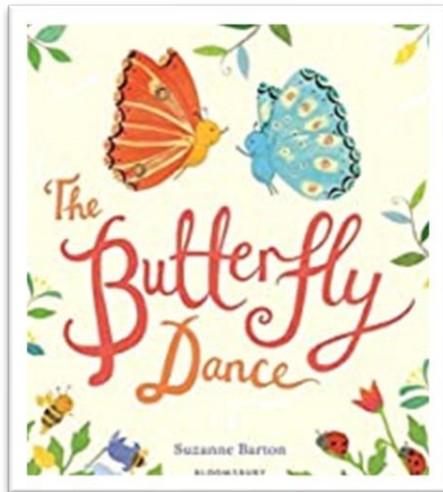


# Read for Pleasure

## The Butterfly Dance

By Suzanne Barton



After spinning themselves into snugly cocoons, best friends Dotty and Stripe wake up to discover that Dotty is now a beautiful blue butterfly and Stripe is a beautiful red butterfly.

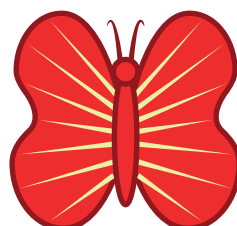
The problem is red butterflies only play with red butterflies and blue butterflies only play with butterflies that are blue.

Are Dotty and Stripe destined to be separated or can they find a way to stay best friends?

### Title Talk

*The title of this story is: The Butterfly Dance.*

- How beautiful and elegant would a butterfly dance be to watch?
- Do you think all butterflies dance the same way?
- How might different species of butterfly dance differently?
- Do you think the two butterflies that dance in this story will look the same or look different?
- If two butterflies were dancing together, would it matter if they looked different to one another or would it be better if the two of them looked the same? Discuss.
- What might this suggest about how this story will A] begin, B] develop and C] end?



## **Cover Chat**

Now look at the cover of this picture book.

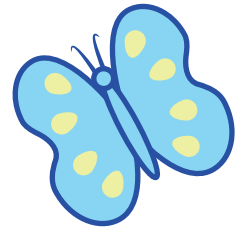
- Here we see the two main characters of this story: Dotty and Stripe.  
Which character is Dotty and which is Stripe?
- Do these two butterflies look happy to be dancing together?  
Why might this be?
- Interestingly, mother nature grows all around them: various caterpillars, together with ladybirds and bubble bees, can be seen landing on the flowers and munching on the leaves. Might this be significant? Discuss.

## **Page 1-2**

- How many caterpillars can you see on these pages?
- Do they all look the same? If not, how do they look different?
- What are these caterpillars doing? Why are they doing this?
- Can you see Dotty and Stripe as caterpillars?
- What are they doing that is different to the other caterpillars you can see?

## **Page 3-4**

- Who feels tired first: Dotty or Stripe?
- What does Stripe do when he feels tired?
- What does Dotty think of this? Why might she feel lonely at this time?
- What does Dotty do when she feels tired? Might this be significant?
- How is this stage of a butterfly's life cycle depicted on these pages?
- What do you think will happen next? Who will wake first: Dotty or Stripe?



## **Page 5-6**

- Who wakes up first and leaves their cocoon: Dotty or Stripe?
- Why does she BLINK and GASP?
- Why do you think having wings is such a surprise for Dotty?
- What does Dotty want to do next?
- What might this tell us about her friendship with Stripe?

### **Page 7-8**

- Why do you think Dotty doesn't recognise Stripe when they first meet?  
Interestingly, Stripe recognises Dotty straight away. This could imply that Stripe emerged from his cocoon first and has had more time to realise that hungry caterpillars turn into beautiful butterflies. It might also suggest that he has been searching for his friend while she has been in her cocoon and is truly happy now that his search is finally over.
- What does Stripe offer to do that shows us that Dotty and Stripe are really good friends?

### **Page 9-10**

- Dotty and Stripe begin to fly and dance together. Look at the following words and consider what they mean and how they are depicted on these two pages:

gliding	looping	soaring
whirling	fluttering	chasing

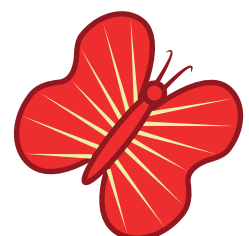
- These words rise and fall and are not written in a neat horizontal line like we might expect them to be. Do you think this was a good idea? Why do you think this?
- The final sentence on this page is written in a more conventional way. Why might this be? Discuss.

### **Page 11-12**

- Where is the meadow that is full of flowers?
- Where does a bee tell Stripe he might like to go to find food?
- Where does another bee tell Dotty she might like to go to find food?
- When the rain stops, where do the bees go?
- Do Dotty and Stripe follow them? Where do they go instead?

### **Page 13-14**

- Which of the two butterflies likes to fly high: Dotty or Stripe?
- Which of the two butterflies likes to fly fast: Dotty or Stripe?
- Where do both butterflies like to fly best?



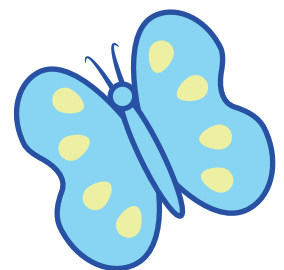
- Who do they meet when they fly to the puddle for a drink of water and a paddle in the mud?
- What does one dragonfly say to Stripe? How might this make Stripe and Dotty feel? Discuss.
- After talking to the dragonfly, where do Dotty and Stripe now head?

### **Page 15-16**

- Who do Dotty and Stripe bump into as they flutter through the gentle breeze?
- What does Dotty ask the ladybirds?
- How do the ladybirds reply?
- Why do Dotty and Stripe think it funny that A] the ladybirds, B] the dragonflies and C] the bees all gather together?
- How does this make Dotty and Stripe feel?
- How is this depicted on page 16?
- How would this make YOU feel if you couldn't play with your BEST friend?
- We are told that they sat together for a long while before saying goodbye. Why do you think they sat together for so long?
- How sad is this final sentence? Why is this? Discuss.

### **Page 17-18**

- Where does Stripe find the other red butterflies?
- What are they doing?
- Does Stripe enjoy playing hide-and-seek with his new friends?
- How happy is Stripe at this time? Why is this? Discuss.
- Where does Dotty find the other blue butterflies?
- What are they doing?
- Does Dotty enjoy dancing with her new friends?
- How happy is Dotty at this time? Why is this? Discuss.
- Do you think Dotty will see Stripe (or Stripe see Dotty) ever again?
- If so, where and how might they meet?



### Page 19-20

- Before reading page 19, what do you see in the picture?  
How joyous is this scene? Why is this?
- Do you think having such a MEADOW is important? Why might this be?
- What do Dotty and Stripe see? Discuss.

### Page 21-22

- Who finds who first: does Stripe find Dotty or Dotty find Stripe?
- Had both butterflies missed each other? Why would this be? Discuss.

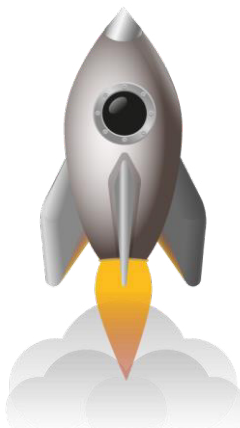
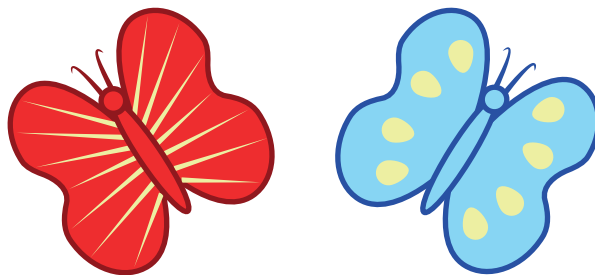
### Page 23-24

- How does this story end?
- How important is it that everyone plays together, no matter who they are or what they look like?

### Think about the book as a whole:

What message about FRIENDSHIP do you think this book is trying to teach?

How effective a lesson in FRIENDSHIP do think this message is?



The perfect companion to  
Reading Rocketeers: **Unit 3.3**

## **John Murray**

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John is a recognised specialist in developing children's reading and comprehension.

The creator of Reading Explorers, Top Class Comprehension and Reading Rocketeers, his seminars and CPD training focus on the teaching, learning and enjoyment of reading.

An independent Literacy consultant, he aims to support schools to improve their performance and secure best practice. Above all, it is to ignite within us a passion for books and a genuine love for the written word.

His enthusiasm and expertise can be seen throughout his work and his resources and training are used in classrooms worldwide.

**"If you don't see the book you want on the shelf, write it."**

**Beverly Cleary**