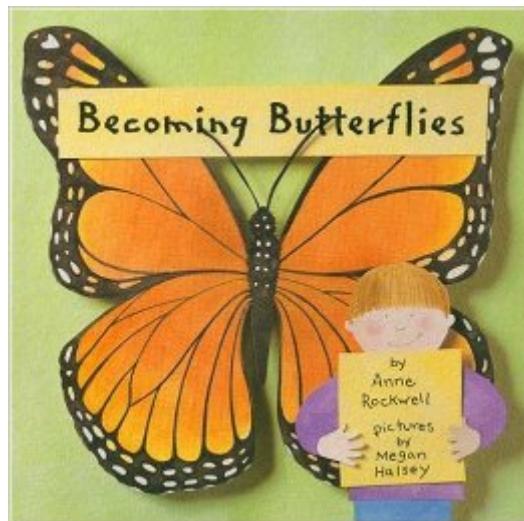


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# Becoming Butterflies



## **Synopsis**

Let the scientist in every child take wing. One day Miss Dana brings a surprise to school—three striped caterpillars and a flowerpot full of milkweed. Her students can't believe that these tiny, wriggling creatures less than an inch long will grow into butterflies, fragile beauties strong enough to fly thousands of miles to their winter home in Mexico. And so begins a magical month of metamorphosis. The children observe and draw the changes they see as the caterpillars transform themselves right before their eyes. When the newly formed butterflies break free of their chrysalises, it is time for the class to let them go find their place in the world. This captivating concept book simply and eloquently invites young children to witness and celebrate the cycle of life.

## **Book Information**

Age Range: 4 - 8 years

Hardcover: 32 pages

Publisher: Walker Childrens; Second Edition edition (March 1, 2002)

Language: English

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Product Dimensions: 9.3 x 0.4 x 9.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 11.2 ounces

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars See all reviews (5 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #676,796 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #139 in Books > Science & Math > Biological Sciences > Animals > Butterflies #960 in Books > Children's Books > Animals > Bugs & Spiders #4342 in Books > Science & Math > Nature & Ecology > Fauna

## **Customer Reviews**

"One day Miss Dana brought a surprise to school—three striped caterpillars and a flowerpot. A green plant called milkweed was growing in the flowerpot." So begins this informative and charming tale about a classroom full of curious children and three caterpillars that become, in time, magnificent Monarch butterflies. As the children watch the metamorphosis, they draw pictures and comment on the process. They also ask the questions readers would like to ask, if they could, thus allowing the author to weave tidbits of information into the story seamlessly. We learn, for example, that when the caterpillar's skin splits for the fifth time, it is ready to become a chrysalis. At story's end, the butterflies, after drying their wings, are set free from an open window. The children watch them go with a mixture of sadness and hope. Thankfully, the author does not end the classroom adventure

there (as she might have). Rather, Miss Dana shows the children where Mexico is on a map and tells them the butterflies will eventually go there before the onset of winter. The students then write a letter to schoolchildren at a school in Chincua, Mexico, asking them to "Please take good care of our butterflies." Winter arrives and so does a letter from the students in Chincua, along with a picture of a tree laden with Monarch butterflies. "All of us looked and looked," says the narrator, "wondering which were the three butterflies we hatched in our classroom and set free to fly so far away." Also included is an author's note which gives readers more information about Monarchs as well as an internet resource where they may go for more information. The endpapers at the book's beginning show illustrations of nine different caterpillars.

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