Reader's Theater:

A Caterpillar's Big Change



Use the village

Characters:

- Narrator
- Caterpillar 1 (Callie): Excited and curious
- Caterpillar 2 (Benji): Nervous and hesitant
- Wise Butterfly (Mariposa): Kind and encouraging
- Curious Human (Jamie): Observant and helpful
- Leafhopper: A mischievous bug with lots of questions
- Flower: Gentle and wise

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Optional Props:

🌿 Leaves: Real or paper leaves for caterpillars to hold or sit on.

🎨 Green Scarves or Felt: To wrap around shoulders or heads as "caterpillar bodies."

🦋 Butterfly Wings: DIY paper wings, felt, or store-bought butterfly wings for Mariposa.

👒 Antennae Headbands: For Callie, Benji, and Leafhopper (pipe cleaners attached to headbands).

📖 Notebook: For Jamie, the Curious Human, to hold while taking notes.

🌸 Flower Headband or Costume: For the Flower character.

🪶 Small Branch or Stick: To represent a safe place for caterpillars to build their cocoons.

🧵 Yarn or String: To mimic spinning a cocoon.

💐 Fake or Real Flowers: For setting the garden scene (on a table or taped to the backdrop).

📝 Name Tags: For each character to wear for easy identification.

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Narrator:
In a sun-dappled garden filled with green leaves and bright blossoms, two caterpillars named Callie and Benji chewed happily on their favorite leaves.

Callie (excited):
Mmm, nothing beats fresh leaves for breakfast! Benji, have you heard the news? We'll be making our cocoons soon!

Benji (nervous):
I know, Callie. I've heard the older caterpillars talk about it. But... I don't know if I'm ready. What if I mess up and get stuck? Or what if my wings don't work?

Callie (encouraging):
Oh, Benji! You're going to be the best butterfly ever. Just think—floating from flower to flower, sipping nectar all day long!

Benji:
But what if I can't find you? What if you change and forget about me?

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Narrator:
Callie paused, thinking about Benji's fears. Just then, a bright green Leafhopper bounced onto their leaf, his antennae twitching with curiosity.

Leafhopper (teasing):
Wings, huh? Sounds scary. I rather keep my legs and bounce around. Why do you caterpillars even want wings anyway?

Callie:
Well, wings help us explore new places, and we can visit flowers that are too far to crawl to. Plus, butterflies are important for the garden!

Leafhopper (shrugging):
I guess that's true. But I'd be scared to change too! I like being a leafhopper.

Benji (sighing):
See, even Leafhopper thinks it's scary. What if I don't recognize myself when I'm a butterfly?

Narrator:
At that moment, a graceful butterfly named Mariposa fluttered down, her wings shimmering like a sunset.

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Mariposa (kindly):
Hello, little ones. I overheard your worries. Change can be scary, but it's also a chance to grow. When I was a caterpillar, I was nervous too.

Benji (eyes wide):
Really? You were scared?

Mariposa:
Of course! I worried that I'd lose all the things I loved about myself. But guess what? When I emerged from my chrysalis, I felt free and strong, like I'd always had wings.

Callie:
Wow! Did you still remember your friends?

Mariposa:
Yes, I did! And I made new friends too. Change doesn't erase who we are. It helps us discover who we can become.

Leafhopper (curious):
But what if something goes wrong?

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Mariposa:
That's why we look out for each other. We help each other, just like I'm helping you now.

Narrator:
Nearby, a delicate Flower swayed in the breeze, listening to the conversation.

Flower (gentle):
And when you become butterflies, you'll help me too. Butterflies drink my nectar and carry my pollen to other flowers so we can grow new blooms.

Callie (smiling):
That's so cool! We get to help you, too.

Luli (thinking):
I never thought of it that way. Maybe change isn't just for us, but for the whole garden.

Narrator:
Just then, a curious human named Jamie peeked over the garden fence, a notebook in hand.

Jamie (excited):
Whoa! Caterpillars talking about change? This is amazing! I've always wondered how you feel about becoming butterflies.

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Benji (grinning shyly):
It's... a little scary, but also exciting. I want to help the flowers like Mariposa said.

Jamie:
That's wonderful! I'll make sure your garden has plenty of flowers for you to visit. I'll plant even more next spring!

Callie:
Thank you, Jamie! That makes us feel safe and welcome.

Mariposa:
See, Benji? Change can bring new friends, new adventures, and even new ways to help the world around you.

Benji (smiling):
Hmm... I'm ready to try. Callie, will you help me build my cocoon?

Callie (enthusiastic):
Of course, Benji! Let's do it together.

Narrator:
And so, Callie and Benji began to spin their cocoons, carefully weaving each thread with hope and excitement. With every turn, Benji felt a little braver and a little stronger.

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Flower (singing softly):
Spin your dreams, little ones, and trust the magic within. When the time is right, you'll spread your wings and dance with the wind.

Narrator:
When the time came, they would emerge as butterflies, ready to explore the garden, help the flowers, and share their stories of change with others.

Jamie (closing the book):
I can't wait to see you both again. I'll be waiting with my camera and lots of flowers.

Narrator:
Change had come to the garden, but it had brought hope, friendship, and a beautiful new beginning for everyone.

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Name: _____ Date: _____

Why was Benji nervous about changing?

_____

_____

_____

What role do butterflies play in helping flowers?

_____

_____

_____

How does the story show that change can help the whole community?

_____

_____

_____

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Jamie



Sample Image

Mariposa



Leafhopper



Use the image

Flower



Use Image

Callie



Unthe age

Benji



Usage

Narrator



Use the Village

Jamie



Use Image

Mariposa



Leafhopper



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Callie



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Flower



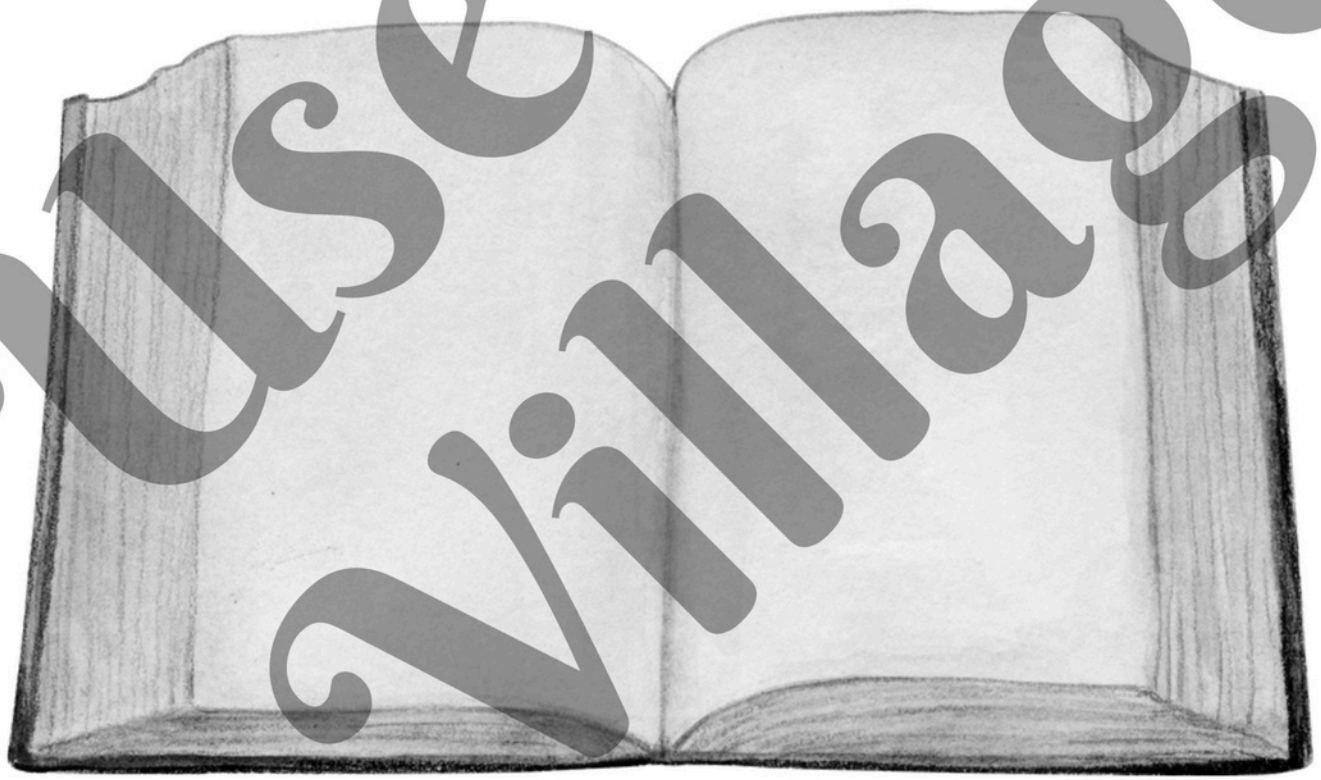
Use Image

Benji



Usage

Narrator



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Teacher Suggestions:

Assigning Roles: Consider your students' reading levels and confidence when assigning roles. Encourage students to practice their parts at home or during independent reading time.

Practicing Fluency: Have students practice their parts multiple times to build fluency and expression.

Props & Costumes: Use the optional props list to create simple, engaging props.

Character Labels: Students can also use the provided character names to either cut out to hang around their neck to help identify characters to the audience or alternatively draw and illustrate what they imagine their character to look like.

Performance: Arrange a space in the classroom where students can perform. Invite other students to watch the final performance to boost students' confidence and make it more special.

Reader Response Questions: Use the provided questions to facilitate a post-performance discussion. This will help assess comprehension and encourage students to think critically about the play.

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Extension Activities:

- Creative Writing: Write a diary entry from Benji's perspective before and after becoming a butterfly.
- Art Project: Draw the butterfly life cycle with labeled stages.
- Role-Play: Act out how it feels to change, using scarves to simulate wings.
- Science Connection: Research real butterfly metamorphosis and present findings to the class.
- Garden Plan: Design a butterfly-friendly garden, including a map and plant list.

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