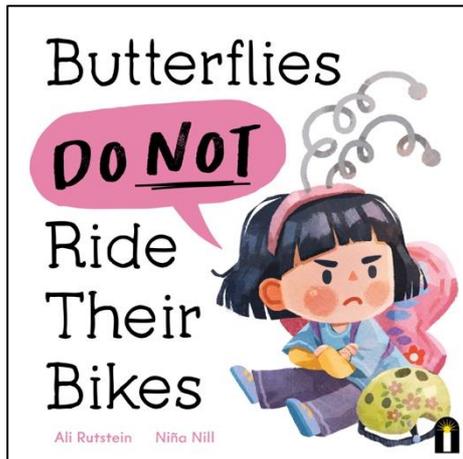


Teacher's Notes



THEMES

- Bravery
- Learning new skills
- Overcoming problems

SYNOPSIS

In this heart-warming story from the bestselling *Preschool Problems* series, Grandad surprises Zara with her very first bike. But learning to ride is trickier than it looks!

Zara isn't sure butterflies even ride bikes ... surely they are better suited to pollinating flowers. Maybe butterflies prefer to learn together?

Butterflies Do Not Ride Their Bikes

Written by Ali Rutstein

Illustrated by Niña Nill

Teacher's Notes by Bec Kavanagh

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LEARNING OUTCOMES

RECOMMENDED FOR

Pre-school-aged readers (ages 2–6, grades prep)

KEY CURRICULUM AREAS

- Learning areas: English
- General capabilities:
 - Critical and Creative Thinking
 - Personal and Social Capability



ABOUT THE AUTHOR/ ILLUSTRATOR

Originally from England, **Ali Rutstein** moved to Australia over twenty years ago. She is now firmly settled in Brisbane, where she lives with her partner, three sons, and an assortment of disobedient pets. Ali has a background in zoology and scientific writing, but much prefers writing picture books for children. She writes stories inspired by her passion for wildlife and steals ideas from amusing conversations with her children.

Niña Nill is a children's book creator based in Australia, where she lives with her husband, two adorable kids, and a growing number of houseplants. She loves illustrating stories for children, from the magical and whimsical to the quiet and ordinary. One of her earliest memories is copying her mum's drawing of a cat under a row of flowers and she has been drawing ever since.

THEMES

In *Butterflies Do Not Ride Their Bikes*, Zara is curious, confident and playful – until she tries to learn a new skill, and things don't go as planned. This uncertainty makes her feel anxious about trying again, so instead of riding her bike, Zara tries to talk Grandad into doing things she's good at.

Use the following questions to discuss the book's themes of bravery and perseverance:

- What do you think the book is trying to say about learning new skills?
- What makes Zara feel confident?
- What's the best thing to do when something is challenging?

WRITING STYLE

Butterflies Do Not Ride Their Bikes is part of the *Preschool Problems* series, designed to help toddlers cope with common hurdles. The writing style is easy to read and relatable, using a lot of action verbs (such as 'flew' or 'fluttered') to reflect everyday routines and physical experiences. This book connects action with emotion, helping readers to connect how they feel to what they're doing, such as when Zara's tummy *fluttered* (an action verb) with *excitement* (the emotion described).

COMPREHENSION

- What surprise does Grandad bring for Zara?
- How does Zara feel when she first receives the bike?
- What kind of animal does Zara feel like when she tries to ride the bike? Why does this make her cross?
- Why does Zara give up on learning to ride?
- What does Zara learn from watching Grandad ride his bike?
- What does Grandad learn from Zara?
- How do you think Zara feels once she knows how to ride?



WRITING EXERCISE

When did you have to be brave to learn or do something new? Write about your experience.

CREATIVE ACTIVITIES

- Complete the following sentences with an emotion or an action verb:
 - When I'm feeling worried, my tummy (action verb).
 - When I'm feeling (emotion), I giggle.
 - When I'm feeling afraid, I (action verb).
 - When I'm feeling shy, I (action verb).
- Think about where you feel emotions in your body. Draw an outline of yourself on a piece of paper. Write the following emotions on your drawing where you feel them in your body. Use a colour that reflects the emotion.
 - Anger
 - Courage
 - Love
 - Joy
 - Nervousness
- In the book, Zara is nervous about learning to ride her bike, and nothing Grandad says makes her feel better. But when she steps into the role of teacher, her confidence gives her courage. She and Grandad are able to learn together. Think of something simple that you can teach the class.
 - Write or draw your instructions in five simple steps.
 - Think about what qualities your audience will need to be successful (maybe they need to be calm, or brave, or curious).
 - Help them to access these qualities by sharing your own experience. (For example, 'I was able to be brave when I rode my bike because I wanted Grandad to feel confident.')
 - Walk them through it! Teach the class your simple lesson by letting them follow along as you do it yourself.
 - Share your experiences when you're finished. What did your students learn? What did you learn?
- When Zara feels confident, she sees herself as a butterfly. She *flies* and *zigs* and *zags*. But when she feels anxious, she sees herself as a caterpillar, *wibbling* and *wobbling*. What kind of animal do you see yourself as when you're feeling confident? Draw a picture of yourself as this animal, and think of two action verbs to describe how you move.



RELATED READING

Other books in the series:

Kittens Do Not Care for Baths

Ladybirds Do Not Go to Day Care

Crocodiles Do Not Like the Toilet

A Lost Cause

By Felicita Sala

Castle Crashing

By Andrea Rowe & Hannah Sommerville

Big Thoughts

By Laura Dockrill & Ashling Lindsay

Lobsters Can't Knit

By Karla Courtney & Nicholas John Frith

