



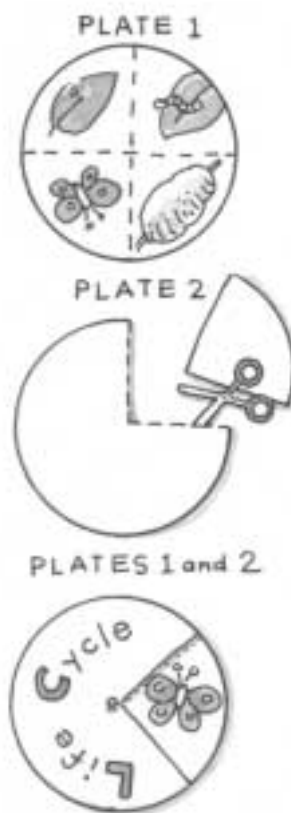
# Butterfly Wings

## Poetry Pointers

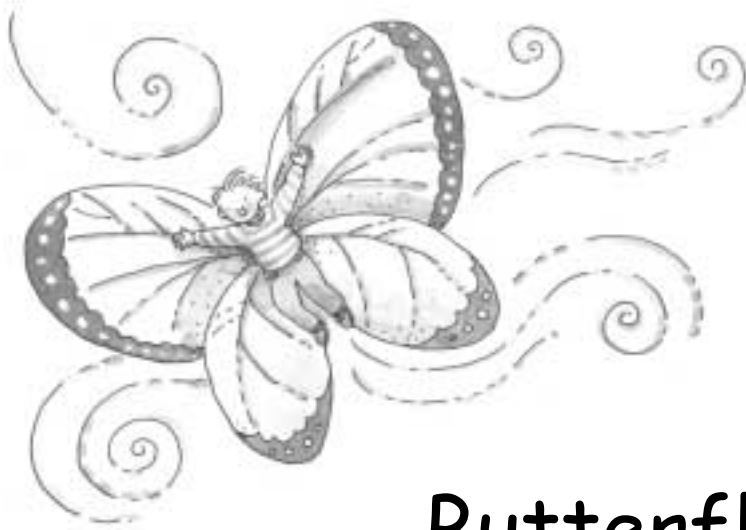
After reading the poem, ask children what change has taken place between the first and last stanzas. (A caterpillar has changed into a butterfly.) Ask children if they have ever seen a butterfly in flight. How is a butterfly's flight different from that of birds? What does the poet compare a butterfly in flight to? (*a boat at sea*) Can children think of anything else to compare a butterfly's flight to? List their comparisons on chart paper.

## Inspirations

**Life-Cycle Wheels:** Set up a reading corner that features a variety of books about butterflies, including nonfiction titles that describe the process of *metamorphosis*. Children can then make life-cycle wheels to illustrate this transformation. Begin by providing students with two paper plates. Show students how to draw lines dividing the surface of both plates into four equal parts. Students should then draw, in sequence, each of the four stages (egg, caterpillar, chrysalis, butterfly) in a butterfly's life cycle on one of the plates. Next, cut away one of the four quadrants on the other plate. Place this plate on top of the first plate. The sides with the quadrant lines should face each other. Help children poke a small hole through the center of the stacked plates, then attach them with a brass fastener. By turning the bottom plate, children can reveal the pictures one by one. Invite students to use the life-cycle wheels as visual aids to explain in their own words the stages of a butterfly's life.



**Beautiful Butterflies:** Children can make beautiful, fluttery butterflies using coffee filters and clothespins. First, dilute a couple drops of food coloring in a tablespoon of water. Repeat this with several colors. Using eyedroppers, students can splash droplets of the "paint" onto coffee filters. Encourage children to experiment with different colors to create patterns. Allow the coffee filters to dry, then gather them in the middle and clasp with a clothespin to create wings. Attach the butterflies to a clothesline to brighten your classroom.



## Butterfly Wings

How would it be  
on a day in June  
to open your eyes  
in a dark cocoon,

And soften one end  
and crawl outside,  
and find you had wings  
to open wide,

And find you could fly  
to a bush or tree  
or float on the air  
like a boat at sea . . .

How would it BE?

—Aileen Fisher