

## **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 10, 2019  
SECOND DRAFT: August 9, 2019

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. \*

Butterflies fly past Senor Tapir as a butterfly sits on his  
nose.

Elinor giggles a butterfly lands on the tips of her ears,  
while other butterflies flutter around.

SEÑOR TAPIR

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

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

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 up north in Canada, \*  
where bright summer skies,  
(MORE)

## SEÑOR TAPIR (CONT'D)

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 every year, before it would  
freeze,  
The butterflies all flew away in  
the breeze!  
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 Norah 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 where they went  
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

They spotted a few, but not many  
more,  
So they looked even farther away  
than before.

\*  
\*  
\*  
\*

We see the same map of North America, and this time we see the path from Toronto, Canada down to the Monterey Peninsula, California (and perhaps we see a question mark appear here on the map), and then a path all the way down to southern Texas (and perhaps we see a question mark here on the map). They drive around Texas in a vehicle (from the early 1970s), looking at Texas trees/parks, without any butterflies. DESIGN

NOTE: Fred and Norah are now much older (30 years older than when they started looking for the butterflies).

11 SEÑOR TAPIR (CONT'D) 11

Fluttering butterflies, where are you flying?

Where are going? Where could you be?

Fred and Norah 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 in monarch butterflies. We see the same map of North America, with a path from Toronto to California to Texas and now down to the Sierra Madre mountains of Michoacan Mexico.

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

Fred and Norah happily hug each other as millions of butterflies flutter around them.

### 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!

END.