

Director's Notes

SUMMARY

A happy little caterpillar spends her days crawling about on her many feet and munching her favourite food: leaves!

Wishing that she had wings like a butterfly, the caterpillar tries fluttering her legs. The animals laugh at her, calling her a 'flutterpillar', though of course there is no such thing. 'You'll never be a butterfly,' they say. 'You've got no wings!' 'I can dream, can't I?' says Flutterpillar, sadly.

Badger notices some butterflies by a tall green bush. He encourages Flutterpillar to climb up into its branches to get a better view. After her long climb, Flutterpillar is very tired and needs somewhere safe to rest. As she hides among the leaves, something magical begins to happen: her caterpillar skin begins to shed and a chrysalis begins to form. Safe within her chrysalis, Flutterpillar is able to sleep.

When the animals come looking for her, the Flowers say that Flutterpillar is fast asleep. The animals are very pleased with themselves, thinking they've been proved right: she'll never be a butterfly.

But then Badger comes back, knowing that it's time for Flutterpillar to wake up. Flutterpillar has to squiggle and squirm and push and pull to get out of her chrysalis. When she manages to break free, she stretches and out come her two wings. She has turned into a butterfly! Her dream has come true.



N.B. A read-aloud story of 'Flutterpillar' features on the enhanced CD, to help you introduce the story to the children before rehearsals begin.

Director's Notes (contd.)

CAST

NARRATOR(s)	Could be the teacher, or shared out between two or more children.
FLUTTERPILLAR	Main character, a) a caterpillar, b) a butterfly. This role may be taken by a single child with a speedy costume change during 'Chrysalis Music', or two children may be cast as Flutterpillar, one as the caterpillar, the other as the butterfly, each understudying the other. (N.B. the butterfly actor has only one line to deliver, at the very end.)
BUTTERFLY 1	Flutters about solo after the second song, then joins the other butterflies.
BUTTERFLY DANCERS	Two appearances, p. 10 & 12. (They dance during the third song.)
FOX & SQUIRREL	Small speaking roles.
MOUSE & DEER	" " " " "
RABBIT, MOLE	" " " " "
BADGER	Slightly more substantial speaking role.
FLOWERS	The Chorus. These children have plenty to say, speaking all together.

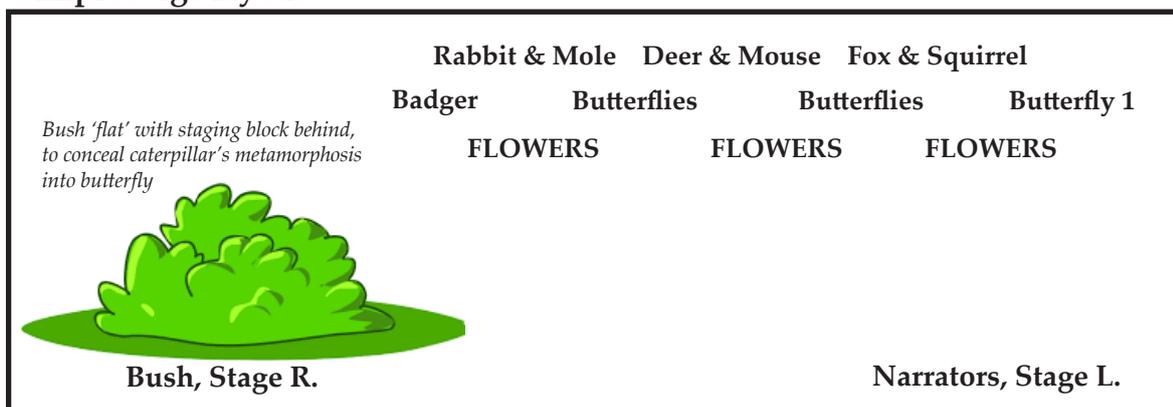
COSTUMES

Flutterpillar	See previous page for photographic illustrations, showing affordable caterpillar and butterfly costumes that are readily available online. Two ways of doing metamorphosis: a) Two actors: before going on (p.12), the butterfly actor moves into position, hidden on a staging block behind the 'bush' (see below). b) One actor: the child needs help with a speedy costume change, concealed by the 'bush'.
Butterflies	Antennae headbands and gauzy wings attached to hands/wrists.
Animals	Dressed in appropriate colours with facepaint / 'ears'-headbands.
Flowers	Dressed simply in green, with flower headbands.

PROPS

Leaves, cabbage, lettuce. Spade for Mole.
Buttercup, butternut squash and ball for Mouse, Fox & Squirrel.

Simple stage layout:



Director's Overview

We meet a little caterpillar with lots and lots of feet.

SONG - LOTS AND LOTS OF FEET

⦿ **Track 1/7**

We discover what the little caterpillar likes to eat.

SONG - I LIKE TO EAT

⦿ **Track 2/8**

Little caterpillar is no longer so little after all that eating! She meets a butterfly, whose name she can't pronounce, calling her a 'flutterby'. After some help from Mouse, Deer, Fox and Squirrel, she learns to pronounce 'butterfly' properly. Watching the butterfly fluttering around the garden, the caterpillar wishes she had wings.

SONG - I WISH I COULD BE LIKE A BUTTERFLY

⦿ **Track 3/9**

Little caterpillar is trying to flutter with her legs, when along comes Mole, who asks what she's doing. The caterpillar says she's practising to be a flutterby. Mole tells her: 'You'll never be a butterfly. You've got no wings!' 'But I can dream, can't I?' she replies. 'Perhaps you're a flutterpillar!' says Mole. 'There's no such thing,' says the caterpillar. 'I know,' says Mole. 'You should try digging like me!' But the caterpillar knows she'll never be able to dig.

Along comes Rabbit - and they have almost the same conversation. By now, the little caterpillar is getting used to being known as Flutterpillar.

Along comes Badger, who is wise and knows a lot about caterpillars. Badger suggests that Flutterpillar might like to climb up higher to get a better view of the butterflies she admires so much.

SONG - I NEED TO CRAWL

⦿ **Track 4/10**

After a long climb up into a bush, Flutterpillar is tired. She needs somewhere safe to rest and hides among the branches.

INSTRUMENTAL - CHRYSALIS MUSIC

⦿ **Track 5/11**

As she sleeps, something magical begins to happen. Her caterpillar skin begins to shed and a chrysalis begins to form. Each day the chrysalis grows stronger and cosier, while Flutterpillar is safe and warm inside.

After a few days some animals come along, looking for 'that funny Flutterpillar'. When the Flowers say she's asleep, they congratulate themselves on being right: 'She'll never be a butterfly.' When Badger returns, however, he knows it's time for Flutterpillar to wake up, and he calls her from her sleep. She wriggles, pushes and squirms until finally she is free of her chrysalis. To her amazement, she has become a butterfly! Her dream has come true.

SONG - FLUTTER BY, BUTTERFLY

⦿ **Track 6/12**

N.B. Open the CD on your computer to find the script for the NARRATED VERSION of this play, along with a read-aloud story, pupil scripts, lyric sheet and other printable resources.