

LEVEL BL 2.2

902016

DEAR BUTTERFLIES

Dobeck, Maryann

Can Julia a way to save their butterflies?
As you read, evaluate how the class solves the
problem.

“Cass,” said Mrs. Evans. “Please show Julia
around.” Julia was starting her school year a
little late. She had just moved to a new home.
Julia pointed to a glass tank. “What are
they?” she asked. “They look funny.” “They
are monarch butterflies,” said Seth. “They
don't look like butterflies;” said Julia. Hector
said, “Right now, they're called caterpillars.

But soon they will turn into butterflies." Each caterpillar had yellow, black, and white stripes. "Eww!" said Julia. She watched the caterpillars eat the leaves. "Do they eat grass too?" "No;" said Michael. "They only eat milkweed leaves."

"Ugh!" said Julia. "How boring!" . "No, they really like those leaves;" Seth laughed, "It's like having pizza all the time!" "How do they turn into butterflies?" asked Julia.

"Look," said James. He pointed to the wall. "We've made a poster that tells you how:"

In late summer, the monarch butterfly lays her tiny white egg on a milkweed plant. A small caterpillar comes from the egg. Its stripes are pretty. The caterpillar eat s the milkweed leaves. The caterpillar grows. Its

skin falls off. This looks icky! Then the big caterpillar hangs upside down. It wraps itself in a green and gold case. In about two weeks, the case breaks open. Out comes a monarch butterfly! It is really beautiful! "Will we keep the butterflies here?" asked Julia. "No;" said Mrs. Evans. "They fly to Mexico to spend the winter where it's warm. But we have a problem." Mrs. Evans went on. "We just got the caterpillars last week. It's too late in the fall for them to make the trip. They won't find enough food along the way."

"We've been trying to think of ways to help them;" said Kim. "So they won't die." "Maybe we could mail them to Mexico." said Emily "We can't put butterflies in the mail," said Kim. "No;" said Julia. "But maybe we can fly

them on an airplane." I'll ask my father. He's a pilot. By the time the caterpillars turned into butterflies, the class had a plan. They put the butterflies in a box with tiny holes. Julia's father came to class on his way to work. Julia gave him the box. "I'll be very careful with them," he said. "By the end of the day, I'll set them free in Mexico." "That night Julia wrote in her journal. Dear Butterflies, I hope that you are as happy in your new home as I am in mine.

Love, Julia Rodriguez.