

## Butterfly Park

### A Common Core State Standards and Next Generation Science Standards Aligned Discussion & Activity Guide

#### **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:**

Study the front cover. Describe the scene depicted. Identify the creature the little girl is observing. Tell how the girl feels about the creature. How do you know?

*Butterfly Park* was written and illustrated by Elly MacKay. Discuss how an author tells a story. List the tools that illustrators use to communicate a message. Are there words or colors that communicate feelings and moods? If so, list them.

Explain why the girl was sad in the beginning of the story. Identify with her feelings. Tell of a time that you felt sad, like she did.

Compare the home the girl moved from with her new house in the city. Notice the plants, animals, colors, and textures in each setting. List the similarities. Tell of ways that they are the same. Contrast the two places. Describe their differences.

Explain what butterflies mean to the girl.

Tell why there were no butterflies in Butterfly Park the first time the girl visited there. Describe how she felt while sitting on the bench by herself in Butterfly Park.

Consider why the butterfly chose to lead the little girl to the flower garden across town. Why did the butterfly pick her? Is there something special about her? Something different than the others? How so?

Tell how finding butterflies helped the girl make friends.

Identify what was needed to make Butterfly Park a home for butterflies. Explain what was needed to create a home for the girl.

Tell how planting flowers changed Butterfly Park. Explain how the flowers changed the neighborhood. Did the girl change in anyway? How so?

In the end the girl “...felt right at home.” Explain the meaning of that statement. Define the word “home.” What is the difference between a house and a home?

**Common Core State Standards Alignments:**

*English Language Arts Standards » Reading: Literature* - CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.K.1, RL.K.3, RL.K.6, RL.K.7, RL.K.10, RL.1.1, RL.1.2, RL.1.3, RL.1.7, RL.1.9, RL.1.10, RL.2.1, .RL.2.3, RL.2.7

*English Language Arts Standards » Speaking & Listening* - CCSS.ELA-Literacy.SL.K.1, SL.K.2, SL.K.3, SL.K.4, SL.K.6, SL.1.1, SL.1.2, SL.1.4, SL.1.6, SL.2.1, SL.2.2, SL.2.3

**APPLICATIONS:**

**Make a Diorama**

Elly MacKay illustrates books by creating miniature worlds out of paper and paint. Access her website at [www.ellymackay.com](http://www.ellymackay.com) to learn about her fascinating technique. Observe the steps required to create Elly’s paper cut theaters. Choose your favorite scene in *Butterfly Park*. Replicate the scene by creating a diorama. Construction instructions can be found on this website - <http://www.wikihow.com/Make-a-Diorama> . Once diorama is complete, write a paragraph describing the scene created.

**Common Core State Standards Alignments:**

*English Language Arts Standards » Reading: Literature* - CCSS.ELA-Literacy. RL.K.3, RL.K.6, RL.K.7, RL.K.10, RL.1.3, RL.1.7, RL.1.9, RL.1.10,RL.2.3, RL.2.7

*English Language Arts Standards » Writing* - W.K.2, W.K.3, W.1.2, W.1.3, W.2.2, W.2.3

### **Write a Story**

Butterflies represented home, happiness, and friendship to the girl in the story. Write and illustrate a short narrative piece explaining what butterflies mean to you.

***Common Core State Standards Alignments:***

*English Language Arts Standards » Writing - W.K.3, W.1.3, W.2.3*

### **Research a Butterfly Garden**

Use books, articles, websites, and video to discover facts to research the following topics. Write and illustrate a short informational paragraph answering one or all of the statements below.

- Define the four stages of metamorphosis.
- Explain ‘basking.’
- Describe the difference between ‘host plants’ and ‘nectar plants.’
- Tell how ‘puddling’ benefits butterflies.
- Define the term ‘habitat.’
- Explain how the Butterfly Park eventually became a habitat for the girl and her neighbors, as well as for the butterflies.

To learn more about butterflies and their habitat, access any of the following informative websites:

- The Ten Commandments of Butterfly Gardening, a YouTube video by Tom Krausa at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u96-EblEUec>
- Butterfly Gardening at <https://butterflygardening.wordpress.com/>
- The National Wildlife Federation at [www.nwf.org/gardenforwildlife](http://www.nwf.org/gardenforwildlife)
- The Lady Bird Johnson Wildlife Center at [www.wildflower.org/collections](http://www.wildflower.org/collections)
- Gardens with Wings at [www.gardenswithwings.com](http://www.gardenswithwings.com)

***Common Core State Standards Alignments:***

*English Language Arts Standards » Writing - W.K.2, W.1.2, W.2.2*

*Next Generation Science Standards - 3-LS4-2., 3-LS4-3., 3-LS4-4.*

**Play *Butterfly Park* Bingo:**

**Materials:**

- *Butterfly Park* the book
- Cardstock
- Scissors
- *Butterfly Park* Bingo Game Board
- *Butterfly Park* Game Cards
- *Butterfly Park* Bingo Answer Sheet
- 16 game pieces (pennies, buttons, beans, etc.) per player

**Procedure:**

- Depending on how many players will be competing, print 2 to 4 *Butterfly Park* Bingo Game Boards on cardstock.
- Print double copies of *Butterfly Park* Game Cards on cardstock.
- Use scissors to trim around the borders of the game board and the cards.
- To play the game, mix up game cards and stack them, face down.
- Each player manages their own game board and collection of game pieces.
- A player begins by choosing a card from the top of the stack. If the card matches a space on their board, they may mark the match with a game piece.
- Return card face down near original stack.
- Note that the center space on the game board featuring a graphic of the book cover is a free space.
- As the game continues, a player loses a turn if they choose a card that has already been covered on their board.
- The winner has either blocked out 4 spaces in a row or covered all of the spaces, depending how the players decide they'd like to play.
- Definitions and descriptions can be verified using the *Butterfly Park* Bingo Answer Sheet.

Next Generation Science Standards - 3-LS4-2., 3-LS4-3., 3-LS4-4.