



Elise Harter and *Butterfly Conservation's* Writing Competition

All Entries in the
10-11 Age Group



Elise Harter and Butterfly Conservation's Story Competition

Age Group – 10-11

Entry 4: "The Butterfly"

Name: Imogen Harrison

Age: 10

Flitting through bright flowers,
Skimming along the tops of fields,
Gracefully flapping pattered wings,
Watching the world go by.

Darting over the greenery,
Higher than the trees,
Speedily weaving through the air,
Proud queen of the skies.

Leaving pearly eggs,
On the under side of leaves,
Out of sight of all dangers,
Stuck together carefully.

The eggs soon hatch,
Revealing the tiniest of tiny things,
Munching their own body weight,
Once or twice, in leaves.

Gradually the caterpillar,
Grows bigger and bigger each day,
Until at the very right moment,
Starts weaving a silky blanket.

Round and round and round,
Rapping herself up,
Not to be seen for many weeks,
Be prepared for a huge surprise

Suddenly a slight movement,
Deep within her cocoon,
A flutter of sleepy eyelids,
It must be time, I know.

Slowly emerging,
After that long rest,
Oh my word What goes on in there?
What a spectacular transformation

So emerging from her sticky sack,
Weak, but strong inside,
Struggling in her new costume,
Like a new, entire life.

Growing up as a butterfly,
Many changes fly past,
Just as the fully-grown butterfly,
Flies and swoops and soars.

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Entry 5: "Ellie and The Butterfly Egg"

Name: Miranda Smart

Age: 10

Ellie sat on her bed, looking out of the window. She wished she could go outside into the Summer Sunshine, but she couldn't because of her leg injury.

Lucky, Ellie's brown and white puppy Boxer was dancing around, when suddenly he saw a micro white Butterfly Egg. "No Lucky, No" cried Ellie, grabbing her crutches and she hopped outside as fast as she could go.

Luckily, Ellie managed to rescue the Butterfly Egg, before Lucky did any harm to it. "Ellie What do you think you were do...Oh, how pretty Ellie," began Mrs Mabel, admiring the micro white Butterfly Egg.

"I have an old fish tank in the garage. Maybe we can use it to keep it in," commented Mr Mabel.

"You mean..." began Ellie.

"...It will give you something to do, while you wait for your leg to heal," finished Mrs Mabel, "Don't forget to collect flowers and leaves, Mr Mabel."

"No problem," replied Mr Mabel.

The next day Ellie woke up to find the micro white Butterfly Egg had hatched into a very hungry caterpillar. She watched the caterpillar eat and eat.

Ellie and Lucky enjoyed watching the caterpillar spin it's cocoon.

Ellie waited for 2 weeks until the Butterfly revealed it's proper beauty. Mrs Mabel looked up in the Butterfly Book that it was a Common Blue Butterfly.

At last the time came for Ellie's Butterfly to be set free. All of Ellie's family joined Ellie in the garden, when she set the Butterfly free.

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Entry 6: "Butterfly"

Name: Oliver Northcott

Age: 11

"I think I might have put on a lot of weight", said the plump green and red caterpillar. "Those nettles are delicious and are very moorish, but, I think I have eaten too many and I feel very drowsy. "I think I'll just have a short nap just to help my digestion." Sleep came quickly for the caterpillar and whilst asleep dreams filled his head; he dreamt in colour, of sounds, smells and strange thoughts that he couldn't move. After weeks of sleep his dreams changed; he felt trapped and closed-in and felt the need to wriggle and squirm. He pushed and pulled in his desperate struggle to be free from restraints that he realised were real – he was awake but imprisoned.

On the surface of the crisp brown chrysalis, cracks appeared and inside the caterpillar felt there was a way out of this prison. He gave one last mighty effort and the shell that had held him fell away to the ground.

"Hey you, butterfly, what have you done with Stripey the caterpillar?" asked a small green frog. The butterfly replied calmly, "I am Stripey", and with a flap of his wings he took off from the branch. "But if I was you, I would keep away from those nettles, they gave me terrible nightmares"



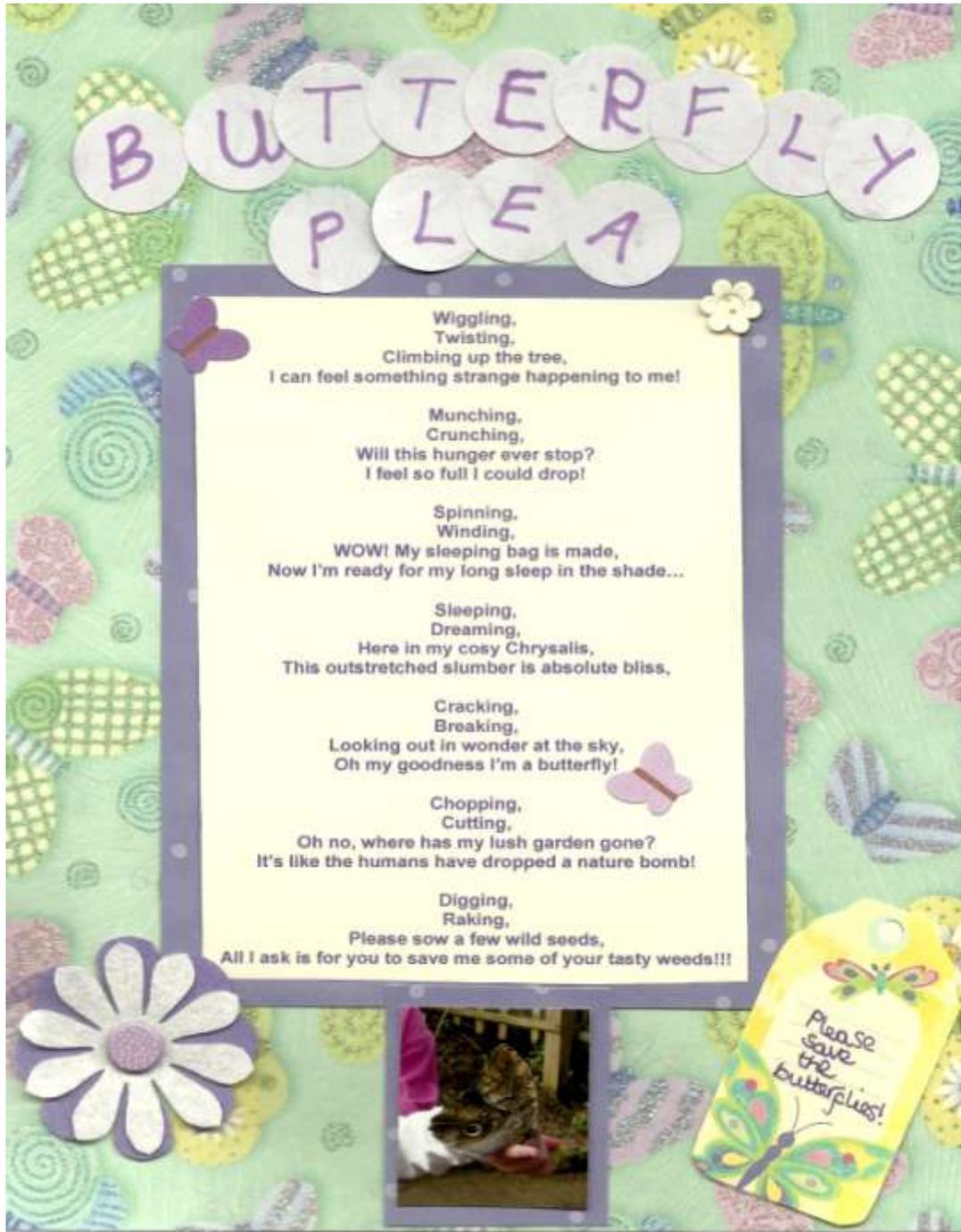
This picture was taken at London zoo which might be the only place we see some animals like this beautiful butterfly unless we act soon to protect habitats. The humble nettle a weed to many is a vital source of food to Stripey and other animals. If we all, like our school, kept a corner of our garden wild; we would provide a habitat for Stripey, and so many other wild creatures. On a single plant like a nettle, a butterfly can lay its eggs, its caterpillars can feed, its chrysalis can attach and the next generation of butterflies can emerge or it can be chopped down as a weed – breaking the cycle forever

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Entry 9: "Butterfly Plea"

Name: Abbie Dix

Age: 10



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Entry 10: "Spreading Wings"

Name: Michael Ganiebny

Age: 11

On a chilly winter morning Ross the caterpillar was out for a walk. He was used to long walks and he could walk thousands and thousands of miles without even getting tired. Once he walked all the way from one end of the field to another and his aches didn't even bother him. Ross was a usual green caterpillar with six legs and a head but there was one thing that made him different from all the other caterpillars and this is what this story is about.

Chapter 1 - Only the beginning

"Hey, brainiac watcha doin over there", shouted Vern. Surprised, Ross dropped all his books and slithered to his house as fast as he could. He used all his muscles to get home faster than the school bullies but unfortunately the boys caught him and beat him up. When they finished being cruel to him they ran off so nobody could see that they did it. Ross was badly injured and tried to get home but he couldn't. He fainted.

"Wwwhat happened mum where am I", asked Ross faintly.

"It's alright now, honey", said Ross's mum calmly. "You're in safe hands". Ross was lying in his cocoon bed with a bandage on his head. "You were badly hurt when your father found you so he brought you back home. "Wait, I remember something", said Ross quickly. "I was getting something out of my locker at school when Vern and the other spiders started chasing me, they were very fast and they soon cached up to me. They tried to take my money but when I didn't let them they beat me up, after that I couldn't remember anything".

"Hmmm that sounds fishy", said Ross's dad. "I'll talk to Vern's dad as soon as I can. "But I'm telling you this is only the beginning", he added quietly.

Chapter 2 - Better talk than fight

The next day at school wasn't very good. When Ross tried to write, Vern splashed all the ink at Ross's clothes. At lunchtime one of Vern's friends gave him a pudding to swap but instead Vern chucked it at Ross's face. The last lesson was PE. It was the worst of them all. When Ross showed some exercises in front of the class Vern pulled his shorts down and humiliated him as he never did before.

When Ross came back home crying his dad was so furious that he went stomping to Vern's house. "Listen", he started angrily at Vern's dad. "I know we had a few problems when we were younger but you don't have to get it out on my son".

"I don't know what you are talking about", he replied slowly. "My son is doing what he wants to and nobody can stop him so I don't see any conflict here do you"?

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Entry 10: "Spreading Wings"

Name: Michael Ganiebny

Age: 11

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"Yes I do, Ross's dad shouted in reply. "Don't you get it that your son is dangerous".

"How dare you say that, my son maybe is a born fighter but something must have provoked him".

"Now get out of my house, will ya".

"I was so stupid to think it was better to talk than fight", he mumbled under his nose.

Chapter 3 - Payback time

When Ross was going to school the next day he was very terrified. Will this be it? Will Vern attack him again? He asked himself these questions over and over again. He was just going round a corner when he fainted.

When the bell for the first lesson rang Vern was furious. He wanted to give Ross a lesson he'd never forget but Ross didn't show up. The first lesson was a disaster. Vern was so angry that he picked on everyone in his class. Finally the bell for brake went and everybody ran out of the class so that Vern wouldn't get them. Just when the nasty spider was about to punch a little ladybird a beautiful, multicoloured insect flew from the sky. Everyone gathered around it. It was the biggest insect in the school even bigger than Vern himself. Everybody asked themselves who that miraculous creature was. And then the insect spoke. "I'm Ross the caterpillar, I have transformed into a beautiful butterfly", he said slowly. For the rest of the day all the other insects wanted to play with Ross, yes including Vern. Now Ross had lots of friends and nobody picked on him anymore for being smart. He was as happy as any creature would want to be.

THE END

Entry 11: "Mr Butterfly"

Name: Jake Pumphrey, Age: 11

Mr Butterfly!

**He wiggles,
He squiggles
He crawls all around,
This seriously silly caterpillar's mind knows know bounds,**

**He turns,
He forms,
He changes shape,
He is so bright,
Your mouth will gape,**

**His beautiful colours,
Are like a disguise,
If you see him today,
He's always a lovely surprise,**

**He flies,
He glides,
He swoops in the air,
He flutters around,
Like he has no cares,**

**Once a year,
He comes out to play,
Hopefully you'll see him today!**



**Jake Pumphrey 11
St Swithuns School**

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Entry 12: "Journal of a Painted Lady Butterfly"

Name: Ethan Wise

Age: 10

I was snuggled up inside the warm, darkness of my egg and I had an uncontrollable urge to push my way out. I was cramped and the food inside had run out. I felt famished and needed to eat something more substantial so I gnawed at the egg case and consequently I felt blinded by the brilliant sunshine. I emerged from the egg and started to nibble on the fresh, soft leaf that I was sitting on. It was refreshing and felt lush and cool under the piercing rays of the sun.

Before long, I bumped into my brothers and sisters who like me, munched happily around the circumference of the leaf, and then all of a sudden, I became aware of huge shadows swooping over me and felt a breeze on my skin. I was so scared that I crawled under the leaf and stayed very still with just my head peeking out of the top. All of a sudden, the leaf shook and I witnessed an enormous creature with huge claws and a sharp beak snatch six of my siblings in its mouth and flap away. I lay incredibly still, not even daring to breathe as the sight I had just watched in horror sink into my head. Then all of a sudden I felt a weird vibration and the leaf shook, but differently this time. A creature with yellow and black stripes landed on top of one of my sisters. The creature opened its gigantic jaws and proceeded to consume at speed my sister. He munched hungrily and buzzed along the leaf eating, one, two, three, and four more of my siblings. I wanted to stop it but I was frozen with fear, particularly when four more of these voracious creatures landed on the leaf.

Within minutes, the leaf was still and silent. I became aware that I was the only caterpillar left and felt incredibly sad and lonely, but the uncontrollable desire to eat overcame my fear and so I resumed munching on the delicious leaf and the wind carried me across to another leaf and I found myself eating side by side with another caterpillar that looked just like me. We ate symmetrically for some time, until suddenly a monster came buzzing above us and landed onto my friends back. I stayed still and watched as the dark yellow and black monster pumped something into my friend's body. My friend arched its back in agony, but within minutes the monster flew away and we continued eating together. What a weird experience

Days past quickly and I became aware that I had grown and so too had my appetite. I learnt that when the monsters came buzzing and breezing past to stay absolutely still, or crawl out of sight. However, I started to slow down, I felt tired and the need to rest for longer and longer. My friend's body ballooned and he started to writhe in agony and I watched on in horror as tiny yellow creatures emerged from his body and proceeded to eat him until just his outer casing remained. I crawled across onto a neighbouring plant and felt an uncontrollable urge to fall asleep. I was aware that as I did so, a weird outer shell was starting to form as part of my skin, my chrysalis. I went into a deep sleep, occasionally wiggling to keep predators away.

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Entry 12: "Journal of a Painted Lady Butterfly"

Name: Ethan Wise

Age: 10

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I awoke feeling cramped and remembered being inside the egg, but this time I noticed silky body parts on the side of my body. I needed to stretch but there was no room to manoeuvre so I nibbled at the case that surrounded me. Once again the light blinded me, but I was too amazed at how I had changed, this is what I looked like:



I realise that I can taste through my legs and have a long tongue called a proboscis that helps me collect and drink pollen from flowers as I flap my wings and flutter from flower to flower, carried by the breeze and I bask in the warm sunshine, feeling happy and calm with life. Whilst using my proboscis to drink the sweet nectar of a flower, I am joined by another Butterfly and we stick together. After a while we separate and we fly together in harmony. I watch as she deposits tiny eggs onto the petals of a flower and I realise that I am soon to be Father to hundreds of babies. The circle of life continues

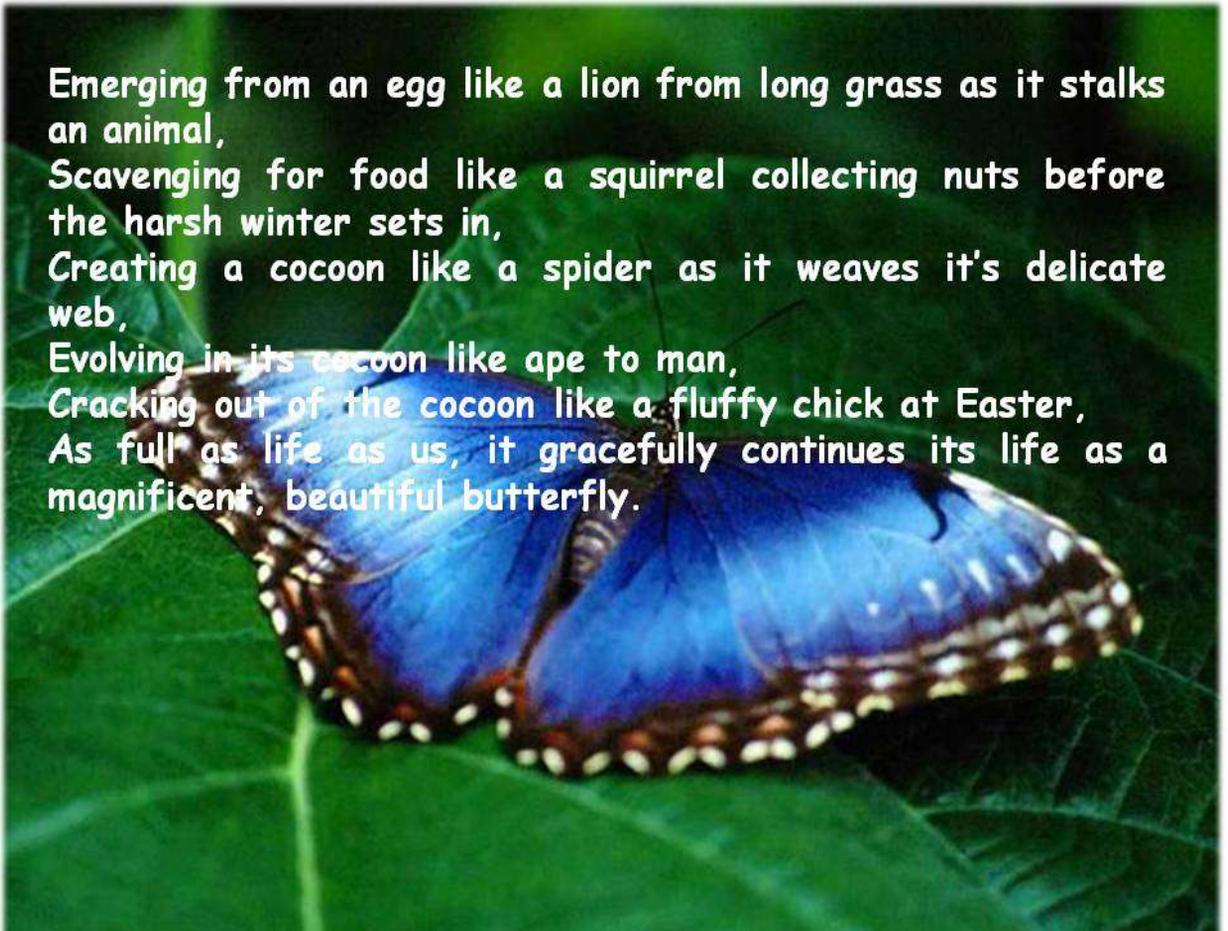
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Entry 13: "Butterfly Poem"

Name: George Hanley

Age: 11

Emerging from an egg like a lion from long grass as it stalks
an animal,
Scavenging for food like a squirrel collecting nuts before
the harsh winter sets in,
Creating a cocoon like a spider as it weaves it's delicate
web,
Evolving in its cocoon like ape to man,
Cracking out of the cocoon like a fluffy chick at Easter,
As full as life as us, it gracefully continues its life as a
magnificent, beautiful butterfly.



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Entry 14: "An Ode to a Butterfly"

Name: Lasya Karthikeyan

Age: 11

Black locks unravelling slowly
Sprawling on the emerald green,
Her eyes calm and expression peaceful
Watching a caterpillar on the ground.

All green and grizzly,
Plump and slow
An enormous appetite,
Eating, absolutely everything that was in sight.

But Dancing shadows distract her,
And she looks up into the powder blue sky,
Where, floating right about their heads,
Is a group of dainty butterflies.

Swooping past in the sky,
Taking her breath away,
As they soar by,
Flying towards her, close towards her...

Delicate gauze wings
Gently aflutter
Flaunting their beautiful flamboyant colours
As they merrily glide by

Silver jade scarlet and rose
Shades of vivid blue
Golden crimson violet and lime
Brass, peach and ochre too.

Jazzy patterns adorn their tiny wings,
Stripes and little polka dots,
Streaked with indigo, rust and white,
Rainbows of colours splodged into spots.

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Entry 14: "An Ode to a Butterfly"

Name: Lasya Karthikeyan

Age: 11

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They hover for a minute,
Meekly flapping nearby,
For a marvellous minute, a magical minute,
But that breathtaking minute is soon gone.

Standing there waiting, watching,
Hoping that moment will last forever,
Wishing that the enchanting minute,
Will go away never

She then looked down at her greedy friend,
Bolting down leaves, big, small and tender;
Completely and utterly unaware,
Of what he was to become.....

'Don't worry' said she, 'soon you'll be
Flitting up in the high,
Maybe the next time you come to see me,
You'll be the proud king of the sky'

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Entry 15: "Forever Changing"
Name: Bethany Butler, Age: 10

Forever Changing

If you look very carefully, you may see a small white egg.

What could it be?

The air is getting warmer, what will the egg become?

Let's wait and see a change is yet to come!

There's movement from the little white egg.

A caterpillar climbs out and gives a stretch and yearns to see what the whole new world is about!

If you listen very carefully, you may hear a sound!

Of a caterpillar munching every thing she's found.

She seems very greedy and she's getting very fat!

Eating everything she can find, you may be sure of that!

Another thing is changing, her colours are brighter too!

No longer is she dull and grey, she's orange, black and blue.



If you look very carefully you may see, a green leaf like chrysalis clinging to a twig of a tree.

It's very still, without a sound. I wonder what inside is found.

The changing that continues is going on inside.

The caterpillar's changing, I wonder why she hides?

A new creature is emerging, Wow what can it be?

Its two new wings are opening as delicate as can be.

No longer is she crawling her wings are drying out,

I look at her more closely, she's a Swallowtail, I shout!!

Her wings are yellow and black with a little blue and red.

She's now fluttering softly and flying above my head.

By Bethany Butler

Age: 10



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Entry 17: "Butterflies at Wisley"

Name: Hannah Khan

Age: 10

It was a miserable, gloomy and rainy day. It was so bad the bus driver was running late. But that wasn't going to stop us

When we got to Wisley, the flowers were very pretty, we saw little yellow daffodils in the grass and also a bunch of snowdops (my favourite flower), there were lots of witchhazels they looked like little fireworks exploding and the colours were very bright.

As we walked through the gardens we came to the enormous greenhouse. At the front we saw lots of beautiful and colourful flowers, there were orchids.

As soon as we went in Anjani, Eun-Soo, Leo, Yoo-An, Sally, Mrs Beaumont and Mrs Mcsherry's glasses steamed up

We saw: white tree nymphs, blue morpho with wings closed, another blue morpho, a black common mormon, a greeny yellow malachite, a giant orange tip, a clipper, a clipperblue subspecies, a scarlet swallowtail, an owl (not the bird) and a malay lacewing. A lot of butterflies

We saw them feeding on fruit, flying and we saw them opening and closing their wings. I looked everywhere trying to find one specific butterfly called the postman. It was a bright red with some black and white patterns but I couldn't find it. I asked the lady who worked there for help and she said she hadn't seen them in a while and that they only liked sunshine. Out of all the butterflies I saw, the blue morpho was my favourite because the blue on it looked like metallic purpley blue.

After all that excitement we went through the gardens again. We went to the plant shop, we smelled some scented plants, one of them smelled of mint, another of apple and a few of them smelled of herbs.

After the exciting trip to Wisley we now have 5 caterpillars in the classroom. They've grown and they're 3cm long.

Once our caterpillars are in the pupae we will put them into a bigger net container, and so when they hatch into butterflies (the type is Painted Lady) after a few days we will set them free either in Wimbledon Common or Richmond Park but it's not yet decided.

The countries the Painted Lady is bound in are England, Ireland, Scotland, Wales and Europe.

The amazing thing about these butterflies is that they flew all the way from North Africa.

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Entry 18: "Butterflies at Wisley"

Name: Anjani Ramanan

Age: 11

Yesterday was a horrible wet day. 09:15am was the time we were supposed to go to Wisley Gardens, we were delayed because of the horrible rain and traffic problems but still, that didn't stop us from going

The coach driver was very frustrated by the traffic jam so Mrs Garrett had to make him a cup of tea to cheer him up the coach was parked at the front, not near the playground gate because there was a deep puddle as big as two desks put together

It didn't take us long to get to Wisley, about twenty minutes. When we approached the glasshouse we saw a Christmas Box plant which gave a beautiful perfume. When we entered the glasshouse it was very humid and had lots of exotic plants and orchids.

We saw many charming butterflies, the first one we saw was the owl butterfly which looked exactly like an Owl, as its wings had eyes on them. The Owl butterfly had eyes on its wings because that is supposed to scare predators away.

The next one I saw was the Blue Morpho which was a lovely butterfly and it had such a nice blue colour to it.

We saw loads more but the best was the aberration, a butterfly with four wings The type was a Blue Morpho with wings closed

The only butterfly we couldn't find was the Postman, because that butterfly only comes out on sunny days and stays near red plants.

When we left the glasshouse we went to the gift shop.

After we left the giftshop we went to the Plant Centre . The Plant Centre has so many varieties of many colourful plants such as snowdrops, crocuses and many more

Then i had a idea of buying a plant for our class so we all dipped in and bought a blue crocus
After the visit to Wisley we got a few of our own catterpillars. We have o leave them in a plastic container till they are big enough to go into the net container Painted ladies live in: England,Ireland, Scotland and Wales. Our Painted Ladies are the following lengths:

At First: 1/2 cm long 1/4 mm circumference

After two weeks: 3 cm long after two weeks

(4.5 cms - 5 cms before turning into a pupae)

Elise Harter and Butterfly Conservation's Story Competition

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Entry 19: "Butterflies at Wisley"

Name: Yoo-an An

Age: 11

It was a very rainy and gloomy Monday , 22nd February. I went to school and waited for the bus to arrive for we were going on a trip.

When we arrived at Wisley it was still raining. We went inside the butterfly house. Suddenly my glasses got steamed up.

We went inside another door and my glasses steamed up even more. I realised that butterflies come from hot countries so they only survive in hot weather conditions. Suddenly we saw a Common Mormon and somebody else spotted a Blue Morpho on a table with a Scarlet Swallowtail.

Matthias, Leo and I explored a bit further and found a big Owl butterfly the size of my whole hand. We kept walking and eventually found a Scarlet Swallowtail. We saw a Tree Nymph and a Malachite on another table. Also we saw a Blue Morpho with its wing spread out which looked beautiful.

When I turned around I realised there was some fruit and on it were butterflies.

I was desperate to find at least one more butterfly.

While we were going we saw a four-winged, unnamed butterfly. I wondered how a butterfly could have four wings. I saw a Scarlet Swallowtail. It looked very beautiful. I was desperate to find a new type of butterfly, when suddenly I thought I saw a Giant Orange Tip. I went a bit closer and realised it was Giant Orange Tip We went through the second door and came into the colder part of the butterfly house. We went round and saw pupae inside a box to keep them warm.

After going to Wisley to see the butterflies we received 5 caterpillars from Insect Lore. When they first arrived they were half a centimetre long and half a millimetre wide so it was nearly impossible see them clearly. In two weeks they grew quite rapidly. Now they are 4 centimetre long and half a centimetre wide. The caterpillars will turn into pupae when they are 4.5 centimetre to 5 centimetre long. When the caterpillars turn into Painted Ladies we will set them free. The Painted Ladies come all the way from North Africa to the UK. They glide on the wind by spreading their wings out and the winds carry them away. If butterflies and moths come extinct it shows how unhealthy the Earth is.

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Entry 20: "Butterflies at Wisley"

Name: Eunsoo Park

Age: 11

22nd of February was a gloomy day. The weather was horrid with sleet and slush, with puddles everywhere, but we had a most wonderful time at Wisley Gardens despite being splashed and soaked and frozen in the cold. It was so cold outside that my fingers glowed and as soon as we stepped inside the glasshouse, our glasses immediately fogged up

From outside the glasshouse it looked so dazzling, even in the rain it was like an ice castle, sparkling brightly. I was very excited so I bounded to the front, jumping up and down gently.

When we went inside, it seemed like a microwave oven. I thought it was the actual butterfly house so I immediately peeled my eyes and looked eagerly. Before we went in, we studied some beautiful orchids but my favourite plant was called the Witch-Hazel, the one that looked like fireworks exploding. It looked very pretty with such outstanding colours.

I was expecting a few trees and butterflies but it was a total rainforest. Many trees and colourful plants with massive leaves were seen by my wide open eyes as I felt a surge of happiness pass through me. I saw a flurry of movement. It was a butterfly, an owl species. It fluttered so gracefully and so delicately that it seemed as if a part of me went with it. When it folded its wings and landed I quickly took a snapshot with my camera.

This process carried on, me taking pictures, the butterflies posing but there was one that was the most peculiar one. A four-winged butterfly

There were also beautiful plants inside the glasshouse. There were even banana trees but they weren't ripe yet. Another group of a particular tree was a sort of palm tree that had massive leaves and we were pretending to shelter from the rain while Mrs. McSherry took a photo.

We have five caterpillars in our classroom that we keep in a small plastic container. They are Painted Lady species also called in Latin *Vanessa Cardui*. *When they first arrived they were 1/2cm long but now they are at least 3 cm long.* I presume they grow so fast because of their short life span. I am very excited to see them grow into pupae and butterflies. We would like to release them to a protected park so that they can live safely.

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Entry 21: "Butterflies at Wisley"

Name: Jung-hoon Seo

Age: 11

On the 22nd February our class expected to go to Wisley Gardens. We then saw the weather. It was pouring with rain. The coach arrived late.

When we arrived at Wisley we saw plenty of crocuses, tulips (not in flower though) and witch hazel. The weird thing about Witch Hazel is that their flowers look like exploding firecrackers. It was raining heavily.

In the Glasshouse the butterflies were beautiful. There were colourful ones, and camouflaged ones. The most beautiful butterfly I saw was the common mormon. The unusual thing about butterflies was that I only saw one butterfly actually flying. It didn't disappoint me though

We didn't get to see a few butterflies such as the postman and the clipper. I saw some weird plants though, like the pitcher plant, a bug eating carnivorous meat eater

We came out of the warm area and entered the cooler area. We saw lots of pupae. Some were metallic colours

We then left the Glasshouse and walked through muddy paths and puddles to go to the gift shop. Matthias bought herbs for his father and we all bought a crocus for the classroom. We walked back to our bus, at which point everyone was hungry since nobody had eaten break. We all then looked forward to a nice break at school

Now after a visit to Wisley, our class ordered five painted lady caterpillars to keep in our class. When they arrived at our teachers' house she described them as "tiny little streaks". they were around a quarter of a mm in circumference and 2 days later they were around half a cm long.

Now they are around 3 to 4 cm long and we have only had them for 2 weeks. If people grew at the same rate, in 18 years (2 weeks in butterfly terms I think) people would be the same size as a 4 storey house

There are lots and lots of questions but this one in particular confuses me, Isn't Global Warming helping butterflies survive because of rising temperatures? Even so, they are still amazing to be able to migrate from South Africa (painted lady butterflies that is) to England, its really confusing, why England? They are amazing, They are very fragile and they bother to fly to England.

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Entry 22: "Butterflies at Wisley"

Name: Matthias Bohr

Age: 11

The morning of the trip was dreadful, traffic everywhere and it was so windy. I had got stuck in traffic so I was thirty minutes late; but was lucky because the coach got stuck so I just made it to school in time.

On the way to the glasshouse we saw a crocuses sticking through the muddy puddles that were everywhere. When we approached the glasshouse it was the first time I realized how large the glasshouse was. It was so tall and it was wider than four buses side by side. When we first went in we only saw plants. There was a plant that looked like a wrinkled piece of grey paper. A purple and white flower looked like a mouth sticking its tongue out .

As we walked into the second part of the glasshouse it was so humid that everyone who was wearing glasses had to constantly wipe their lenses because they were fogging up quickly.

While we walked around the butterfly house there was an assortment of vegetation. Scattered around the butterfly house there were piles of fruit, where groups of butterfly were sucking merely on juice, and there were plates with little caps that were filled with sweet nectar.

I saw most of the butterflies including an aberration and Leo helped me find a butterfly that wasn't on the list. I was quite sad that I did not see the Postman, Clipper-blue subspecies , Tailed Jay and the Diadem . It was upsetting to see that there were bits of wings behind some plants.

I found the trip enjoyable and I thought it was a fun experience . I would definitely go back again.

Shortly after the visit to Wisley we got five caterpillars for our classroom.

The five caterpillars belonged to the painted Lady Species. when they first arrived at our school they were only half a centimeter long and only one fourth of a millimeter in circumference, you had to squint to see them . After two weeks they had grown to an amazing length of 3 centimeters long.

Butterflies (and moths) are a crucial part of our life and very important indicators to the health of the environment . To help them we can all plant a small shrub or flowers in our garden to help attract more butterflies. After the caterpillars turn into butterflies we will release them in Wimbledon Common or Richmond Park.

Elise Harter and Butterfly Conservation's Story Competition

Age Group – 10-11

Entry 23: "Butterflies at Wisley"

Name: Murti Patel

Age: 11

When we went to Wisley it happened to be the most miserable day. It had been raining all night and was still pouring, there was traffic and nothing was going as planned.

Eventually we reached Wisley we all trudged in the the damp mud and were amazed by the spectacular sight of the large glass house. Surrounding it were flowers that were all beginning to bloom.

We entered the glass house to find a humid and wet environment filled with colourful and exotic vegetation. The atmosphere was almost like an exotic tropical rainforest. It was very exciting to try and find the different sorts of butterflies. I, in particular, liked the Malachite.

We all felt as if we were in a tropical rainforest, as it was humid and there was a slight breeze with branches moving in several directions. As we searched deeper into the exhibition we found that the bright red butterfly called a Postman hadn't been seen for days. Most of us were anxious to see one but they do not come out in the cold weather.

They only come out in the heat and sunshine even then they would camouflage themselves.

It is amazing that the butterflies are so elegant and graceful. I was fortunate to see one fly. The one aberration was the four-winged Blue Morpho. It was an amazing sight as we saw one butterfly body but four wings.

After the greenhouse, we visited the plant house and saw so many different plants and herbs all with an individual smell. In the end we thought we should buy a class flower so we bought a blue crocus.

After the trip we got caterpillars for the classroom. When they arrived two weeks ago, they were still, tiny caterpillars. Now they are big and quite scary. At first they were 1/2 cm long and 1/4 mm circumference, after two weeks they are 3 cm long.

When they come out of it they will be the Painted Lady species of butterflies.

They are very common in the UK. In May they travel from North Africa to Britain. Their Latin name is Vanessa Cardui, they usually have orange and brown wing with black and white dots on the end.

When they are hatched we will release them in Richmond Park.

We could help save them by planting Thistles and Mallows in our garden.

Elise Harter and Butterfly Conservation's Story Competition

Age Group – 10-11

Entry 24: "Butterflies at Wisley"

Name: Brittany Stewart

Age: 11

I arrived at school disappointed by the miserable weather. It was the worst it could come to; rain and sleet. I had come early trembling with excitement for the trip and it looked like we weren't going! I ran inside but not before being hit by enormous raindrops!

I entered the classroom finding it empty. I mooched around for 10 boring minutes until Naomi around followed by Anjani. Soon everyone came.

We all had the same question; were we going to Wisley? Mrs Mc Sherry came in saying that the coach would be an hour away, and the A3 was blocked and it was terrible until suddenly the coach pulled up and it was fine.!

It was fortunate that we were the first school there, so we had the butterfly house to ourselves!

It was splendid walking down the path, seeing exotic plants. Eun-Soo and I were going 'snap snap' with our cameras as though the plants were film stars. As we turned a corner we saw a gigantic building made of glass! We entered the glass house. We spotted amazing plants no words can describe, witch hazel that looked like fireworks exploding! Soon we had to enter the room we had all been waiting for, the place we;d come to see, the Butterfly House!

As we invaded the butterfly house everything steamed up, people,s glasses and camera lenses. As I walked in my heart sank. I didn't realise you had to look for the butterflies and that they don't come out to greet you! Once I was told this my soul filled with jubilation and I went to find the butterflies.

We had a list of butterflies which we could spot and take photographs of. I hunted up and down, and luckily Matthais and Leo kept finding the butterflies first. It got annoying towards the end but it was nice to see the different butterflies.

Time flew past. We went to the Wisley plant-shop. With our change we bought a blue crocus. The very first crocus bloomed on my birthday! We now have have five magnificent caterpillars.

Now they are 3 cms long after just two weeks! I can't wait till they turn into butterflies! I would like to be helping butterflies in the future! If I planted some plants, the butterflies like I'd be helping!

Elise Harter and Butterfly Conservation's Story Competition

Age Group – 10-11

Entry 27: "Butterflies at Wisley"

Name: Leo Park

Age: 10

The morning of the trip the weather was dreadful and outside the playground door there was a lot of water. The coach was a bit late because of the traffic. On the way there wasn't much to do on the journey. When we arrived I was really excited. It was a ten minute walk to the Glasshouse. Outside the Glasshouse was a plant called The Christmas Box which smelt like perfume, however the weather was dreadful so it didn't smell as much as it would in the sunlight. When we went into the Glasshouse all the people with glasses got fogged up including the teachers. The first butterfly we saw was a Blue Morpho with its wings closed. Then Matthias found a Common Mormon. Then after that we found more butterflies. They were all so beautiful. I found one butterfly which was not on the list. The butterfly everyone wanted to find was a Malay Lacewing which was just found before we came out of the Glasshouse. Hannah and Anjani found it. After that we went to the gift shop. Then we went to the plant shop. Matthias bought parsley and all the girls and I bought a crocus for the school.

The Owl butterfly was so beautiful and the pattern on its wings was really cool so like a owl's eye! I didn't find The Tailed Jay, The Scarlet Swallowtail, The Clipper and Clipper-blue subspecies and last but not least The Postman. But I managed to find The Tree Nymph, Blue Morpho, Common Malachite, Achillies Morpho, Giant Orange Tip, Diadem, Green-banded Swallowtail and the Owl and Malay Lacewing.

The experience was really amazing and my impressions of the experience was that it was all terrific!

We have some caterpillars, five of them in our classroom and they have grown 2.5 cm in two weeks. Also there are some in nursery and some of them are in the pupae stage and one of them is making its pupae and one is 4.5 cm. When they all are in their pupae we will put them in the net basket and when they hatch we will set them free in a park. The place where we will release the butterflies will be Wimbledon Common or Richmond Park. What is really amazing is that these butterflies fly from North Africa to the United Kingdom and feed on thistles here.

Elise Harter and Butterfly Conservation's Story Competition
Age Group – 10-11

Entry 28: "Butterflies at Wisley"

Name: Sally You

Age: 11

Form 4A, Mrs McSherry and Mrs. Beaumont visited Wisley Gardens. It was almost impossible to go there, because it was raining, also the coach was stuck in a traffic jam. Finally, we could go. Coach was coming!

We arrived at Wisley Garden. It was still raining! Outside of Wisley Garden, there were lots of beautiful flowers! I didn't know what they called, but I really loved them!

After we saw the flowers outside, we went inside the glass house. There were more beautiful flowers. I loved it. The flowers looked like brightly coloured rainbows!

We went in to another section of the glass house to see butterflies. it was warm. The temperature was different from outside, because it was really cold there. It feels like the Amazon forest, because there were big leaves. It looked cool!

We found one butterfly easily when we went in, which was called an Owl. I don't know why, but I think that its wings look like the owl's eyes. It was easy to find some of the butterflies, but it was difficult to find others.

Forty minutes later, we had found many butterflies! It was so beautiful. Mrs. McSherry said, "After we find one more new type of butterfly, we will go out." About five minutes later, we found one. I can't remember the name. We took a picture of it, and we went out of there.

Next we went to two shops. The second shop was where Form 4A bought a plant to grow. Mrs. McSherry said, "This is the first time!"

I think it's good to visit Wisley Gardens, because I learned about lots of beautiful butterflies, and colourful flowers. I want to go there again.

There are five caterpillars in our class. They were very thin like a thread, but they became much bigger after two weeks! They were as big as a baby's finger! I was surprised by them.

When these caterpillars become bigger, they will become 'Painted Lady' butterflies. Painted Ladies come to live in the U.K. If it grows up, it will have beautiful colours, orange and brown.

Almost three day ago, I did some research about the Painted Lady. It looked like a Malay Lacewing, which I have seen in Wisley Gardens. It has similar colours and shapes.

I want to see the real Painted Lady and to know how to help them survive.

Elise Harter and Butterfly Conservation's Story Competition

Age Group – 10-11

Entry 29: "Butterflies at Wisley"

Name: Naomi Premraj

Age: 10

I stepped out of the coach. I could hear some people shouting. I was so excited I was running like the wind till I got to the reception area. I could see loads of people and I could hear chattering. Next we had to walk for quite a period of time. On the way we saw a lot of different coloured flowers until we reached a huge glasshouse.

We went inside the butterfly section. We had to look very carefully to find some butterflies. We found lots of butterflies, some of them were not even on my spotter guide. I saw approximately thirty butterflies. My two favourite butterflies were the Postman and the Scarlet Swallow Tail. It was so hot I was starting to sweat.

When we got out of the glasshouse, we went to the shop. I only had £10 and I had to buy some things for my family, so bought red, pretty flower for my mum and dad and jumping beans for my sisters. Then we had to go home.

This trip was one of the shortest trips I have ever been on and one of the most adventurous trips I have ever been to an I learnt a lot about nature too!

Now we have 5 caterpillars which are Painted ladies. We wonder how long they will take to become a pupae. When they turn into butterflies we will let them go to Wimbledon Common or Richmond Park.

The size of the caterpillars:

When we first got them they were
half a centimetre long
quarter millimetre circumference

Now after two weeks
three centimetres long
(4.5 centimetres-5 centimetres before turning into a pupae)