



WAITING FOR WINGS

AUTHOR: LOIS EHLERT

ILLUSTRATOR: LOIS EHLERT

[See a video of the book read aloud here: Waiting for Wings](#)

**** REMEMBER: HAVE FUN AND THE KIDS WILL TOO! ****

OVERVIEW

ABOUT THE BOOK

Every spring, butterflies emerge and dazzle the world with their vibrant beauty. But where do butterflies come from? How are they born? What do they eat--and how? With a simple, rhyming text and glorious color-drenched collage, Lois Ehlert provides clear answers to these and other questions as she follows the life cycle of four common butterflies, from their beginnings as tiny hidden eggs and hungry caterpillars to their transformation into full-grown butterflies. Complete with butterfly and flower facts and identification tips, as well as a guide to planting a butterfly garden. ([amazon.com](#))

ABOUT THE AUTHOR/ILLUSTRATOR

Lois Ehlert was born on November 9, 1934 in Beaver Dam Wisconsin. Her artistic creativity was encouraged from an early age by her parents. Ehlert has been quoted as saying that construction paper was rather wimpy in color. She preferred the bright colors of fabric compared to the pale colors of the construction paper. She would often make things from objects people would throw away. Her Layton Art School education, together with her rich artful upbringing, helped to model a style that she would continue to use in her books and illustrations for years to come.

THE READ ALOUD

BEFORE READING

Use these prompts before reading the story to help students activate background knowledge and make predictions:

- (cover) What do you notice about this cover that's different from other books we've been reading? (hint: title/author is sideways)
- (cover) What help do we get to figure out which way the book goes? (stem of the flower)
- (open the cover to show front and back simultaneously) What do we see when we open the cover up all the way?
- I love the colors! Let's start reading and see if these colors are used inside the book.

DURING THE STORY

Use these prompts while reading the story to help students interpret the action and content:

- (title page) Oh my! It looks like someone cut up this book! If I hold it tight, it looks like one picture on one page, but it's really on several pages!

WAITING FOR WINGS

TOPICS & THEMES:

- Butterflies
- Life cycles
- Flowers
- Metamorphosis

Tips for every book!

POWER PHRASES:

I WONDER...

I NOTICE...

TELL ME MORE...

DIGGING DEEPER:

"Tell me more, why do you think that?"

"How do you know that?"

"Why do you think they feel like that?"

"Interesting, did you notice anything else?"

- (title page) Here's our title and author/illustrator's name again – only we don't have to turn the book sideways to read it.
- (p. 4) What do you think the white holes on this leaf are?
- (p. 7) Why is it important to find a place out of the wind?
- (p. 9) Can we find all four of the cases (chrysalis)?
- (p. 10) There are changes going on inside the case (chrysalis), very similar to *What's in that Egg?*.
- (p. 11) Does anyone know what it's called when the caterpillar turns to a butterfly? (metamorphosis)
- (p. 25) The nose that uncurls on a butterfly is called a proboscis.

AFTER READING

Use these prompts after reading the story to help students understand what they just read:

- (pp. 30-34) Look at the details on the butterflies and the garden flowers. How do you grow a garden? (*Reader: Choose one or two details on each page to emphasize.*)

BRINGING THE BOOK TO LIFE!

- (p. 4) Show me, by raising your fingers, how many caterpillars you see. Raise one finger if you see one, two if you see two, etc.
- (p. 9) Let's clap the syllables of "chrysalis" three times while we say the word.
- (p. 11) Now let's clap the syllables of "metamorphosis" while we say the word. How many syllables was that?
- (p. 13) Flap your wings like a new butterfly.
- (p. 25) This time, let's stamp our feet to the syllables of "proboscis".

COOPERATIVE LEARNING

- (p. 13) Hold hands with your neighbor and flap your wings and their wings together. Twirl around as if flying in a small circle.

SMALL-GROUP IDEAS

1. DISCUSSION ACTIVITY

- (pp. 4-9) Follow each of the caterpillars from birth to chrysalis. (p. 10-11 reveals where they were hiding)
- (pp. 30-31) There are a lot of facts and vocabulary on these pages. Let's talk about a few of them and find them in the pages of the story.

Suggested Optional Activity:

- (*Reader: print out photos of butterflies found in the book*) Compare these photos to the illustrations of butterflies at end of book. How are they similar? How are they different? (do same for flowers)

2. WRITING ACTIVITY

- (*Reader: gather orange, red, pink, yellow, green crayons/pencils*) Make a list of the colors used in the flowers. Try to find the colors in a box of crayons or colored pencils and use them to color a flower from the story.

3. EXTENSION ACTIVITY

- Have students make garden and butterfly pictures by cutting out shapes from colored paper and gluing them on white backgrounds. Show students how to fold paper in half allowing two identical halves when shapes are cut.

COMMON CORE LINKS

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.K.1, K.2, K.3, K.4, K.5, K.7, K.10