

written by *Sheila Boone* illustrated by *Susi Grell Knox*

StoryColoring Book



Free  
as a  
Butterfly

The Monarch butterfly children of Mindy and Mark Monarch find their heroes...children who are planting milkweed and flowers for nectar in their school's butterfly garden. Young children can enjoy and understand Sheila Boone's rendition of the life cycle and migration of the Monarch butterfly in this story coloring book, enhanced with illustrations by Susi Grell Knox that include a fun foldout of the Welcome Home Monarch Festival.

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#### About the author:

**Sheila Boone**, 5th Great Granddaughter and direct descendant of Daniel Boone, is carrying on the pioneer Boone spirit by devoting her life to the cause of saving the American Western Monarch. Sheila's dream is to bring young children an awareness of the healing spirit that the Monarch symbolizes, through her FREE AS A BUTTERFLY campaign, which began with a beautiful song and now offers a story coloring book.

#### About the illustrator:

**Susi Grell Knox** is a native of Montreal, and earned her degree in illustration from the Ontario College of Art in Toronto. Susi captures Sheila Boone's story of the Monarch with a special eye for young children. Susi shares the wonder of America's Monarch with her husband James.

**FREE**

AS A

BUTTERFLY

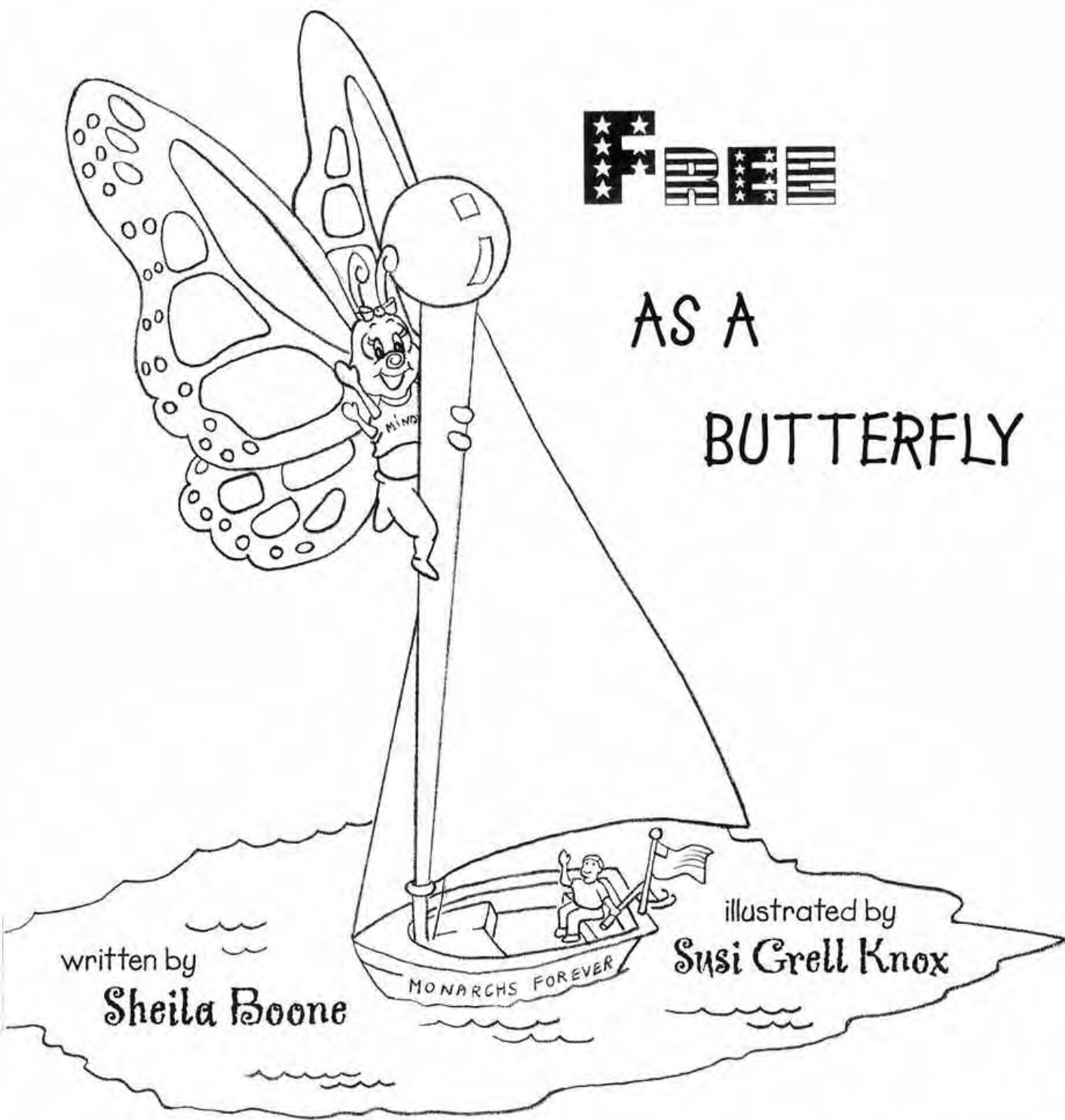
written by

**Sheila Boone**

illustrated by

**Susi Grell Knox**

MONARCHS FOREVER



Thank you to Chris Putland for his part in the character designs of *Free As a Butterfly*.

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SUMMARY: School children come to the assistance of Mindy and Mark Monarch's butterfly children by creating a butterfly garden to assist in the annual Monarch migration.

Audience: Ages 2-7

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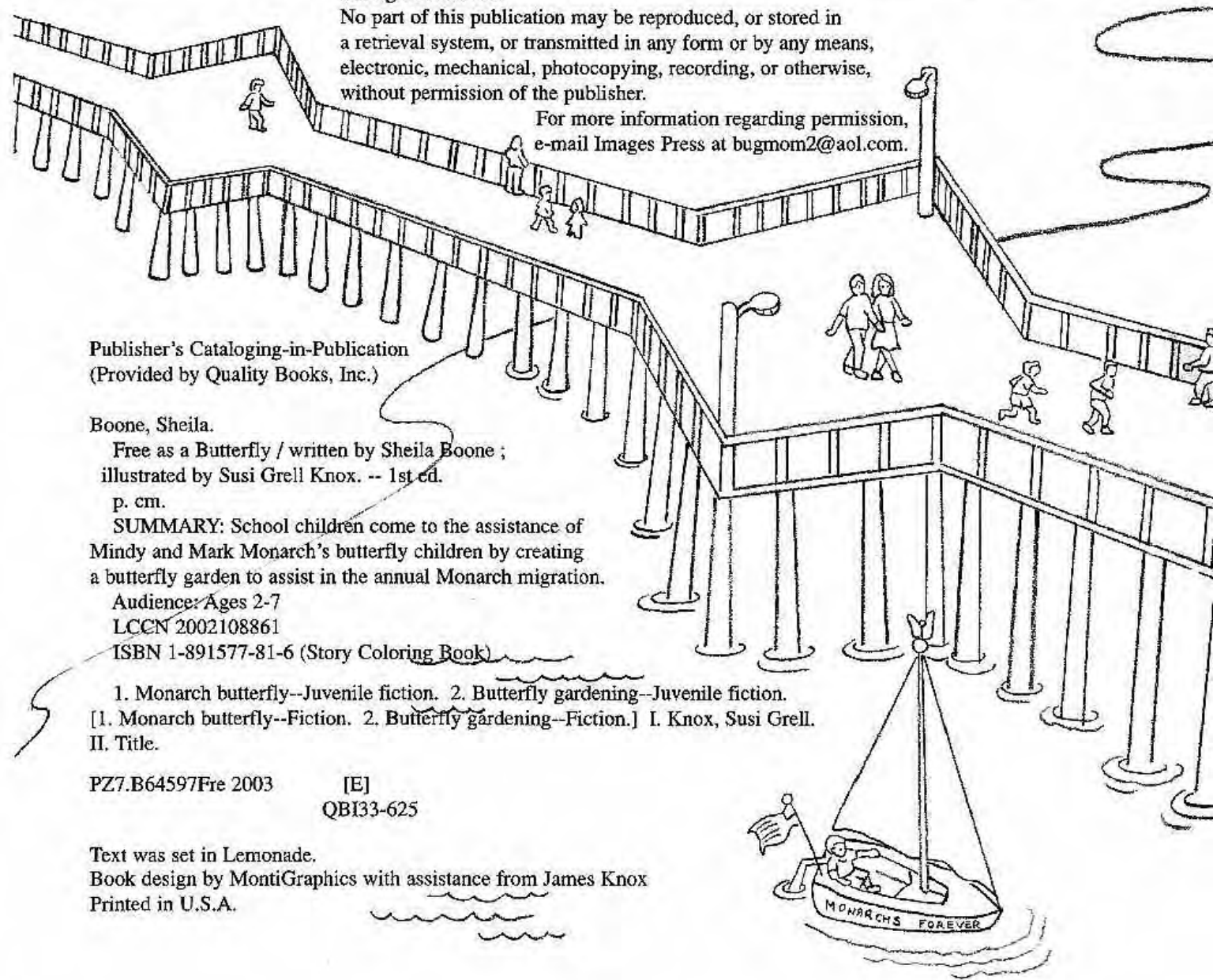
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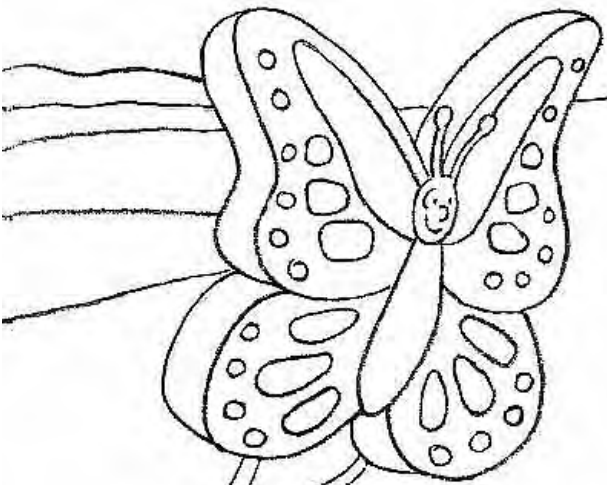
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Text was set in Lemonade.

Book design by MontiGraphics with assistance from James Knox

Printed in U.S.A.





A very small and fragile network of major endangered habitats on California's central coast needs help...in order to save the American Western Monarch's regular overwintering migration.

Welcome Home Monarchs

To America's favorite butterfly, the Monarch... as important as our redwood forests... our environmental heritage.

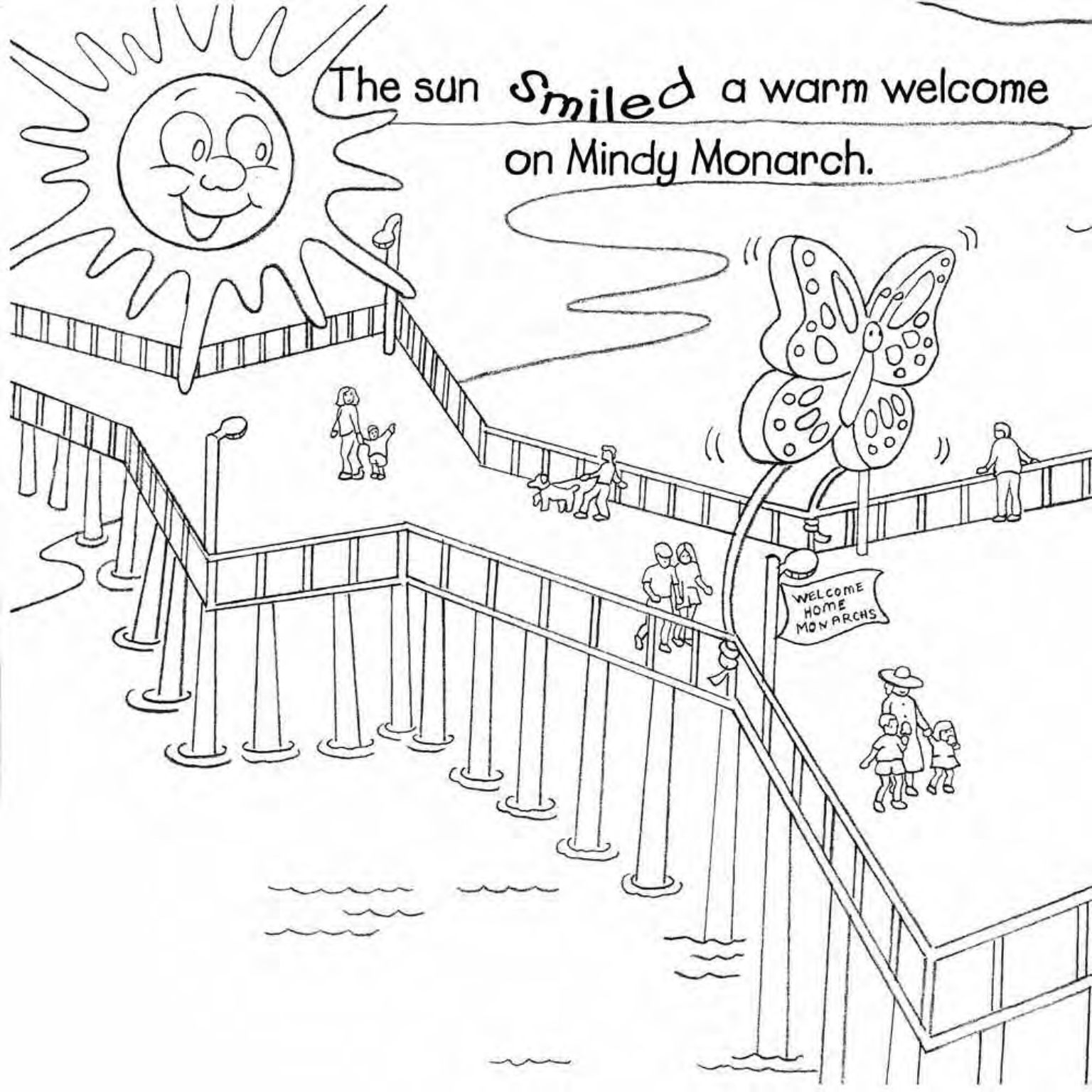
-S.B.

The Western Monarch is a national treasure with only an estimated two million remaining. **Everyone needs to know.**

To my husband, James, who shares the wonder of America's Monarch with me.

-Love, Susi

The sun *Smiled* a warm welcome  
on Mindy Monarch.



Mindy was flying home



for a long **WINTER** vacation.

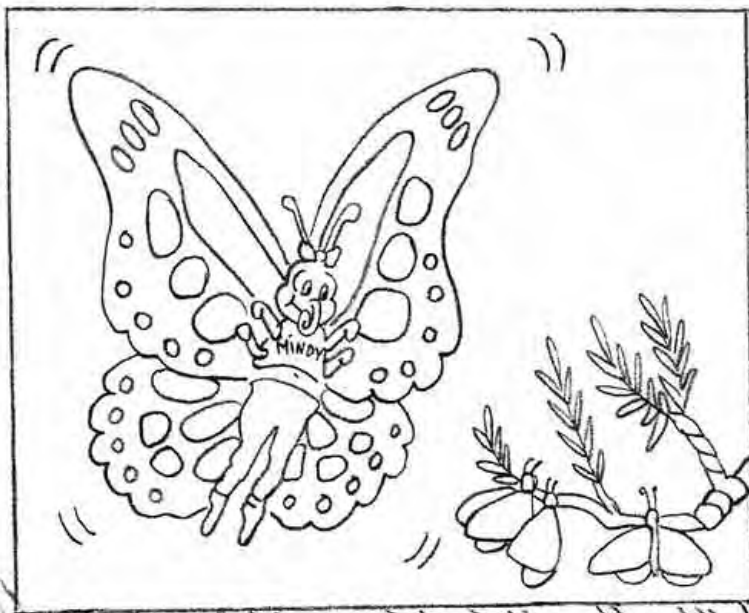




Mindy found her cousins on a pine tree  
at the Monarch Grove Sanctuary,  
clustering to keep warm.

She snuggled in with them...





except when she was  
flitting around  
looking for a mate.

In the meantime...

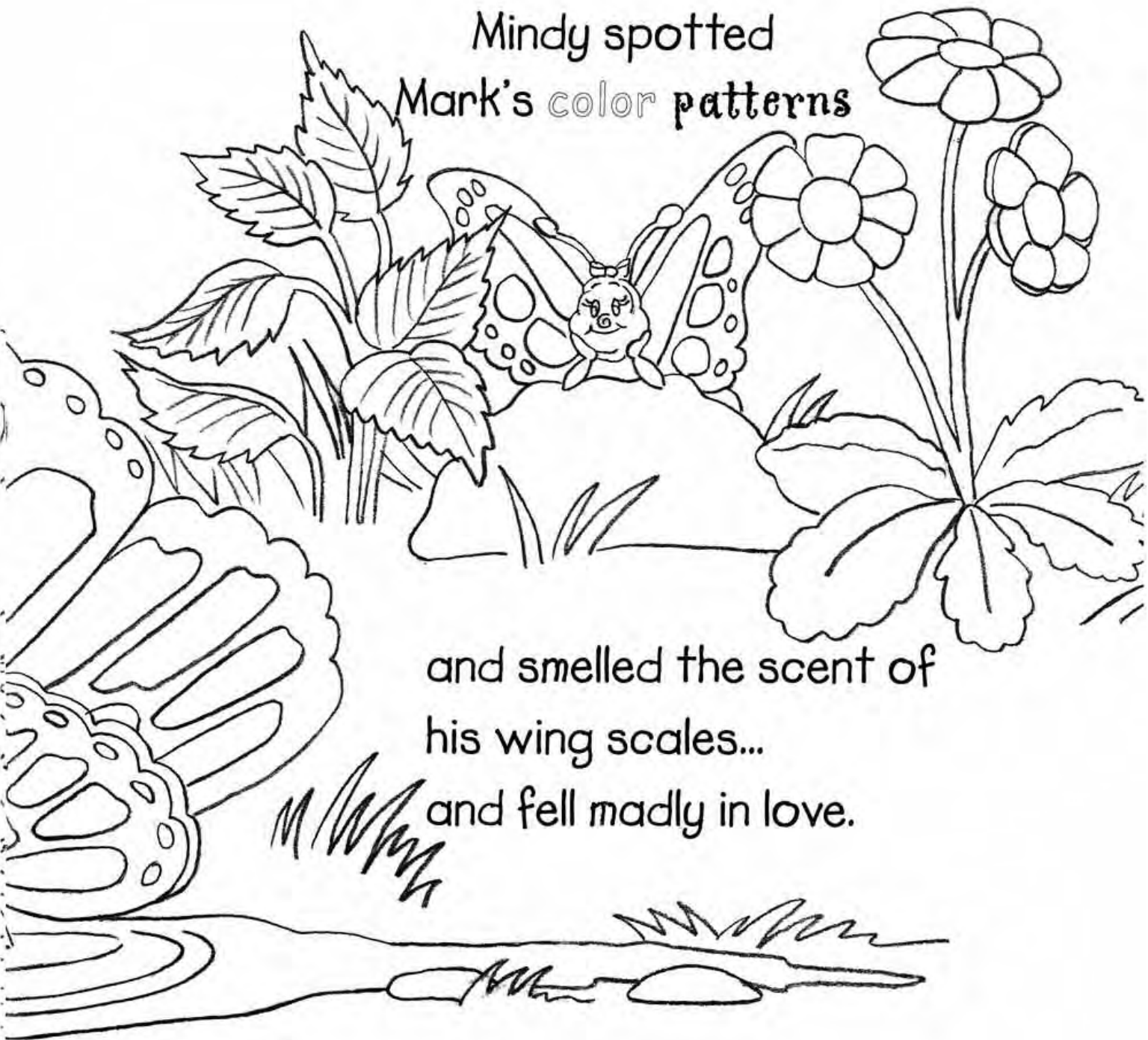
Mark Monarch

was puddling

in the mud of the stream.



Mindy spotted  
Mark's color patterns




and smelled the scent of  
his wing scales...  
and fell madly in love.

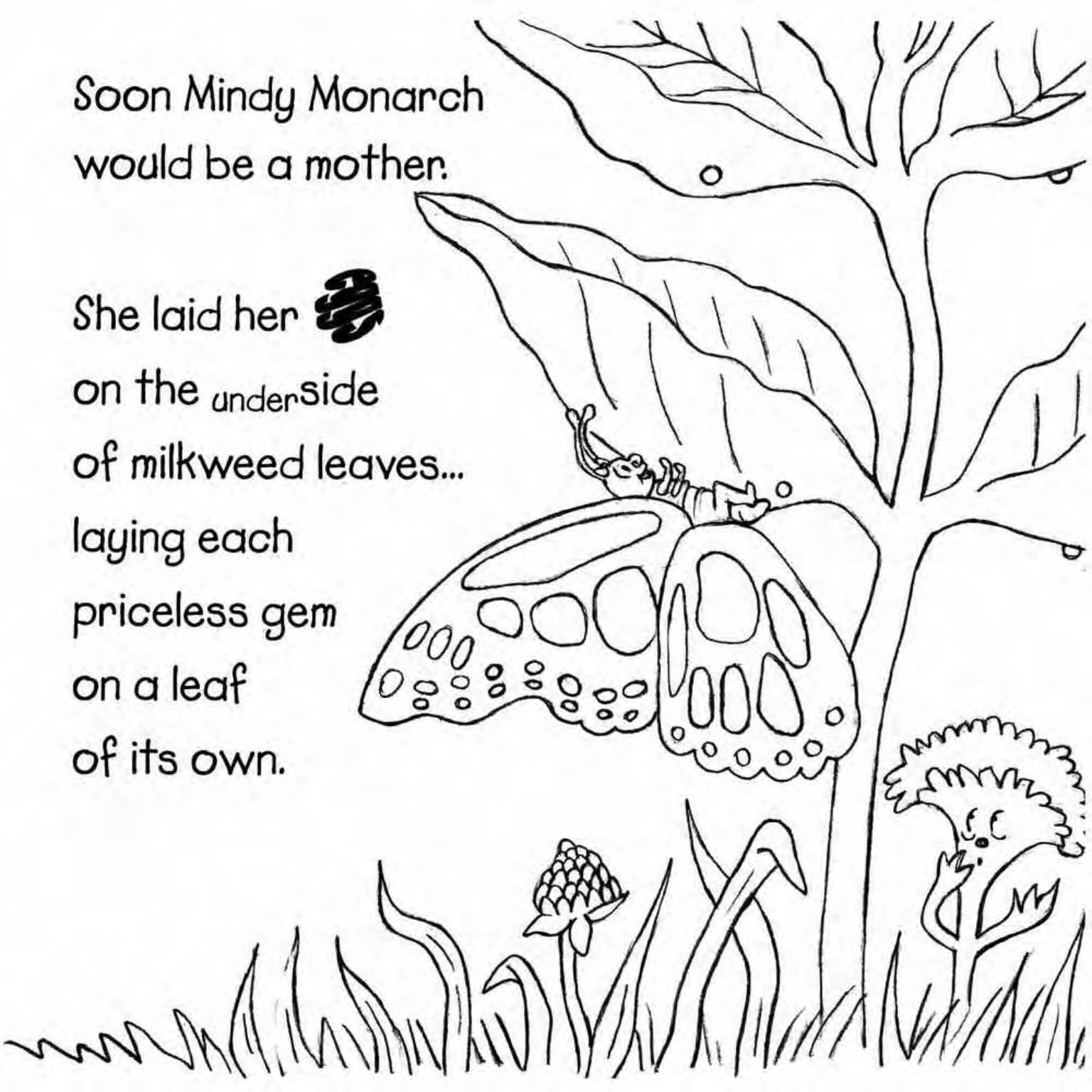
I love you.  
Will you marry me?



To Mindy's delight, Mark became HER mate.

Soon Mindy Monarch  
would be a mother.

She laid her   
on the underside  
of milkweed leaves...  
laying each  
priceless gem  
on a leaf  
of its own.





As soon as Mindy's caterpillar babies were born, they began eating. They ate and ~~munched~~ and ~~munched~~ and ate all the milkweed leaves...



growing and growing and growing...

until they were so full,  
they crawled out  
on a limb

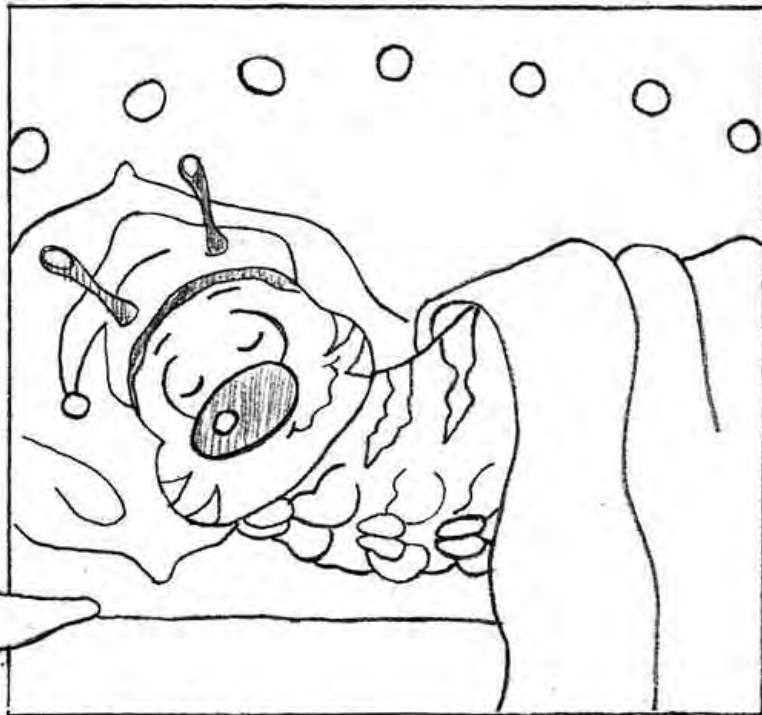
to  
take  
a  
nap.





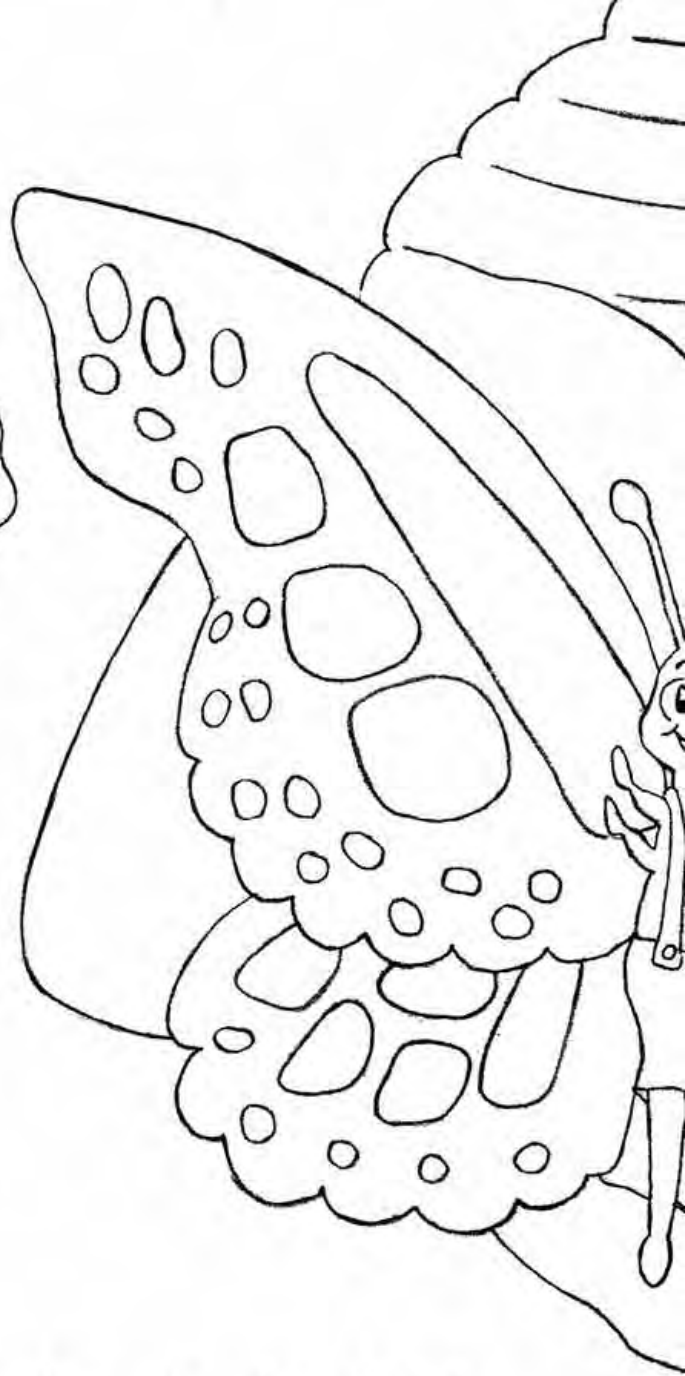
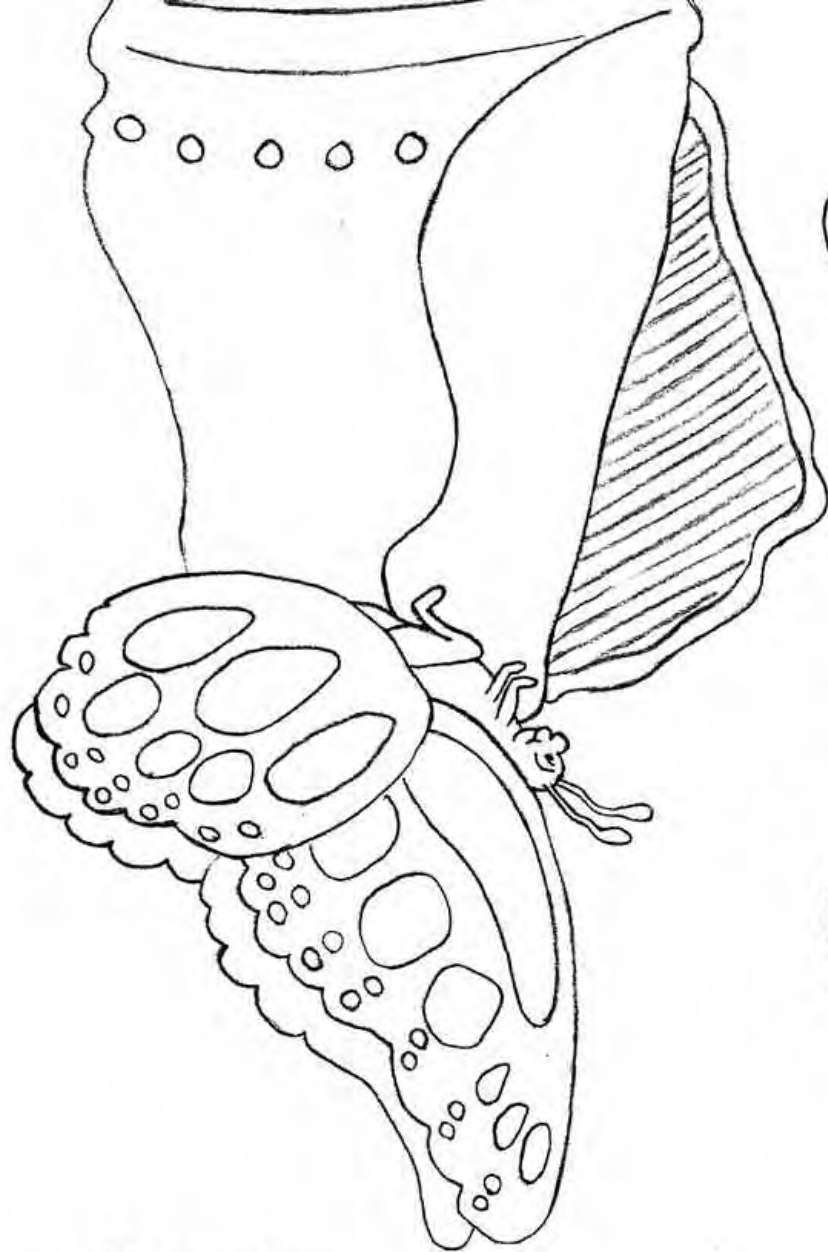
Inside the chrysalis  
the green-and-yellow jeweled bag  
they called home,  
they slept...and dreamed

z z z z  
z z z z



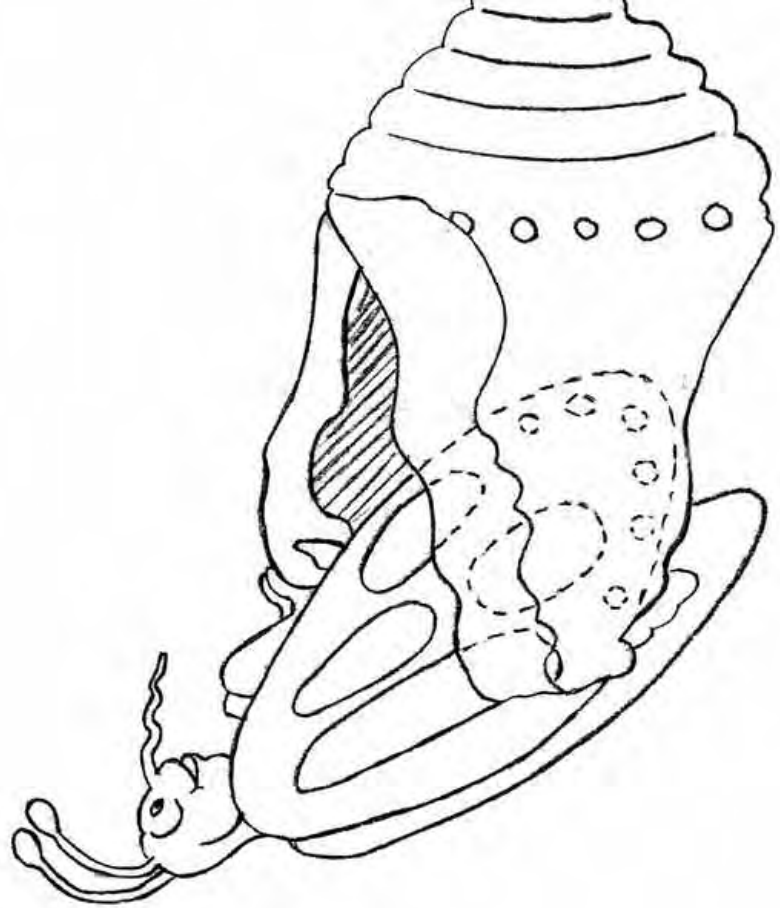
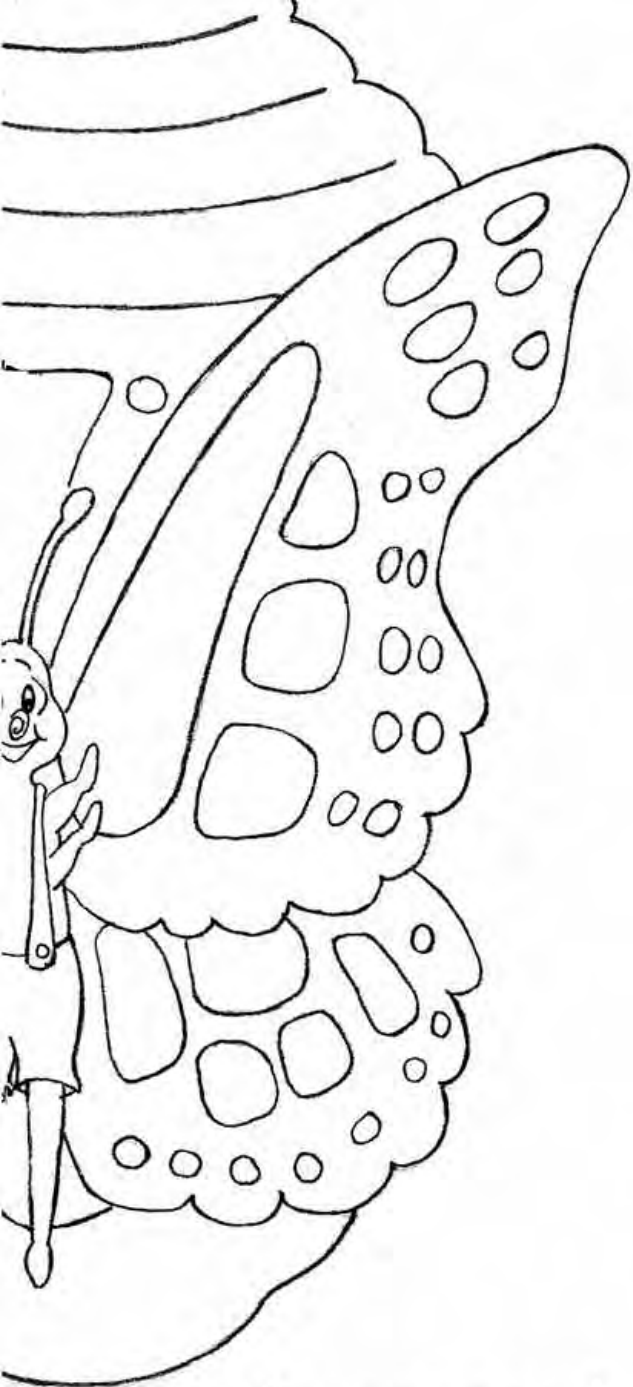
about becoming BEAUTIFUL.





One day,

Mindy's babies woke <sup>up</sup> and peeked outside...



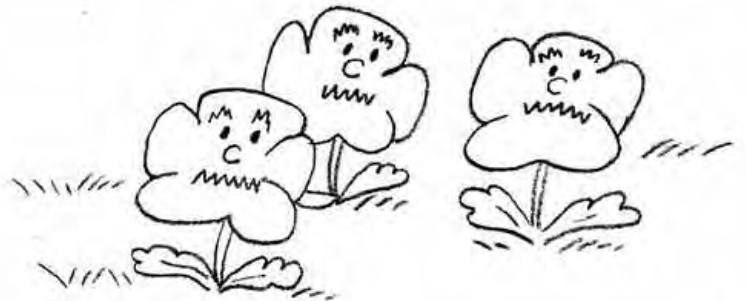
and...they popped right out of their green houses.

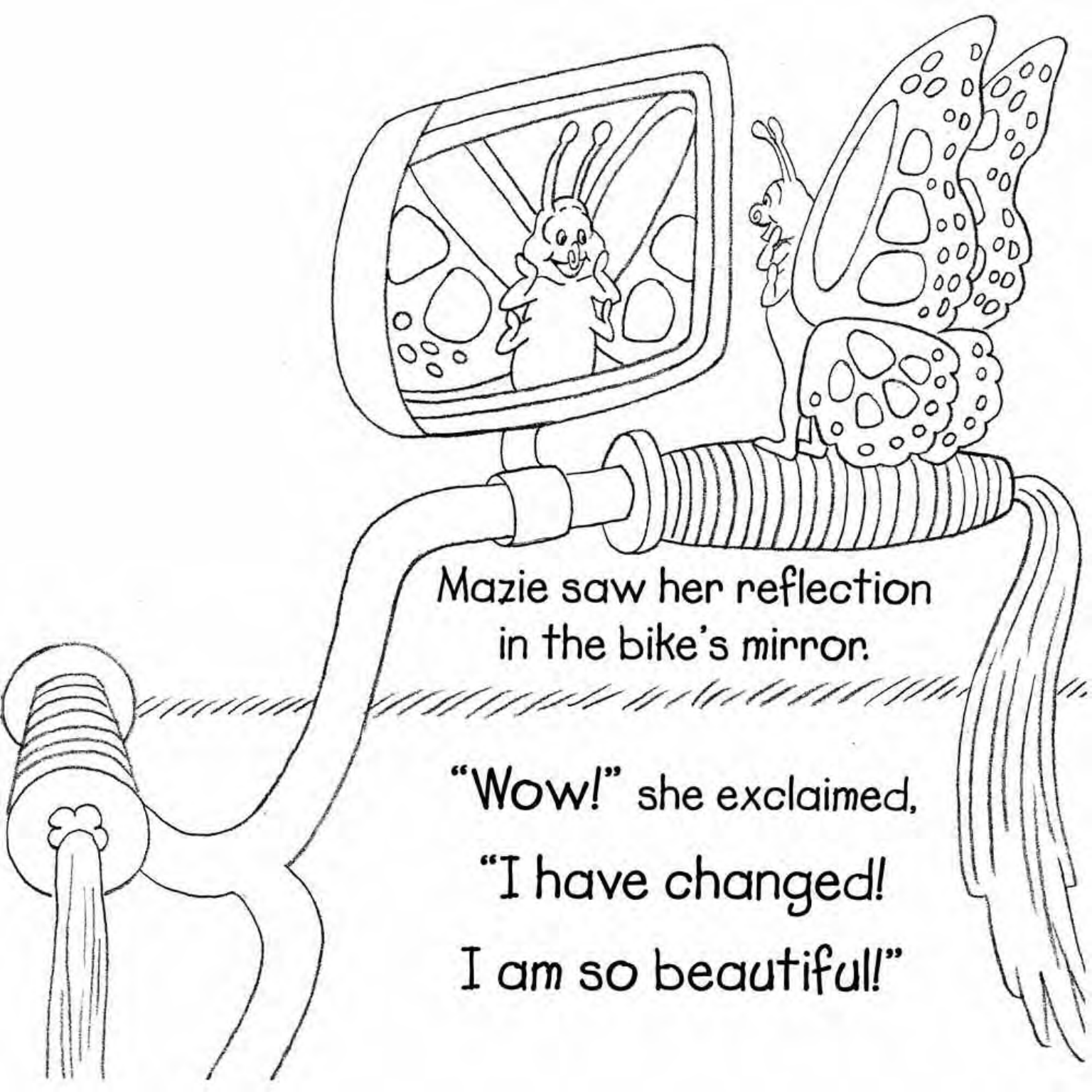
“Wow!”

exclaimed Marco,

“I have changed!

I am so handsome!”





Mazie saw her reflection  
in the bike's mirror.

“Wow!” she exclaimed,  
“I have changed!  
I am so beautiful!”

"I am so thirsty," piped in Marco,



and he sipped nectar from  
Black-eyed Susan.



A black and white line drawing of a woman with a crown and a butterfly on a flower. The woman is shown in profile, looking down at a butterfly. She has a crown with a diamond pattern and a large flower on her head. The butterfly is perched on a leaf of a flower. The scene is set in a garden with various leaves and stems.

"Oh, thank you,  
FLOWER."

he slurped.

"I love you."

Black-eyed Susan  
laughed and said,  
"Thank you for  
your pollination."

Soon it was March.  
It was time to leave...



...the overwintering  
habitat  
and fly North.  
As the Monarchs  
fluttered over  
the butterfly balloon  
floating...

above the  
Pismo Beach pier,



they imagined  
their great great  
great great great  
butterfly children  
returning in the fall  
for the next  
Welcome Home  
Monarch







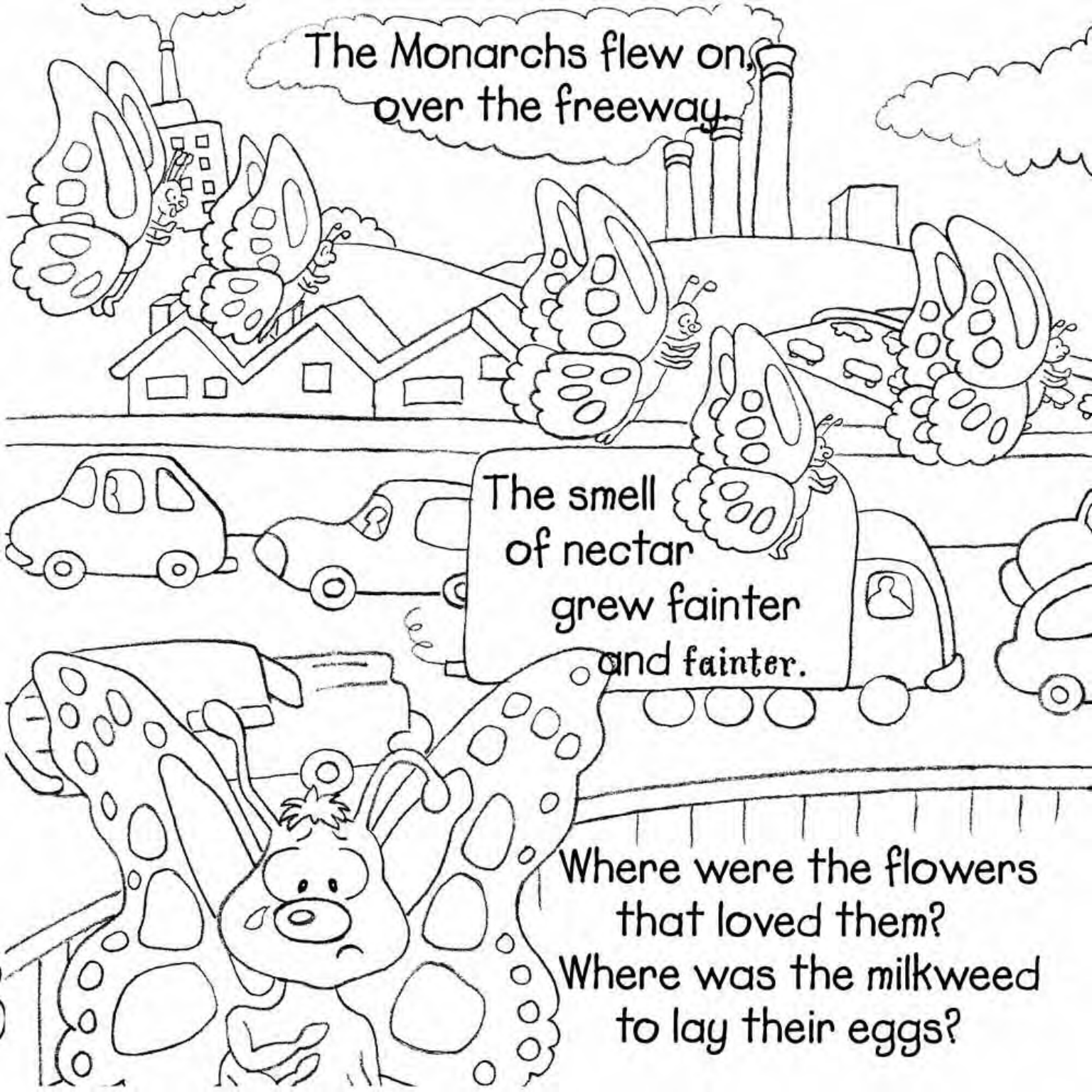
FREE AS A BUTTERFLY...

Welcome Home

Monarchs








The Monarchs flew on,  
over the freeway.

The smell  
of nectar  
grew fainter  
and fainter.

Where were the flowers  
that loved them?  
Where was the milkweed  
to lay their eggs?



What if there were no more Monarch babies

to carry on the migration?

Their wings had almost stopped beating...  
when suddenly...the smell of nectar  
drifted by in the breeze.  
They followed the scent...



and flew into a school yard where children were cultivating and planting and watering and taking care of a butterfly garden.

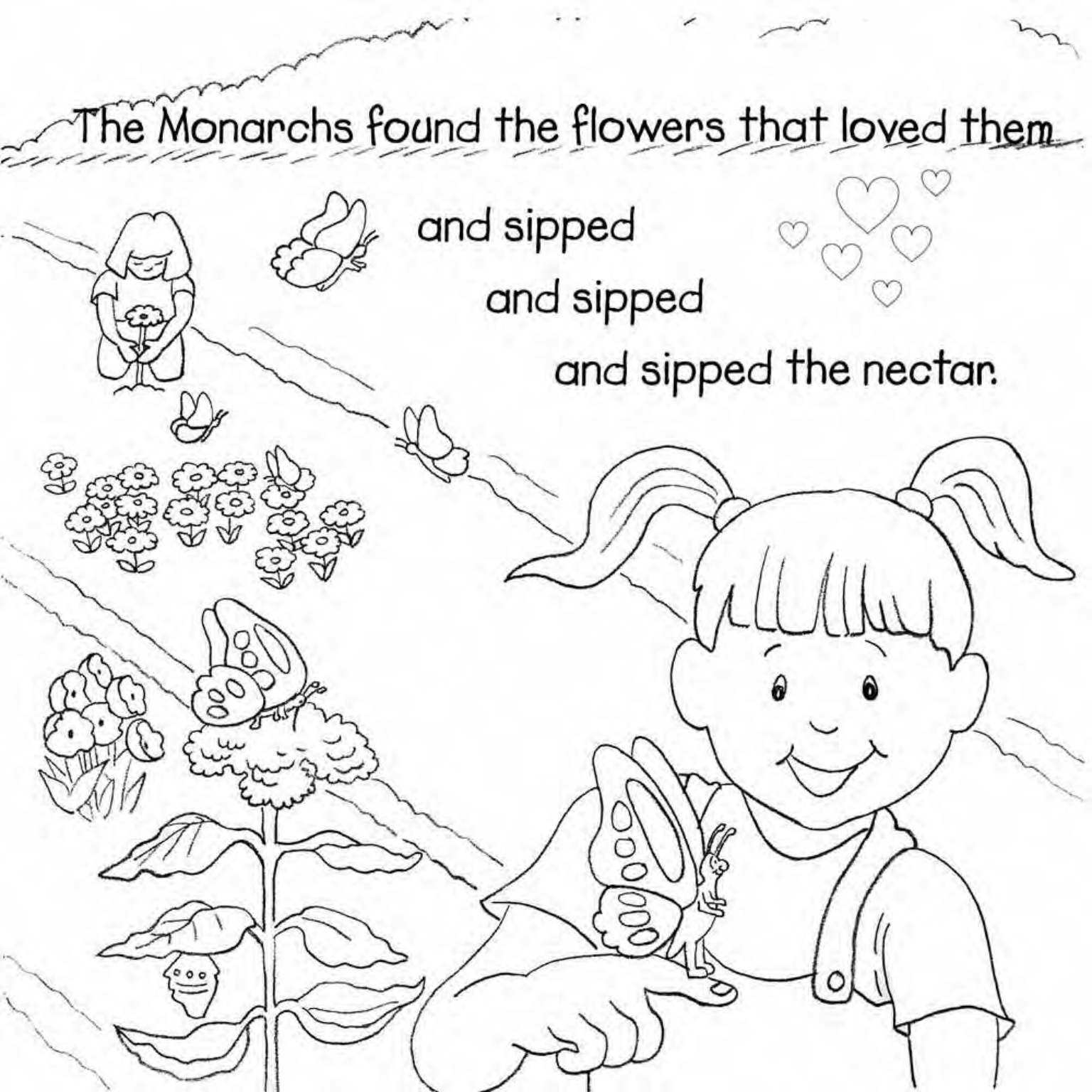
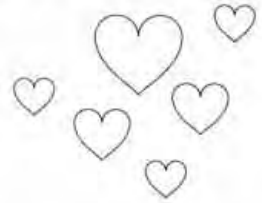


The Monarchs found the flowers that loved them

and sipped

and sipped

and sipped the nectar.



News about the butterfly gardens  
traveled fast,

and schoolchildren

everywhere

began planting milkweed

and flowers...



so generations of Monarchs  
found milkweed leaves  
to lay their eggs on...

and...flowers



that loved them...



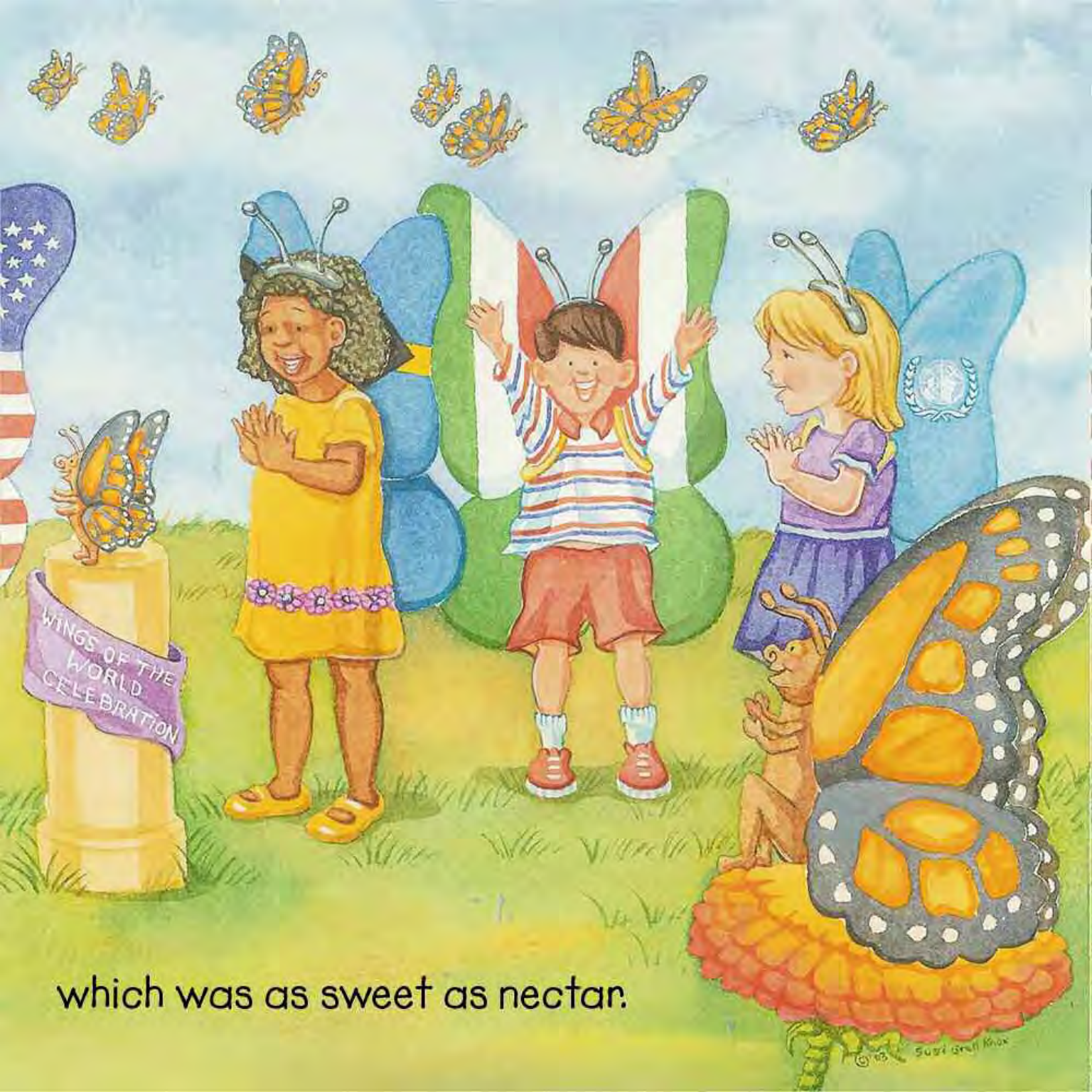


and the  
children's  
hearts  
were  
filled  
with love  
for the Monarchs.



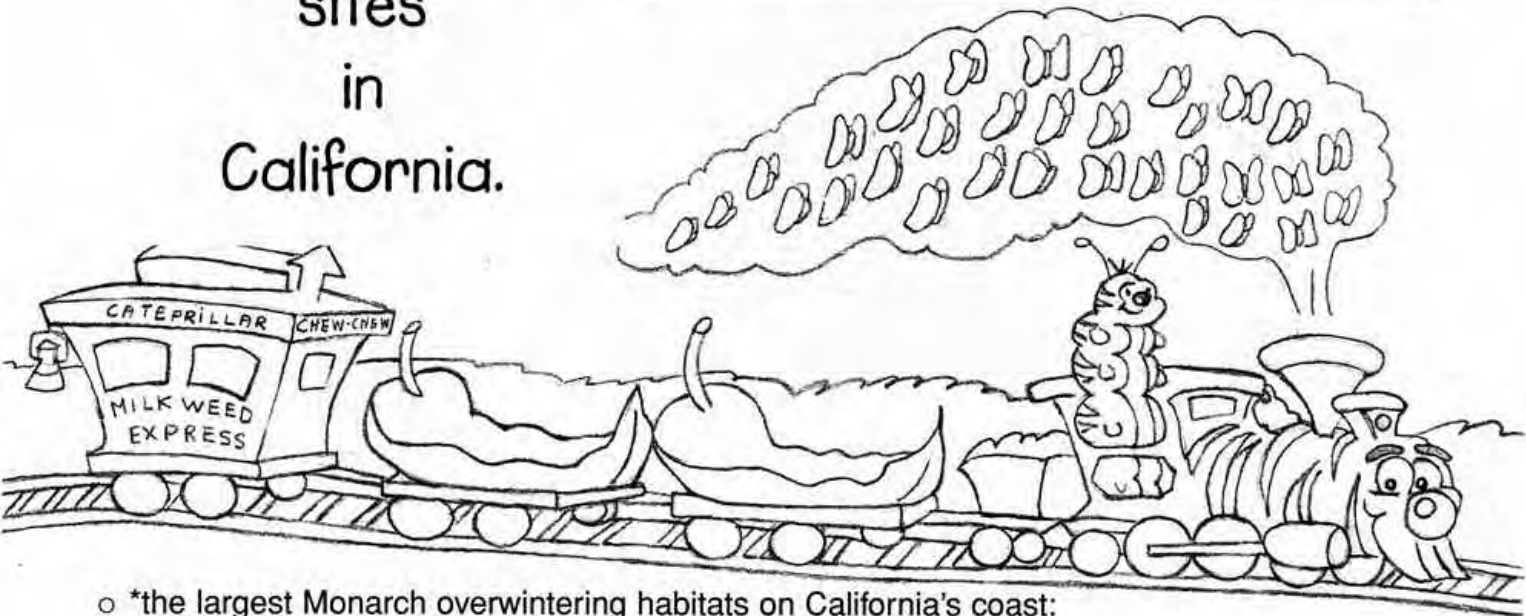
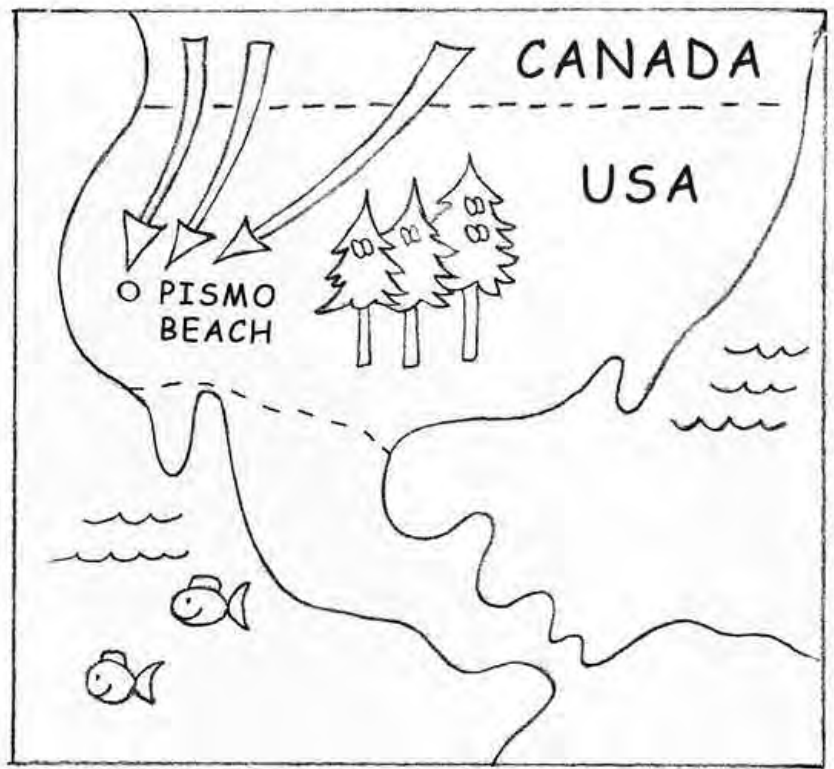


Mindy Monarch's babies had found their heroes...  
and they all celebrated their new friendship...

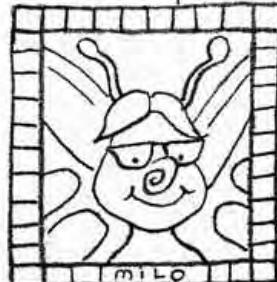
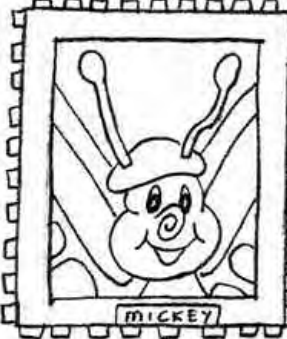
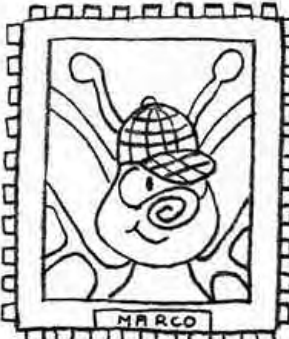


which was as sweet as nectar.

To this day,  
the  
Western  
Monarchs  
fly the  
migration route  
from Canada  
to their  
overwintering  
sites  
in  
California.

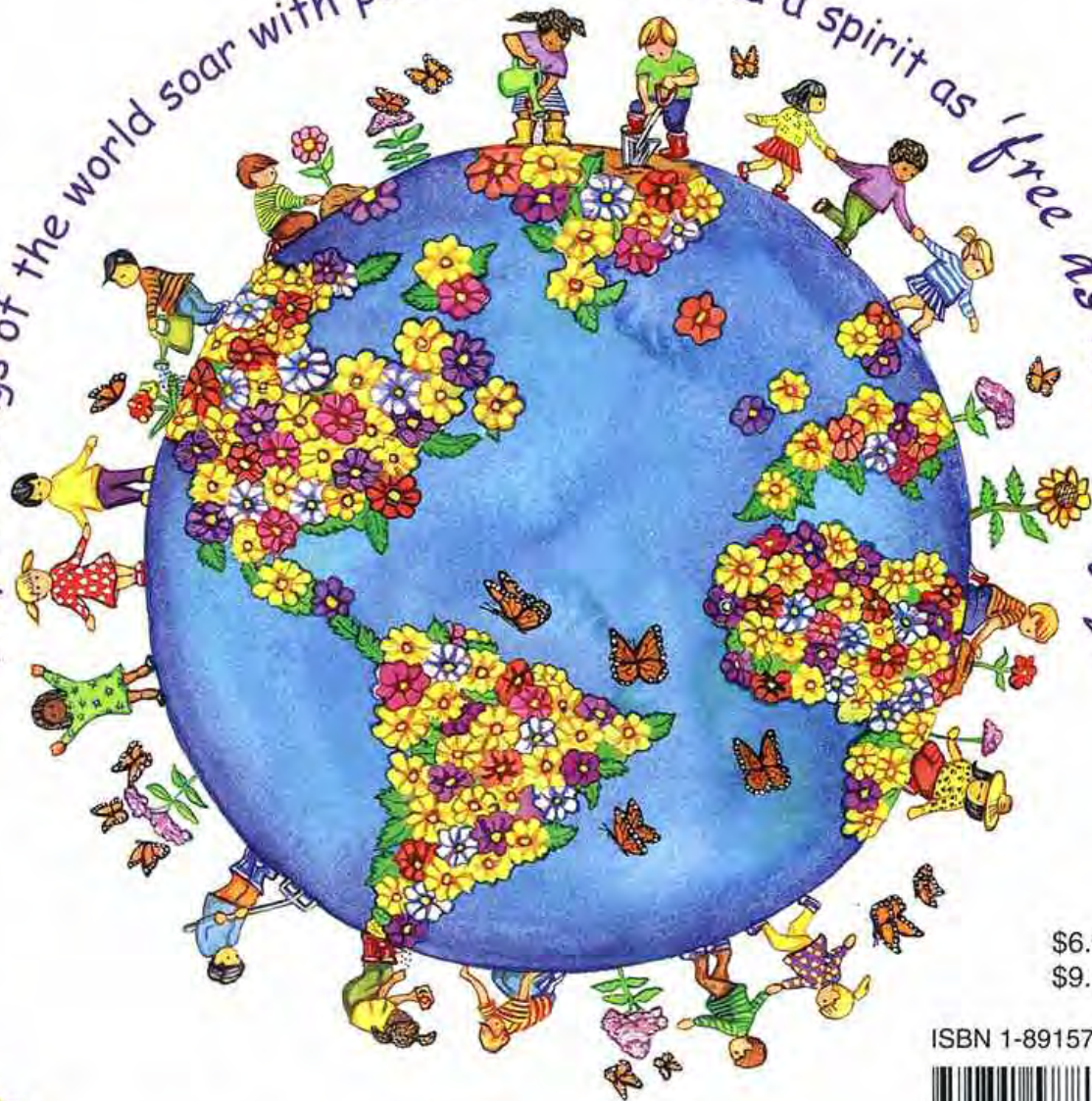


- \*the largest Monarch overwintering habitats on California's coast:  
Pacific Grove, Pismo Beach State Park, and Ellwood.



And by the way, the word "Monarch" means "king."

May the wings of the world soar with peace and hope and a spirit as 'free as a butterfly.'



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