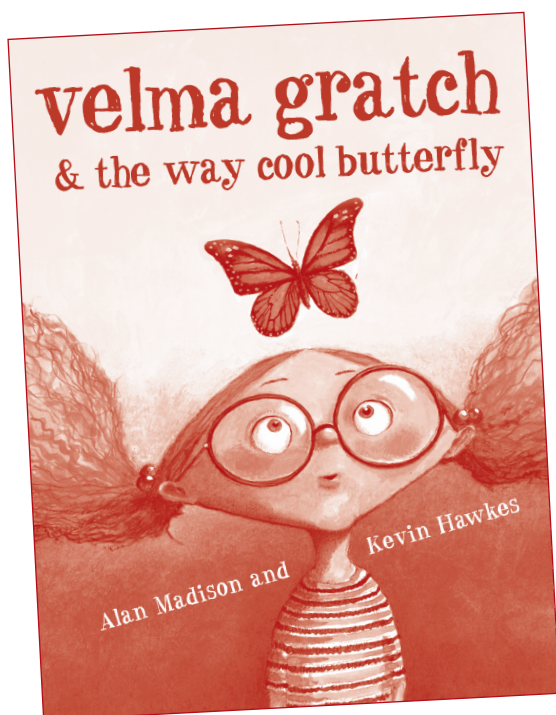


# Way Cool Activities for the Classroom



HC: 978-0-375-83597-1 (0-375-83597-0)  
GLB: 978-0-375-93597-8 (0-375-93597-5)

## ABOUT THE BOOK

It's hard to be Velma, the littlest Gratch. That's because everyone has marvelous memories of her two older sisters, who were practically perfect first graders. Poor Velma—people barely remember her name. Velma tries everything to be noticed . . . but it's her way cool knowledge of butterflies that finally does the trick!



Illustrations © 2007 by Kevin Hawkes

## PRE-READING ACTIVITIES

In this book students will learn that every creature—including themselves!—is different and special. They will also learn all about butterflies, especially monarch butterflies.

- ✿ Announce the title of the book to the class. Ask students what the title makes them think of. Make a list of responses.
- ✿ Ask students what they already know about butterflies: Are all butterflies the same? How many types of butterflies do you think there are? Do all cocoons look the same? Do all butterflies look the same?
- ✿ Ask students what they know about families: Are all families the same? Do all members of a family look the same? Do all members of a family have the same feelings? Do all members of a family like the same things?

# CLASSROOM CONNECTIONS

## Math/Science

### **Reasoning**

Conduct a class sibling study by charting and/or graphing everyone's siblings. How many brothers does each student have? How many sisters? Do they have older siblings, younger siblings, or both?

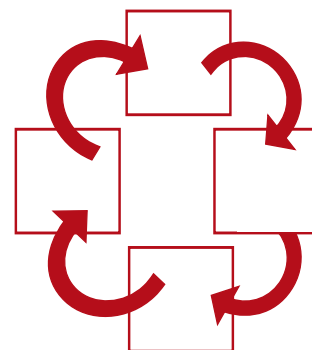
On the board draw a Venn diagram demonstrating the similarities and differences between yourself and your siblings. Discuss it with the class and then have each student draw their own Venn diagram comparing themselves with a sibling or other relative.

### **Matching**

Create pictures of butterflies or find them online or in magazines. Cut each butterfly in half. Mix the pieces. Have students select and match the pairs of butterfly wings to reinforce the notion of symmetry.

### **Sequencing/Life Stages—My, How You've Changed!**

In this activity students will make a life cycle illustration of their own personal "metamorphosis." Ask the class to bring in three photographs from the various stages of their life: a picture of mom when she was expecting, or of the family before the child was born; an infant or baby portrait; and a current photo (this would be a good use for one of their school pictures). Then have them create a picture of what they'd like to be when they grow up. This may be hand-drawn or created from magazine cutouts. Have students arrange the pictures in a circular pattern on a template prepared with curved arrows.



### **Science at Home**

Show students what to plant in the backyard to make it attractive to butterflies including asters, black-eyed Susans, and coneflowers. Display living examples of these, if possible, or provide seeds to grow in the classroom or library for transplanting later!

## Art

### **Blot Butterflies**

Distribute paper butterfly shapes to the class. Ask students to fold the shapes in half and then re-open them. Instruct students to drop small dots of brightly colored paint on only one half of the butterfly. Then have them close their shapes and press carefully. When the students open them up, they will see that they've created symmetrical patterns for their butterfly's wings! Allow art to dry—hang as decoration or use as a special gift or greeting card.

## Vocabulary

After introducing the below vocabulary words to the class and reading Velma aloud, have students complete **Velma's Vocabulary Crossword Puzzle** on the last page. You may wish to have the words displayed on a chart or cards to assist the class in this activity.

The words are: *antennae, aquarium, butterfly, coincidence, commotion, conservatory, metamorphosis, migration, monarch, museum.*

Answer Key: ACROSS: 1. antennae, 3. monarch, 4. museum, 6. migration, 7. commotion, 8. butterfly DOWN: 1. aquarium, 2. conservatory, 3. metamorphosis, 5. coincidence





## CLASSROOM CONNECTIONS



### Music & Movement

Sing and dance this little ditty to the tune of  
“Do You Know the Muffin Man?”

I wish I were a butterfly,  
A butterfly  
A butterfly  
I wish I were a butterfly  
With light and lovely wings

Students flutter and  
fly about the room

I'd start out as a little egg  
A little egg  
A little egg  
I'd start out as a little egg  
And see what nature brings

Students crouch down  
as small as they can

Then I'd be a caterpillar  
Caterpillar  
Caterpillar  
Then I'd be a caterpillar  
To a branch I'd cling

Students creep on the  
floor and then “cling” to  
an imaginary branch

And then I'd build a chrysalis  
A chrysalis  
A chrysalis  
And then I'd build a chrysalis  
A green and golden thing

Students spin slowly,  
crossing arms to  
hug themselves

In time I'll be a butterfly  
A butterfly  
A butterfly  
In time I'll be a butterfly  
With light and lovely wings

Students pantomime  
“hatching”  
from the chrysalis

Students spread their  
arms and flutter about

### Internet Resources

#### **Journey North**

[www.learner.org/jnorth](http://www.learner.org/jnorth)

#### **Monarch Watch**

[www.monarchwatch.org](http://www.monarchwatch.org)

#### **Monarch Lab**

[www.monarchlab.umn.edu](http://www.monarchlab.umn.edu)

#### **The Butterfly Website**

[butterflywebsite.com/butterflygardening.cfm](http://butterflywebsite.com/butterflygardening.cfm)

#### **Children's Butterfly Site**

[bsi.montana.edu/web/kidsbutterfly](http://bsi.montana.edu/web/kidsbutterfly)

### Language & Art Poetry/Dramatic Play

Perform a class choral reading of this  
classic Christina Rossetti poem,  
encouraging students to add their own  
movements. Afterwards, ask students to  
draw a picture to illustrate the words.

#### **The Caterpillar**

Brown and furry  
Caterpillar in a hurry;  
Take your walk  
To the shady leaf, or stalk.

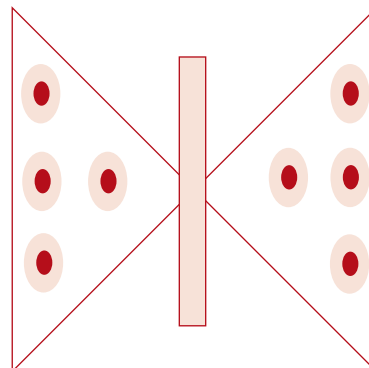
May no toad spy you,  
May the little birds pass by you;  
Spin and die,  
To live again a butterfly.

—Christina G. Rossetti



### Snack Time

Have students prepare butterfly sandwiches. Cut a square  
sandwich in half diagonally. Arrange the pieces so that the  
points meet. Use a carrot, celery, or pretzel stick for the  
butterfly's body. Add sliced olives, radishes, etc. to the  
wings—try to make your patterns match! Bon appetite!



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## Velma's Vocabulary Crossword Puzzle

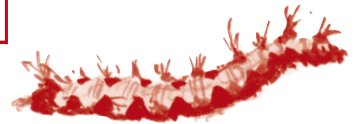
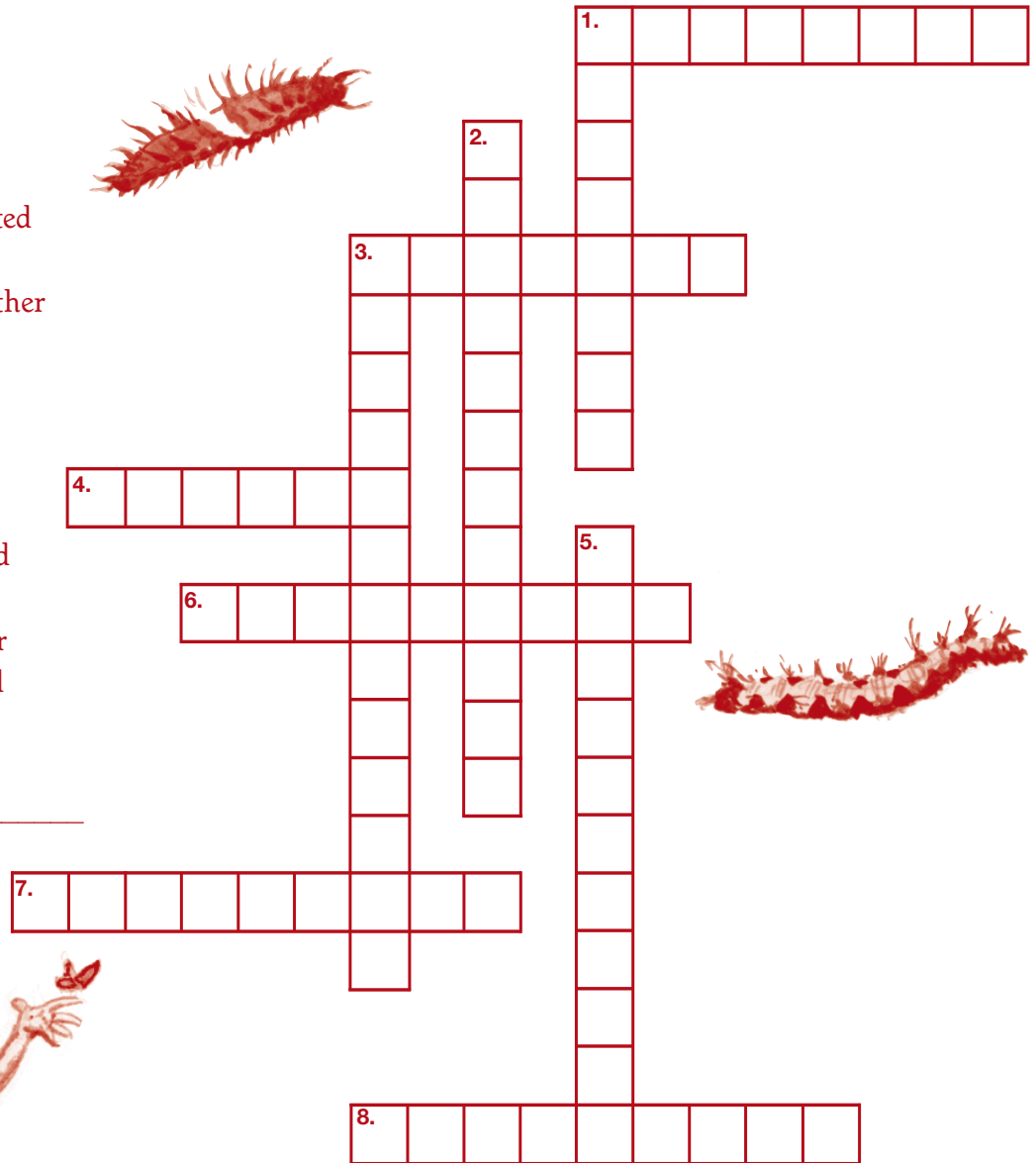


### Across

1. An insect's feelers
3. A ruler with the title of king, queen, emperor, or empress; a certain butterfly
4. A place where objects are collected and displayed
6. Moving from one habitat to another
7. An upset or disturbance
8. Insect with four wings often brightly colored

### Down

1. A place where sea life is collected and displayed
2. A place where live plants and/or insects are housed and displayed
3. A transformation
5. When two things happen at the same time, it's a \_\_\_\_\_



**EDUCATORS: Reproduce this activity sheet  
to use with your students**