

ELINOR WONDERS WHY

120 INTERSTITIAL: SENOR TAPIR

Written by

LAURA SAMS

FOLLOWS: "BUTTERFLY BABIES"

CURRICULUM: Fred Urquhart and his wife Norah followed their curiosity to discover where monarch butterflies go in the fall.

LS4. Understand that all animals and plants have a life cycle, can reproduce, and change and grow over time

FIRST DRAFT: July 10, 2019
SECOND DRAFT:

1. EXT PARK -- DAY

Open on Ari flying in the sky next to a cloud of monarch butterflies, all flying in the same direction. He flies down to land by Elinor, Olive, maybe a few other kids and Señor Tapir, who sits with his guitar on a tree stump. A butterfly lands on every single kid's head and on Señor Tapir's nose.

1 ARI 1
Look at all butterflies!

2 OLIVE 2
And they're all flying in the same
direction!

Elinor giggles as butterflies land on the tips of her ears.

3 ELINOR 3
Where are they all going?

4 SEÑOR TAPIR 4
Good question, Elinor. I have a
song about two scientists who
figured that out.

Señor Tapir starts to sing. After a line or two, we transition to a simpler style of animation that describes what he is singing.

5 SEÑOR TAPIR (CONT'D) 5
Fred and Norah Urquhart were
husband and wife,
Who both really loved being
outside.

2. EXT TORONTO -- DAY

We see a map of North America, and a star appears on the city of Toronto. We zoom in quickly to that spot on the map, to see Fred and Norah Urquhart (who are Eastern cottontail rabbits in 1940s style clothing; Fred has a distinct mustache), holding hands as they stand in a field next to train tracks, where hundreds of monarch butterflies fly around the skies and land on plants around them.

6 SEÑOR TAPIR (CONT'D) 6
They lived in Toronto, where bright
summer skies,
Were filled with monarch
butterflies,

Thousands of monarch butterflies fly (in the same direction) through the sky over the trees, whose leaves have turned from green into fall colors.

Fred and Norah look up curiously at the butterflies flying over their heads, as the last bunch of butterflies fly away, leaving the sky with zero butterflies.

7 SEÑOR TAPIR (CONT'D) 7
 But when fall came, they saw a
 strange thing.
 The butterflies all flew away until
 spring!
 So Fred and Norah decided to find
 Where butterflies spent their
 wintertime.

Fred and Norah walk around different outdoor parks and fields, looking for any sign of the butterflies.

8 SEÑOR TAPIR (CONT'D) 8
 Fluttering butterflies, where are
 you flying?
 Where are going? Where could you
 be?
 Fred and Nora never stopped trying
 To solve the butterfly mystery.

In an outdoor park, Fred carefully wraps a small sticker-like tag (the kind used to put price tags on products) with a few numbers on it around the lower wing of a butterfly. He lets the tagged butterfly fly free.

9 SEÑOR TAPIR (CONT'D) 9
 They tagged lots of butterflies and
 told lots of folks,
 If you see these butterflies,
 please let us know!

A pair of beavers point at two tagged monarch butterflies on a milkweed plant outside their house. A kid squirrel points at a tagged monarch butterfly that lands on a fence.

10 SEÑOR TAPIR (CONT'D) 10
 A few were spotted, but not a whole
 lot,
 They just couldn't find the right
 butterfly spot.

We see the same map of North America, and this time we see some question marks appear in different parts of the United States (including a few question marks in southern California and Texas, because the Urquharts looked there). Fred and Norah are now much older (30 years older than when they started looking for the butterflies). They drive around in a vehicle (from the early 1970s), looking at trees in different parts of the country.

11	SEÑOR TAPIR (CONT'D)	11
	Fluttering butterflies, where are	
	you flying?	
	Where are going? Where could you	
	be?	
	Fred and Nora never stopped trying	
	To solve the butterfly mystery.	

Fred and Norah stand among a forest absolutely packed with monarch butterflies on every surface. Fred inspects a tree trunk covered monarch butterflies. We see a map of North America, with a path from Toronto down to the Sierra Madre mountains of Michoacan Mexico. Fred and Norah happily hug each other as millions of butterflies flutter around them.

After most of their lives, they
finally found them!
Millions of monarchs on the side of
a mountain!
Way down in Mexico! Really far
south!
Hooray, they finally figured it
out!

3. EXT PARK -- DAY

Señor Tapir finishes singing the song in front of the kids. All the butterflies on the kids' faces start to fly away in the same direction and join the butterflies in the sky.

SEÑOR TAPIR (CONT'D)
Adios butterfly amigos!

13 ELINOR 13
Have fun in Mexico!