

READ★PRAY★WONDER★PLAY

A GUIDE TO SHARING STORIES WITH CHILDREN

Binkle's Time to Fly

By Sharmila Collins & Carolina Rabei

Perhaps you picked up this book because of its beautifully illustrated cover or because you and your child love butterflies; or perhaps you sought out this book because your child or someone you love has a life-challenging medical or emotional condition. Whatever drew you to this book, this tender story of vulnerability and disappointment transforming into joy provides a beautiful basis for conversation. Before sharing this book with children, read "A Note from the Author" at the back to learn more about how this book was conceived. Recall family members or friends who suffer visible or invisible conditions that make life more challenging and read this book through that lens. If you or your child deal with such a condition, allow this book to be a tool to help name both the sorrow and hope that can be a part of living with the uncertainty of chronic conditions.



★ ★ WONDER TOGETHER ★ ★

- What words would you use to describe the mood set by the illustrations?
- Recall a time when a part of your body didn't work the way it was supposed to (this could be an everyday reality, or an isolated incident like a broken bone or laryngitis). How did you adapt?
- Contrast the way Binkle was treated by the crows with how he was treated by the butterflies, bluebird, spiders, bees, and silkworms. What were the differences? What surprised you?
- This story is about disappointment, sadness, friendship, hope, community, helping others, teamwork, achievement, and more. What theme do you relate to the most? Why?

★ ★ EXPLORE THE STORY ★ ★

- Mr. Rogers famously said, "Look for the helpers." Binkle had many helpers, starting with the butterflies who made the plan, the friendly bird who carried Binkle, silkworms and spiders who wove and spun the wings, and bees who made the wings beautiful. Together, reflect on ways different family members have been both a helper and one who was helped.
- On pg. 26, Binkle says, "I am different from all other butterflies, and I always will be, but I don't care—all I want to do is fly." Discuss what you think it must have felt like for Binkle to fly, and to know that he would always be different.
- *With Older Children:* research the science behind butterfly wings and how they enable flight.

PRAY

God who makes all things possible, you created each person in your image, and each living thing with care. Your loving hands made us intricate and unique. We're grateful for who we are and how we are, and we give thanks for friends and helpers who walk alongside us. Amen.



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★ ★ DIG DEEPER ★ ★

This book strikes a balance between acknowledging disappointment surrounding the discovery of a life-altering condition ("Binkle's heart was full of sorrow and disappointed dreams. . . . What could he do?") and finding joy in a different path to happiness ("I am different from all other butterflies, and I always will be," said Binkle "but I don't care—all I want to do is fly."). Whether or not you have first-hand experience living with such a condition, you're invited to journey with Binkle through his sorrow, disappointment, and even cruelty as he seeks to live out his dream of flying. Eventually his dream is brought to reality with the help of others eager to use their gifts and talents to bring his dream to life. Some ideas to engage with and explore themes of this story include:

- Create your own unique Binkle craft! Using craft wire (or repurposing items such as wire hangers), create a frame to be the basis for your wings, then search for items around your house (including ribbons, yarn, fabric scraps, tissue paper, and so forth) that can be attached to the frame to make wings for your one-of-a-kind butterfly.
- While the book did not use this language, essentially, the other animals created prosthetic wings for Binkle. Research how prosthetics can be used in place of limbs for people (and animals!) who have suffered injury or were born with congenital conditions.
- The author dedicated this book to her daughter Sohana, who lives with a rare disease: recessive dystrophic epidermolysis bullosa (EB). She shares more about this incurable skin condition in the "Note from the Author" at the end of the book. Consider ways that you can learn more about EB or other rare diseases.

MORE TO READ & DO

CLICK THE LINKS BELOW TO LEARN MORE

ADDITIONAL DOWNLOADABLE RESOURCE FOR *BINKLE'S TIME TO FLY*

- Download the [Activity Sheet](#)
- Download the [Coloring Sheet](#)

ADDITIONAL BOOKS ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE OF FRIENDSHIP

- [Bruno's Hat](#), by Canizales
- [Who Is My Neighbor?](#), by Amy-Jill Levine, Sandy Eisenberg Sasso, and Denise Turu
- [What in the World Is Wrong with Gisbert?](#), by Fariba Gholizadeh and Jochen Weeber
- [I Love You, Blue](#), by Barroux
- [Apple and Magnolia](#), by Laura Gehl and Patricia Metola
- [Arthur and the Forgetful Elephant](#), by Maria Girón

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