

CATERPILLAR AND BUTTERFLY

AMBELIN KWAYMULLINA

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YEAR LEVEL: Y1–2

ABOUT THE BOOK

From the award-winning author–illustrator Ambelin Kwaymullina comes a wonderful tale about change.

There was once a caterpillar who lived all alone. Everything around Caterpillar seemed large and strange, and she was full of fear. Determined to escape any possible danger, Caterpillar hides away in the safety of her chrysalis. There, she finally discovers the inner strength she needs to truly live.

Caterpillar and Butterfly is a beautiful tale about bravery and overcoming one's fears.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Ambelin Kwaymullina is an Aboriginal writer and illustrator who comes from the Palyku people of the Pilbara region of Western Australia. She is the author and illustrator of a number of award-winning picture books as well as a YA dystopian series. Her books have been published in the United States, South Korea and China. Ambelin is a prolific commentator on diversity in children's literature and a law academic at the University of Western Australia.

THEMES

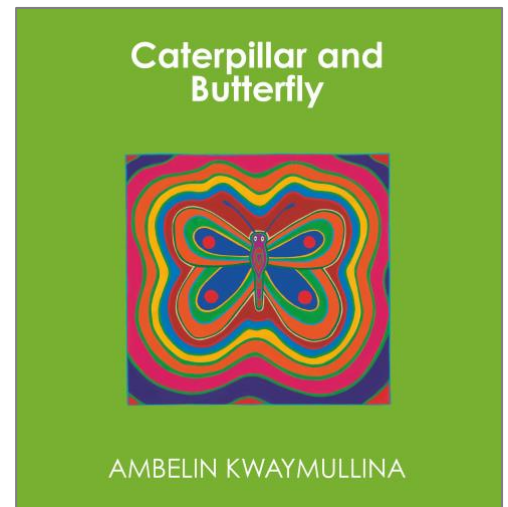
- Self-worth
- Self-perception
- Courage
- Fear
- Friendship
- Loneliness

AUSTRALIAN CURRICULUM OUTCOMES

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Histories and Cultures

USEFUL WEBSITES

- Author's website: akauthor.com.au



CLASSROOM IDEAS

Discussion Questions

- After reading, think about the story of *Caterpillar and Butterfly*.
 - Think of an alternative title for the book. Write your own blurb.
 - In groups, act out the story.
 - Substitute the caterpillar for another animal. Does it change the meaning of the book?
- The illustrations are very brightly coloured and made up of simple shapes without black outlines.
 - Paint a picture using similar techniques. It could be your own version of a scene from the book or your own original painting.
 - Discuss the importance of illustrations to the story. Would the story work just as well with different illustrations? Why or why not?
- Caterpillars and butterflies are insects, and there are many things to learn about them.
 - Research the different varieties of butterflies. How many different kinds can you find out about? How do they look different?
 - Choose one of the butterflies in the book to research in further detail:
 - Yellow-spotted blue
 - Cairns birdwing
 - Wattle blue
 - Monarch/Wanderer
 - Common grass blue
 - Ulysses
 - Draw a butterfly (from the list above or a different one). Label these parts:
 - antennae
 - body (three sections)
 - wings
 - tongue
 - eyes
 - legs

Colour a pattern on the butterfly's wing.
 - Why do butterflies sometimes have certain marks on their wings? How do they eat?
 - Discover the life cycle of butterflies (from caterpillar to butterfly) and write about it.
 - Write a poem or song about the caterpillar who becomes a butterfly.
 - Have you ever found a caterpillar or a butterfly in the garden? Write a story about this experience, or if you haven't, imagine what it would be like to find one and write a story.
 - Go on an excursion to a zoo, wildlife park or butterfly enclosure. If you visit a zoo or wildlife park, try to find the other animals that are mentioned in the book.
 - Name some insects that live in your local area. Research issues affecting local insect life – reduced habitat, water and food resources, feral species, etc.
- Caterpillar is frightened of many things, but in the end, she learns to live to her full potential.
 - What kinds of things are you scared of? When have you felt scared in the past?
 - Do you think Caterpillar's reasons for not going with her friends were good reasons? Why or why not? Did it help when she hid in her chrysalis?
 - How do you overcome your fears? Have you ever avoided something because you were scared? What happened?
 - Write a story about you (or somebody else) overcoming their fear.
 - Why did Caterpillar leave her chrysalis? What did she do differently when she changed into Butterfly?
 - Do you think it would be better to hide away and be safe from harm or to go outside and see the world?
 - Make a list of things you'd like to do or see. Are you scared of doing any of these things? Why or why not?
- Caterpillar is never alone; even when she wants to be, her friends are still there when she emerges from her chrysalis. When she becomes Butterfly, she also finds that there are lots of other butterflies in the world.
 - Do you ever feel lonely? Is there a difference between 'lonely' and 'alone'?

- b. Who do you miss when they are not around? Write a letter to someone (a friend or family member) who you haven't seen in a long time.
 - c. What kinds of activities do you like to do with your friends or family? Write about these.
 - d. What are some qualities that make a good friend? You can think about being a good friend yourself and how your friends are good to you.
6. Locate the Pilbara on a map of Australia. Find out more about the Palyku people and/or the First Nations people(s) from your area. Invite a spokesperson from your local community to speak to the class.
7. Write to the author of your favourite book or of this book (if to Ambelin Kwaymullina, send the letter to c/o Fremantle Press) describing what you did and didn't like.