

The Transformation  
By Karista Fisher, age 9

Mariposa was a very curious caterpillar. She had a beautiful pattern of black, white, and yellow stripes. Her mom was a butterfly. She was mostly orange and black and had little white dots on the edges of her wings.

Once Mariposa asked her mom, "How did you know when to build your chrysalis?"

Her mom said, "You just know."

Mariposa asked, "How does it feel to be a butterfly?"

Her mom just said, "You'll find out honey, you'll find out."

Mariposa then said, "I'm going to go out and get a snack of some leaves."

"Okay," said her mom.

Mariposa inched down the milkweed bush and ate and ate. She started to feel weird. She was excited because she thought it was time for her to turn into a chrysalis! But, no, it was just another shedding of her skin. Mariposa was disappointed. "This is the fifth time I've shed my skin! When will something more exciting happen?"

Mariposa found her mom and whined, "When am I going to stop shedding my skin and actually turn from a boring caterpillar into a gorgeous butterfly?"

Mariposa's mom asked, "How many times have you shed your skin?"

Mariposa said, "FIVE! And I'm tired of it."

Her mom replied, "Then it's almost time for you to turn into a butterfly. Go have some more snacks."

Mariposa inched along as fast as she could because she was already hungry again.

Suddenly she felt an odd sensation. She never felt like that before. She said, "Time to make my chrysalis!" like it was nothing. Then, "Wait a sec... OH MY GOSH!!!! IT'S TIME TO MAKE MY CHRYSALIS!!!!!!!!!!!!!"

She attached herself to a milkweed stem and hung upside down. And she made it. She stayed in it for eleven days and then it was time to break out. She instantly jumped up into the air to fly, but she fell back on her leaf again. Mariposa was crestfallen. She had wanted to fly, but she couldn't. Why couldn't she fly? Then she remembered her mom saying that she couldn't fly at first because her wings were wet. She checked if her wings were wet. They were!

Mariposa waited a little while for them to dry. When they were dry, she flew up in the air. Oh, it felt so *good* to fly! She did lots of loops in the air and taught herself other little tricks. She loved looking at her pretty wings. When she stopped to eat at a milkweed plant, a little caterpillar came along and said, "How does it feel to be a butterfly?"

Mariposa said, "You'll find out, you'll find out."

THE END.