear blue sky. The beauty of the butterfly in flight is heightened with the sunlight on its wings. Its very movement shows that the butterfly is happy and flies around with ease. It seems that the butterfly enjoys a certain peacefulness which only she will know. This is because this lovely butterfly was once a caterpillar and it was after a great deal of pain that she emerged into a beautiful butterfly. This probably is a reminder to readers that nothing beautiful can come out from anything, without pain.

Pre-reading

Group activity

Divide students in groups and tell students the previous day to collect details about butterflies.

- How butterflies are formed
- Where are butterflies found

- Where are butterflies not found
- Collect a few pictures of butterflies

Ask them to share their findings with the class and conduct a brief discussion on butterflies.

READING

Tell the students they are going to read a poem about the butterfly.

Read the poem aloud and encourage students to listen carefully to the poem and let their books remain closed. Encourage students to close their eyes and imagine the butterfly as you read it.

Read the whole poem aloud with intonation/ play the audio. Re-read the poem with their books open, and ask them to follow carefully in the book.

Ask students to look for the rhyming words in the poem. Tell them to use coloured pencils to underline the last word of each line such that words that rhyme are underlined in the same colour.

Ask students:

Can you visualise the butterfly flying? Pick out words that describe the butterfly. (Wispy body, jovial, shimmering with colors, peaceful, beauty and grace, elegance)

Ask students to list out the vocabulary that is difficult to understand. Allow them to read the poem and guess the meaning of the difficult words.

Stanza 1: Setting

Where is the butterfly seen? (In the grassy meadows) How is the butterfly described in this setting? (The beauty of the butterfly is heightened when it flies through these grassy meadows in the dazzling rays of the sunlight.)

Stanza 2 & 3

Tell students what a simile is.

Note: Simile: The comparison of one thing with another thing of a different kind, used to make a description more vivid (e.g., as brave as a lion).

Pick out the simile. (*as gentle as a breeze*)

What do these stanzas describe? (The beauty of the butterfly) What mood does the butterfly seem to have? (Happy) What feeling does the butterfly have? (A sense of peacefulness) Why is it that only the butterfly knows her sense of peacefulness? (Only she knows the pain she had to go through to become a butterfly.) Why does the poet use descriptive words to describe the butterfly in flight? (To demonstrate its beauty)

Stanza 4

What suggests that the butterfly was not always as beautiful as she is now? (Once a fuzzy creature) What does the butterfly convey to the reader? (The change from a caterpillar to a butterfly had been a painful process. She came out with a struggle and conveys to the reader that without pain there is no gain.)

Poetic devices

Rhyme scheme: abcb

Stanzas: 4 stanzas with 4 lines each

Simile: *As gentle as a breeze*

Descriptive words: *Sways her wispy body; in song like elegance*

Post-reading

Group Activity

1. Form two groups A and B.
2. Divide the stanzas as even and odd stanzas. Let group A recite even stanzas and group B recite odd stanzas.
3. Change the stanzas for the groups in the second round. Allow them to recite till they are able to recite with the right expression, modulation and pauses.

STUDENTS' BOOK ANSWER KEY

The Butterfly

- A.**
1. The word 'drift' means 'to be carried slowly by a current of air' or 'to move slowly, aimlessly, or casually'.
She sways her wispy body/As gentle as a breeze
With pure and simple ease
 2. She alone knows the feeling of contentment that she enjoys within.
The speaker says this to show that her beauty comes from the calmness that she feels within her. This is evident from the fact that she drifts confidently, which stems from being totally at ease and at peace with herself.
 3. The vivid and simple images help the reader to visualise the butterfly and her surroundings. The opening image of a butterfly gliding through the air on a bright

sunny day over a lush green meadow under a clear blue sky immediately transports us there. The use of words like 'drifts', 'sways' and 'ease' helps us imagine how the butterfly glides slowly through the air. The speaker talks about her colourful beauty and highlights it by reminding us of how she was a mere caterpillar just sometime back. The words 'her beauty shimmers' brings out vividly the movement of the butterfly's colourful wings.

- B.** 1. These words mean that as the butterfly flies, her colourful wings glisten and twinkle in the dazzling sunlight such that she seems to be glowing brightly.
2. These words refer to the time the colourful butterfly was a hairy and rather dull-coloured caterpillar. It seems to indicate that the ease and confidence that the beautiful butterfly has now was absent in the caterpillar.
- C.** 1. *Answers may vary. Accept any logical answer. Suggested answer:*
It is the butterfly's 'freedom flight' because she is not only free from the cocoon that restricted her but is also free from any kind of self-consciousness or self-doubt and is completely at peace with herself.
2. *Answers may vary. Accept any logical answer. Suggested answer:*
The speaker mentions how the butterfly was 'once a fuzzy creature' to show how much the butterfly has evolved. This physical change seems to reflect a mental change in her.
3. c

Appreciating the Poem

1. simile: As gentle as a breeze
2. alliteration: freedom flight, She sways, She flies in songlike
3. imagery: grassy meadows
Beneath the clear blue sky / Through dazzling rays of sunlight / Drifts the lovely butterfly
She sways her wispy body / As gentle as a breeze, Her beauty shimmers
brightly / With colors all aglow
fuzzy creature
4. She flies in songlike elegance

Vocabulary

1. drifts, sways, gentle, ease
2. Is only hers to know
3. Jovial in her freedom flight / With pure and simple ease
4. songlike elegance

QUESTION BANK

The Butterfly

A. Answer in brief.

Where is the butterfly and how is she described?

Ans: The beautiful butterfly is seen in the grassy meadows and her beauty is heightened when it flies in the dazzling rays of the sunlight.

B. Answer in detail.

What suggests that the butterfly was not always as beautiful as she is now? What does the butterfly convey to the reader?

Ans: The phrase 'Once a fuzzy creature' suggests that the butterfly was not always this beautiful creature that the reader imagines now. It was a caterpillar, and the change from a caterpillar to a butterfly had been a painful process. She came out with a struggle and conveys to the reader that without pain there is no gain.

C. Choose the correct option.

What does the butterfly convey through the poem?

- The poet conveys that the butterfly is beautiful.
- The poet conveys that the butterfly is a creature free to fly anywhere she wishes.
- The poet conveys that everything good comes after much struggle and hard work.

Ans: c

D. Read the lines and answer the questions.

She sways her wispy body

As gentle as a breeze

Jovial in her freedom flight

With pure and simple ease

- What is the poet describing here?
- Pick out the simile in this stanza.
- Why is this a freedom flight for the butterfly?

Ans: a. The poet is describing the beauty of a butterfly in flight.

b. As gentle as a breeze

c. She has broken free from the cocoon she was encased in as a caterpillar, and is now free to fly wherever she wants

D. Answer in detail. (Think and answer)

Sentiment of peacefulness

Is only hers to know

Why will only the butterfly know the sentiment of peacefulness that she experienced?

Ans: The process by which the butterfly changed from caterpillar to a butterfly was a painful process. Only she will know the pain that she experienced and consequently, only she will experience the joy of freedom and peace when she broke free from the cocoon to become a butterfly.