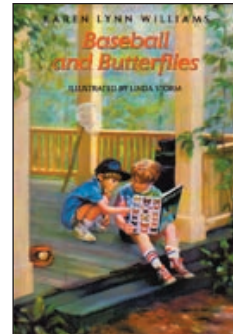




A TEACHER'S GUIDE FOR BASEBALL & BUTTERFLIES

This teacher's guide is designed to assist you in creating talking points and ideas for classroom activities in conjunction with school visits.



**BASEBALL &
BUTTERFLIES**
by Karen Lynn Williams

THEMES IN THIS BOOK

- **Sibling Competition**
Daniel feels like his younger brother is always in the way. He feels bad because Joey is better at baseball. How do you think Joey feels? In the end of the story, Daniel learns something about how he really feels about his younger brother. Do you have a sibling or cousin who you do not always get along with? What are some of the differences you have? What are some ways you can work together?
- **Problem**
Daniel has problems with his brother and with his friends. What are some of these problems? Why does he feel awkward about the birthday present his mother has selected? Why is it a problem for him that Joey is better at baseball? What is the problem he is having with the butterflies? How are these problems resolved? Have you had similar problems? What did you do about them? What else could Daniel have done about his problems?
- **Self Confidence and Self Esteem**
These terms have to do with how a person feels about him or herself. How does Daniel feel about himself in the beginning of the book? How does he feel about his relationship with his brother and his friends? How does he feel at the end of the book? What has Daniel learned about his brother? About himself? About his friends?
- **Nature**
An important part of the story is about how Daniel feels about nature. At first he wants to collect butterflies by catching them and mounting them. Why does this bother him? What is the solution that Joey helps to find? What are some ways to appreciate nature without destroying it?
- **Working Together**
When Joey burns his hand and cannot bat in baseball, he and Daniel work together to solve this problem. They each use their own strengths. Joey is a fast runner and Daniel is better at batting than running. How do you think that made the two boys feel? Can you remember a time when you worked together with someone else on a project or to create something or to solve a problem?



The two brothers, Peter and Christopher, learned to work and play together, like Daniel and Joey.



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SUBJECT AREAS IDEAS

- Language Arts

When I wrote this story I did not know how it would end until I read a story in the newspaper about two brothers who played on their Little League team as one player during a season when one brother broke his leg. Use a story from the newspaper to make your own story. Remember use the newspaper for an idea, make your story different.

- Science

Joey makes a butterfly barn out of an old box. Then he gets the idea to plant a butterfly garden from Joey. Research butterflies. What do they eat? What are their life cycles. Plan a butterfly garden. What plants would you use? Raise butterflies in the classroom with a butterfly kit. Get information from the internet and learn about butterfly tracking projects that you can participate in.

- Physical Education

Play a game of baseball or kickball, assign partners to work together as one team member.

- Art

Visual Art is another way to appreciate nature without destroying it. Pick a subject in nature, anything from butterflies to waterfalls. Study ways they have been rendered by artists. Then use different media to capture your subject: paint, photos, sculpture, collage.



Peter and Christopher in high school.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Karen Williams is available to speak and share her stories on this and many of her other books. Please visit www.karenlynnwilliams.com for more information on the books and other information about Karen.