

NOVEL RESOURCE #3
Becky Cain
L530

Book Title: *A Place for Butterflies*
Author: Melissa Stewart
Illustrator: Higgins Bond
Copyright: 2006
Publisher: Peachtree Publishers

About the Author:

<http://www.melissa-stewart.com/about/about2.html>

At a very young age Melissa Stewart knew she wanted to do something in the field of science. Even as a young child her father would take her on hikes and teach her how to observe her surroundings to learn more about the world. In high school she enjoyed English and literature so she wrote a few articles for her school paper. Her love for writing and science continued on into college at Union College where she majored in biology, but also took several writing classes. She received a B.S. in biology from Union College, New York, and then went on to New York University where she earned a M.A. in science journalism. Eventually she discovered that she could utilize her love for writing and science to write more than 60 childrens' books. The idea for *A Place for Butterflies* came to her while she was writing an article about butterflies for a magazine. She wanted her readers to love and appreciate butterflies and understand what actions they could take to protect them.

Stewart says, "Children spend so much time in front of the TV and the computer," Stewart says. "I want to encourage them to go outdoors, and to be curious. If one of my books inspires someone to take a closer look at a butterfly, or go find a bird's nest, then my job is done."

(<http://www.outdoors.org/publications/outdoors/2004/stewart.cfm>)

Awards: Young Hoosier Book Award, Recommended Title, National Science Teachers Association; New York Public Library Books for the Teen Age citation, and Best Book of the Year, *Science Books and Films*; nonfiction research grant letter of merit, Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators.

<http://biography.jrank.org/pages/2098/Stewart-Melissa-1968.html#ixzz0JHUXEgR7&D>

About the Illustrator:

<http://www.higginsbond.com/>

Artist Higgins Bond, has been an accomplished freelance illustrator for more than 25 years. Her illustrations have appeared in such places as television, postage stamps and museums. She has illustrated several children's books and received numerous awards. She received a bachelor of Fine Arts degree in Advertising Design in 1973 from Memphis College of Art.

Awards:

- Awarded Certificate of Merit, 21st Annual National Exhibition of the Society of Illustrators
- Awarded 1979 CEBA Award of Merit for work in Black Enterprise Magazine.
- Featured in the Anheuser-Busch television commercial for "Roots: The Second Generation," advertising the "Great Kings Of Africa" series of paintings, which includes three Higgins Bond paintings.
- Presented the "Key to the City" by Mayor William H. Hudnut III of Indianapolis, IN (1981)
- Received Medal of Honor from the Arkansas Sesquicentennial Committee honoring distinguished Arkansans in 1986, presented by Governor Bill Clinton.
- Illustrator of the Jan Matzeliger (1991), W.E.B. DuBois (1992), and Percy L. Julian (1993) 29-cent commemorative stamps for the United States Postal Service.
- Book Award of Excellence (1993) for **When I Was Little**, by Toyomi Ingus, awarded by the Multicultural Exchange.
- Parents' Choice Approval Seal (1998) for **Song of La Selva: A Story of A Costa Rican Rain Forest**, by Joan Banks.
- Inducted in the Arkansas Black Hall of Fame (1997)
- Member of the National Society of Illustrators - New York, NY.
- Illustrator of four stamps for the United Nations Postal Administration on Endangered Species, issued February 2001.
- Served as one of six judges for the 2006 Federal Duck stamp Contest. Sponsored by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.
- Winner 2007 Green Earth Book Award for **A Place for Butterflies**, Honoring writers and illustrators of the best in Environmental literature for youth. Given by the Newton Marasco Foundation.

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A Place for Butterflies – Melissa Stewart

Art Medium: acrylics

Introduce Higgins Bond and explain what acrylics are. Then introduce the students to Ce'zanne who was a post impressionist painter who also used acrylics. Set up an object on the table and explain what "still life" means. Then give the children the necessary materials and have them paint the still life. Follow the process in *Discovering Great Artists* by MaryAnn F. Kohl & Kim Solga, p. 48

I think this medium was chosen because it gives an almost lifelike depiction of the butterflies. It also effectively displays the vibrant colors of the butterflies.

This medium helps to capture the beauty and detail of the butterfly and its surrounding.

Annotation:

Melissa Stewart, an accomplished scientific journalist, "in simple yet informative language" tells the story of the beauty of butterflies and what people sometimes do to harm them. This is more than a book describing various butterflies. It's a book that touches on environmental issues. It shows the reader what he/she can do to protect the ecosystems of butterflies. In fact, at the end of the book, Stewart offers ideas of what people can do to protect these beautiful insects. I would highly recommend this book for its accuracy, beautiful and information regarding butterflies. Just as we should do everything in our power to protect our family members, we should also consider the family of butterflies and what we can do to protect them.

Summary:

Melissa Stewart, a scientist and writer, tells the story of the butterfly and what people do to harm them. The book begins by explaining metamorphosis, the life cycle of a butterfly. She goes on to explain how butterflies need certain food, like flower nectar, to survive and how important it is for people to have flower gardens. She explains how some butterflies rely on sugary tree sap and how people need to work to preserve the forests. Some caterpillars depend on plants that grow after natural wildfires while others depend on plants that grow in wet places. Plants that are poisonous to cattle, sheep and even trees are beneficial to some caterpillars. Stewart goes on to explain that butterflies need more than food to survive, they need a safe and healthy place to live. She talks about how chemicals and habitat destruction are harmful to butterflies. In conclusion, Stewart offers suggestions to the reader on what they can do to protect butterflies.

Genre: Non fiction
Point of View: third person
Theme: butterflies, ecosystems, environment
Conflict: external

Conflict Resolution:

- Do not catch or keep butterflies
- Do not use harmful chemicals
- Join a group that keeps track of butterflies in your area
- Write an article about butterflies
- Start a butterfly garden

Characters:

Setting: fields, backyards, forests, burned land, swamps, marshes, farms, ponds, mountains, valleys, ocean side,

Present day nature

Interest Level: 2-5

Reading Level: 5.4

Book Talk:

DID YOU KNOW?

- Did you know that some butterflies sip tree sap instead of nectar?
- Did you know that some natural forest fires are actually good for some butterflies?
- Did you know that some butterflies are endangered, there's not many of them left?
- Did you know that you can help butterflies so they don't become extinct?

You have to read *A Place for Butterflies* by Melissa Stewart. It's a wonderfully illustrated book about different butterflies, where they live, what they eat and what we can do to help butterflies. The story is interesting and the pictures are beautiful. You won't want to miss reading this book.

Discussion Questions:

Pre-reading:

1. What do you know about butterflies?
2. Look at the front and back cover, why do you think butterflies are different colors?
3. Who is the author?
4. Who is the illustrator?

During reading:

5. What are the four stages of the life cycle of a butterfly?
6. What do Eastern Tiger Swallowtail's eat?
7. Why are forests important to Mourning Cloak butterflies?
8. Look at the picture on pages 7-8, why do you think the Karner Blue butterflies a purple color?
9. Where can you find a Hessel Hairstreak butterfly?
10. Why is the mistletoe plant both good and bad?
11. Why can't people catch Mitchell Satyr butterflies?
12. Why did the Schaus Swallowtail butterflies die before 1991?
13. What do Oregon Silverspot butterflies need to survive?
14. What is a synonym, word that means the same, as survive?
15. What did the electric company do in Worcester, Massachusetts to help the Harris Checkerspot butterflies?
16. What would have happened to the Palo Verdes Blue butterfly if people had not planted sunflowers and deerweed?
17. How do butterflies help flowering plants?
18. What are 5 things you can do to help butterflies?
19. What would happen if people didn't do these 5 things?

Post reading:

20. What is something important you want to remember from reading this book?
21. What was something unexpected you learned from reading this book?
22. If you could talk face to face with Melissa Stewart, the author of this book, what would you ask her?

Vocabulary:

<u>Word</u>	<u>Definition</u>	<u>Page Number</u>
1. pupa	caterpillar	2
2. sipping	drinking	3
3. surviving	living	6
4. female	girl	12
5. illegal	against the law	16
6. harmed	hurt	17
7. native	from that area	20
8. pollinate	take pollen from one plant to another	25
9. nutrients	good sources of food	26

Indiana Academic Standards:

K.1.22, K.2.1, K.2.2, K.2.3, K.3.3, K.3.5, K.4.1, K.4.3, K.4.4, K.4.5,, K.4.7, K.5.1, K.5.2, K.7.1, K.7.2, K.7.3, K.5.1

1.1.11, 1.1.15, 1.2.3, 1.2.4, 1.2.5, 1.2.6, 1.2.7, 1.3.1, 1.3.5, 1.4.1, 1.4.3, 1.4.4, 1.5.1, 1.5.4, 1.7.7, 1.7.8, 1.7.9, 1.5.1

2.1.10, 2.2.1, 2.2.2, 2.2.3, 2.2.4, 2.2.5, 2.2.8, 2.2.9, 2.3.1, 2.3.7, 2.4.1, 2.4.2, 2.4.6, 2.4.7, 2.4.8, 2.5.1, 2.5.5, 2.5.7, 2.6.4, 2.7.14, 2.5.1,

3.1.3, 3.1.7, 3.2.2, 3.2.6, 3.2.7, 3.3.1, 3.3.4, 3.3.8, 3.4.1, 3.4.3, 3.4.4, 3.4.6-3.3.8, 3.5.2, 3.5.7, 3.7.1-3.7.3, 3.5.1,

Anticipation Statements:

	True	False
All butterflies eat nectar from flowers		
Some butterflies eat poisonous plants		
There are things we can do to help butterflies		
All butterflies have bright colors		

If you like, you'll love:

Across the Curriculum Connections:

Science: Read the book by Eric Carle *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* (read book in groups of 4, complete chart individually)
Complete the chart to make a life cycle of a butterfly.
www.eduplace.com/kids/sla/3/insect.html

Supplies/Resources: copies of *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*, life cycle chart

Standards: Science = 2.4.1, 3.4.3, 3.1.3

Social Studies: (work in groups of 2) Choose 2 butterflies that are from different regions of the United States from *A Place for Butterflies*.
Color the region on the map of United States where these butterfly can be found.
Complete comparison chart.

Supplies/Resources: *A Place for Butterflies* book – enough for each group
Blank copy of map of U.S.
Crayons
Comparison chart
Beginning Geography Continents and Oceans,
Evan-Moor

Standards: Social Studies = K.3.2, 1.3.2, 2.3.2, 3.3.4,

Book Activities:

- Activity 1: (Whole class)
- Have students read from their textbook A34-35 (Scott Foresman, Science Grade 2)
- (individual)
- Then use clay to make models of an, a caterpillar, and a pupa.
 - Next shape clay into the body of the butterfly, use construction paper for the wings and pipe cleaners for the antennae.
- (Groups of two)
- Discuss your model with a partner

Materials Needed: Science book, clay, pipe cleaners, construction paper & scissors

State Standard: science = 2.2.5
Visual art = K.6.1, K.7.4, 1.6.1, 1.7.3, 1.7.5, 2.6.1, 2.7.4, 3.6.1, 3.7.4

- Activity 2: (whole class)
- Show the 3 insect overheads (Milliken Publishing Company, insects)
 - Discuss “what is an insect,” “adapted for survival,” insect habitat”
 - Discuss what an entomologist is.
 - Discuss that butterflies are insects and why they’re insects.
 - Show them examples of plastic insects (in science cupboard)
- (individual)
- Give each child a 3 X 5 index card and ask them to draw an insect on it. Tell them to make the drawing as big as the card and include details showing that it is an insect.
- (groups of 2)
- Have them show their drawing to their partner and point out the details and what makes their bug an insect
 - Divide the class into groups of 2
 - Give each group a magnifying glass, clipboard and the handout “investigating insects”
 - Tell them that they are going on an insect hunt around the school yard.

- When they have found an insect they record the information on the “investigating insects” chart. Explain that they are only to look at the insects and not touch them because we don’t want to harm the insect

(group)

- Finally come back together as a group and discuss what the students discovered

Materials Needed: overhead transparencies (Milliken Publishing)
Investigating insects handout (*Science is Fun*, Teacher Created Materials)
3 X 5 index cards
clip boards
pencils
magnifying glasses
plastic insects

State Standards: science = K.4.2, 1.1.2, 1.1.3, 1.1.4, 1.2.7, 2.1.2, 2.1.3, 2.1.5, 2.1.6, 3.1.2, 3.1.3, 3.1.5, 3.2.6, 3.4.1,

Bibliography:

<http://www.melissa-stewart.com/about/about2.html>

<http://www.outdoors.org/publications/outdoors/2004/stewart.cfm>

<http://biography.jrank.org/pages/2098/Stewart-Melissa-1968.html#ixzz0JHUXEgR7&D>

<http://www.higginsbond.com/>

www.eduplace.com/kids/sla/3/insect.html

Eric Carle *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*

Milliken Publishing Company, insects

Scott Foresman, Science Grade 2

Science is Fun, Teacher Created Materials

A Place for Butterflies, Melissa Stewart