ELINOR WONDERS WHY

120 INTERSTITIAL: SENOR TAPIR

Written by

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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 18, 2019
SECOND DRAFT:

1. EXT PARK -- DAY

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

1 ARI 1
Look at the 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; Fred has a distinct mustache), holding hands as they stand in a field [reuse from Dog Smells], where many 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,

Stylized silhouette of a crowd 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 the same scene, 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.

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 elephants [from Dog Smells] point at two tagged monarch butterflies on a milkweed plant. A dog [from Dog Smells] points at a tagged monarch butterfly that lands on its finger. * * * *

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 Nora drive around in a car along the map. * *

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 a stylized cloud 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.

12 SEÑOR TAPIR (CONT'D) 12

Adios butterfly amigos!

13 ELINOR 13

Have fun in Mexico!