

LESSON ONE

LEVEL: Lower Primary

VALUE: Love

RELATED VALUE: Patience

OBJECTIVE: To understand how, having patience can make life more pleasant.

QUOTATION:

Patience is a virtue

Proverbs

DISCUSSION:

Ensure children know the meaning of the word virtue.

SILENT SITTING:

Teacher: Ask the children to sit straight with eyes closed and pretend to be sitting at the bottom of a tree and guide them as follows:-

There is nothing to disturb you and you are feeling very content.

You can hear the rustle of the leaves and the birds singing.

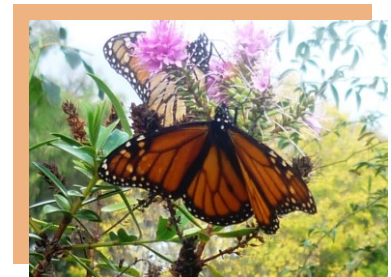
You can feel the breeze gently brushing past you.

After you have been there for a few minutes it starts to rain and the feeling of the cool rain dripping off the leaves makes you decide to get down from the tree and take shelter beneath the branches.

Now open your eyes and smile at the person next to you.

STORY:

BILLY BUTTERFLY LEARNS PATIENCE



Betty butterfly had laid her eggs and was taking a rest when she heard a peculiar noise. The content of one of her eggs was making a whooshing sound rather like the water being let out of a bath or wash basin.

The content of the egg which Betty had named Billy, was trying to hurry the process to the time when he could break free and become free from inside his shell.

His mother told him not to try and force the change, which would come in its own time. "She also told him to have patience because it would make his life much more pleasant. Billy didn't listen to his mother; he was just too anxious to become a caterpillar. Eventually, while all his brother and sister eggs were patiently waiting the natural timing for them to become transformed into caterpillars, Billy broke free of his egg and emerged as a very undersized tiny caterpillar.

Billy feeling pretty pleased with himself but very hungry went in search of food. On the way he met some other newly hatched caterpillars, but they were so much bigger than he was. Now feeling discontented again he decided that he would like to be big like the ones he had just met, so he ate and ate until he was very sick and no bigger than before.



Billy wailed to his mother ‘why did you make me so small’ His mother reminded him that she had told him to be patient and not to be in such a hurry to hatch and that he had only himself to blame. Billy felt very depressed and went to talk to his friend the wise old owl.

‘Your mother is your first teacher and you should have listened to her. Now you will become a very small chrysalis and then a very tiny butterfly. These words of wisdom spoken by the wise owl made Billy even more depressed.

However, the owl did have some positive words of wisdom to say to the tiny caterpillar. He asked Billy if he believed in prayer and if so he could pray for a miracle. Billy thought it was worth a try. He prayed starting with saying how sorry he was for not listening to his mother and then asked for a miracle that would make his life a happy one.

For some time nothing happened, but then Billy remembered the quotation ‘Patience is a virtue’ his mother had taught him and he thought that maybe he was being made to wait in order to make sure that he had truly stopped being impatient. Then it happened, he saw a group of very tiny caterpillars like himself.

“You are very small like me” Billy said to them. “Yes we belong to a very special kind of caterpillar; after our process of being a chrysalis we turn into miniature very beautiful butterflies. Would you like to join us?” said the tiny caterpillars. ‘Oh yes please ’said Billy.

After Billy emerged from his chrysalis he became a beautiful miniature butterfly with many friends who were also beautiful miniature butterflies.

Billy remembered to say thank you for the miracle he believed was an answer to his prayer. His mother was also very happy to know her little son had learned his lesson and was now happy

THE END

QUESTIONS:

1. How did Billy feel when he was inside the egg?
2. Can you remember a time when you spoilt something like a painting or your writing, or something else because you were impatient?
3. Do you think that there really are miniature butterflies?
4. Can you remember the saying that Billy’s mother taught him?
5. Do you think being patient can help you in life?
6. If you think being patient can help you in life’ give an example when it has helped you.

7. Who is the first teacher for children?
8. Would it have been better for Billy if he had listened to his mother?
(The teacher can give examples, maybe in her own life, to help the children think of their own experiences of being impatient.)

ACTIVITIES:

1. MUSIC AND MOVEMENT.

1. To appropriate music the children curl up into a ball and pretend to be a caterpillar egg.
2. Now break out of the shell and crawl along the floor like a caterpillar.
3. Next you curl up and become a chrysalis. Lie still for a few moments.
4. Suddenly you from the chrysalis you become a butterfly and fly around the room. Remember to be patient and not bump into other children as you are flying around.
5. After so much flying you are now tired and have to stop and rest.

2. ART.

The teacher to give out photocopies of the outline of a butterfly and tell the children that if they are very patient they can colour the butterfly with beautiful colours tell them not to be in a hurry to finish, but to take time and see how much more beautiful their work will be,

3. SONG.

To the tune of 'Frere Jacques', sometimes called 'Are You Sleeping'?

Are you patient? Are you patient?

Yes I am, Yes I am.

Do it very slowly, do it very well.

Yes I will, yes I will

(Can be sung as a round)

CLOSURE: Remind children to be patient when putting away their art utensils and when they are leaving the room.

INFORMATION: (extra information if appropriate)

The male Monarch Butterfly may be easily distinguished from the female by noting the two highly visible black spots on the insect's hind wings and the thinner black webbing within the wings. The female's webbing is thicker and she has no identifying wing spot like male.



MALE

Suggested additional story book:

"THE VERY HUNGRY CATERPILLAR" By Eric Carle

Source: Jacqui Robinson 2014: Junior Lesson