

Text 4 – Butterflies

Learner 4: Not Achieved

Intended for teacher use only

Learner's purpose for reading: Reading for pleasure and to respond to reading log questions

Text read (showing the learner's highlighting):

Butterflies

By Patricia Grace

The Grandmother plaited her granddaughter's hair and then she said, "Get your lunch. Put it in your bag. Get your apple. You come straight back after school, straight home here. Listen to the teacher," she said. "Do what she say."

Her grandfather was out on the step. He walked down the path with her and out onto the footpath. He said to a neighbor, "Our granddaughter goes to school. She lives with us now."

"She's fine," the neighbor said. "She's terrific with her two plaits in her hair."

"And clever," the grandfather said. "Writes every day in her book."

"She's fine," the neighbor said.

The grandfather waited with his granddaughter by the crossing and then he said, "Go to school. Listen to the teacher. Do what she say."

When the granddaughter came home from school her grandfather was hoeing around the cabbages. Her grandmother was picking beans. They stopped their work.

"You bring your book home?" the grandmother asked.

"Yes."

"You write your story?"

"Yes."

"What's your story?"

"About the butterflies."

"Get your book then. Read your story."

The granddaughter took her book from her schoolbag and opened it.

"I killed all the butterflies," she read. "This is me and this is all the butterflies."

"And your teacher like your story, did she?"

"I don't know."

"What your teacher say?"

"She said butterflies are beautiful creatures. They hatch out and fly in the sun. The butterflies visit all the pretty flowers, she said. They lay their eggs and then they die. You don't kill butterflies, that's what she said."

The grandmother and the grandfather were quiet for a long time, and their granddaughter, holding the book, stood quite still in the warm garden.

"Because you see," the grandfather said, "your teacher, she buy all her cabbages from the supermarket and that's why."

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Learner evidence:

Three level guide – “Butterflies” by Patricia Grace

Write “true”, “false”, or “not enough evidence” for each statement.

Level one: Reading on the lines

In this story ...

- ... the granddaughter has come to live with her grandparents. *True*
- ... after school the grandmother was weeding the flower garden. *false*
- ... the teacher read the children a story about butterflies. *false.*
- ... the family grow cabbages in their garden. *True.*
- ... the grandfather told the girl to do what the teacher said. *True.*

Level two: Reading between the lines

In this story ...

- ... the grandfather is proud of his granddaughter. *True.*
- ... the girl helps in the garden. *Not enough evidence.*
- ... the teacher is probably Pākehā. *True*
- ... the teacher doesn't like gardening. *Not enough evidence.*
- ... the girl is probably a teenager. *false.*

Level three: Reading beyond the lines

This story tells us that ...

- ... people have different cultural values. *True*
- ... teachers are smarter than grandparents. *false*
- ... gardening is a good way to save money. *false.*
- ... we should not kill butterflies. *false.*
- ... people with different backgrounds can misunderstand each other. *True.*

Additional questions

1. Why did you read this text?

Pleasure / answer questions for
reading log

2. Evaluate the text against your purpose for reading.

②

I enjoyed this text, I could relate
to the family and how their way
was different to what Pākehā people
think is right.

3. Why do you think Patricia Grace wrote this story?

①

To help people see a non-Pākehā
viewpoint and how people's assumptions
can be wrong.