

Stories  Stage

Script

Malinda Martha Meets
Mariposa

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Malinda Martha Meets Mariposa

Characters:

Narrator 1

Narrator 2

Bee narrator

Border text narrators 1-9

Sunflowers

Malinda Martha

Hummingbird

Ladybug

Snail

Grasshopper

Mole

Squirrel

Caterpillar

Mariposa

Miss Claus

Narrator 1: It is September 8th. Summer vacation is over. Malinda Martha is back at school, sitting at her desk in her classroom. Her teacher, Miss Claus, has given the class a writing assignment on "Summer Vacation." Malinda Martha is thinking.

Narrator 2: Malinda Martha smiles. The faces of her sunflowers are brushing against her cheek.

Sunflowers: (*whisper to her*) Thank you for planting us when we were little seeds and watering us until we could peek through the ground and drink showers of sunlight and grow toward the sky.

Narrator 2: Malinda Martha's eyes open wide...a curtain of sunflower faces is falling before her. Her backyard is bursting into a stage!

Narrator 1: All of a sudden Malinda Martha is the producer-director of a summertime show at her backyard

theater. Auditions are starting.

Bee narrator: A hummingbird hovers over the stage.

Malinda Martha: Will you fly back and hum for the star of the show?

Bee narrator: A ladybug flies by.

Malinda Martha: Your talent is feeding on mealy bugs and aphids and spidermites. There is no role for you. Fly away, ladybug.

Bee narrator: A snail crawls onto the stage.

Malinda Martha: There is no role for pests. Crawl away!

Bee narrator: A grasshopper hops onto the stage.

Malinda Martha: Go lay your eggs along the roadside. Hop away, grasshopper.

Bee narrator: A mole runs onto the stage.

Malinda Martha: Your talent is eating bugs and earthworms. You are good at eating larvae...and roots of plants, too. You need a set designed with a tunnel or an underground runway. There is no role for digging. This is not the show for you. Run away, mole.

Bee narrator: A ground squirrel scurries onto the stage.

Malinda Martha: You cannot burrow into the show. Go find a tree to climb, with roots and bark to gnaw, and nuts and fruit to nibble on. There is no role for you. Scurry away, squirrel.

Bee narrator: (*During this line Malinda Martha is posting a sign...Cast List for A STAR IS BORN. MARIPOSA.*)

Malinda Martha Meets Mariposa

A butterfly flutters by and drops a speck on the leaf of a plant...and Mariposa makes her debut as a wee tiny pale-green egg clinging to the fuzzy underside of a tasty milkweed leaf...

Border text narrator 1: ...Waiting to become a Butterfly.

Narrator 2: ACT I, EGG

Bee narrator: (*Caterpillar acts out the line*) A tiny caterpillar hatches from the wee tiny pale-green egg...

Border text narrator 2: ...that was clinging to the fuzzy underside of the tasty milkweed leaf...

Border text narrator 1: ...Waiting to become a Butterfly.

Narrator 2: Act II, LARVA

Bee narrator: (*Caterpillar acts out the line*) A tiny caterpillar eats its transparent shell...

Border text narrator 3: ...as soon as it hatches from the wee tiny pale green egg...

Border text narrator 2: that was clinging to the fuzzy underside of the tasty milkweed leaf...

Border text narrator 1: Waiting to become a Butterfly.

Bee narrator: (*Caterpillar and hummingbird act out the line*) The caterpillar munches on the milkweed leaves to the hum of the hummingbird...

Border text narrator 4: ...after eating its transparent shell...

Border text narrator 3: as soon as it hatched from the wee tiny pale-green egg...

Border text narrator 2: ...that was clinging to the fuzzy underside of the tasty milkweed leaf...

Border text narrator 1: Waiting to become a Butterfly.

Bee narrator: (*Caterpillar acts out the line*) The caterpillar munches its way across the leafy stage...performing the leading role in ACT III, an eating machine.

Bee narrator: (*Hummingbird, ladybug, snail, grasshopper, mole, and squirrel run in and sit*) The caterpillar munches...and grows...and sheds...and stretches...over and over again until it molts five times. (*The cast runs in from backstage...just as the caterpillar is wriggling out of its old tight skin.*)

Malinda Martha: (*Clapping while caterpillar acts out the line*) Good timing! The speck has grown as big as my thumb...(optional: munching on the milkweed leaves after eating its transparent shell as soon as it hatched from the wee tiny pale-green egg that was clinging to the fuzzy underside of the tasty milkweed leaf)...Waiting to become a Butterfly.

Bee Narrator: (*Caterpillar acts out the line*) The caterpillar bows low, hanging upside down from the stem of the milkweed leaf...

Border text narrator 6: ...having grown to full size stretching and wriggling out of its old tight skin...

Border text narrator 5: munching on milkweed leaves...

Border text narrator 4: ...after eating its transparent shell...

Malinda Martha Meets Mariposa

Border text narrator 3: ...as soon as it hatched from the wee tiny egg...

Border text narrator 2: ...that was clinging to the fuzzy underside of the tasty milkweed leaf...

Border text narrator 1: Waiting to become a Butterfly.

Snail and Hummingbird: (*Caterpillar acts out the line*) Look at the clever caterpillar!

Ladybug: (*a little laugh*) See its larval skin shrivel up from its head to its tail and fall off.

Grasshopper: It doesn't have any new skin this time.

Squirrel: It looks like limey-green chewing gum...

Mole: ...painted with a splurge of gold dots.

Malinda Martha: (*bragging*) It's a magician! Did you see how it slipped out of its skin without falling off the stem? Look at the pupa! The soft cover is drying and hardening. The dots are coming out of nowhere. Look how the shiny green chrysalis is shimmering... (*optional: as it hangs upside down from the stem of a milkweed leaf attached to the silken thread it made with the sticky liquid from its spinneret, growing to full size, stretching and wriggling out of its old tight skin, munching on milkweed leaves after eating its transparent shell, as soon as it hatched from the wee tiny pale-green egg that was clinging to the fuzzy underside of the tasty milkweed leaf*)...Waiting to become a Butterfly.

Bee narrator: The curtain closes at the end of ACT III. The caterpillar

disappears inside its private dressing room, leaving the cast in suspense, having to wait...during a long intermission...

Border text narrator 9: ...while the pupa shimmers from its splurge of gold dots,...

Border text narrator 8: ...changing from the caterpillar hanging upside down from the stem of a milkweed leaf...

Border text narrator 7: ...attached to the silken thread it made with the sticky liquid from its spinneret,...

Border text narrator 6: ...growing to full size, stretching and wriggling, out of its old tight skin,...

Border text narrator 5: ...munching on milkweed leaves...

Border text narrator 4: ...after eating its transparent shell...

Border text narrator 3: as soon as it hatched from the wee tiny pale-green egg...

Border text narrator 2: ...that was clinging to the fuzzy underside of the milkweed leaf...

Border text narrator 1: ...Waiting to become a Butterfly.

Narrator 2: ACT IV, ADULT

Bee narrator: On the twelfth day of camping out and observing, Malinda Martha and the cast notice a change.

Cast: (*Hummingbird, ladybug, snail, grasshopper, mole, and squirrel speak...Mariposa acts out the line*) Look, the chrysalis turned from limey to gray green...and it's becoming

Malinda Martha Meets Mariposa

transparent. See the orange-and-black wings. Look, the pupa's splitting open! See the head! And the legs!

Malinda Martha: (*Mariposa acts out the line*) The butterfly is pulling free from the shell. A STAR IS BORN! Meet Mariposa, the Monarch butterfly!

Bee narrator: (*Malinda Martha and the cast watch and Mariposa acts out the lines*) Malinda Martha and the cast watch the finale. They glue their eyes to Mariposa's wet, crumpled, black-veined wings and see them expand as she prepares to flutter away.

Cast: (*shouts*) Encore!

Bee narrator: (*Mariposa and the cast act out the lines*) Mariposa shows off her wings, trimmed with white-spotted edges as she glides over the milkweed plant. Malinda Martha and the cast applaud and wave goodbye as she floats off the stage to sip the sweet nectar in the flowers and begin the migration south to her overwintering site.

Cast: Safe journey, Mariposa!

Malinda Martha: Safe journey! Fly to your overwintering site so that one day, one of your great-great-grandchildren will fly to California...to Pacific Grove...to the eucalyptus trees in the Monarch Grove Sanctuary.

Bee narrator: Malinda Martha is celebrating this miracle of metamorphosis with the cast... (*Malinda Martha and the cast hold their awards: Best Actor...Caterpillar, Best Sound Effect...Hummingbird, Best Director...Malinda Martha, Miracle of*

Metamorphosis Lifetime Award... Mariposa).

Narrator 2: ...when Miss Claus's voice interrupts the thoughts fluttering through Malinda Martha's head and jolts her back to the classroom.

Miss Claus: Time to share your stories! Who will go first?

Malinda Martha: (*with a sigh*) If only a Monarch had left an egg in my backyard, there would be so much to tell. But... next summer...Mariposa's great-great-grand butterfly-child might fly the last leg of the return trip to Boise and flutter over the milkweed plant in my backyard... so there could be a wee tiny pale-green egg clinging to the fuzzy underside of a milkweed leaf...Waiting to become a Butterfly.

Malinda Martha: (*raises her hand, speaks with self-confidence*) Miss Claus, I'd like to go first.

Narrator 1: (*pause*) What Malinda Martha told is open to your own imagination. But...meanwhile, there are a few facts that won't be guesswork, and I'd say our great audience will know all the answers. We'd like to conclude by offering you a little Jeopardy game. Category? Butterflies, no less! A vocabulary lesson. Remember, please answer by asking a QUESTION.

Narrator 1 holds a question card.

Narrator 2 holds an answer card.

Narrator 1: What is larva?

Narrator 2: Is it...caterpillar?

Narrator 1: What is pupa?

Malinda Martha Meets Mariposa

Narrator 2: Is it...resting stage?

Narrator 1: What is molted?

Narrator 2: Is it...shed its skin?

Narrator 1: What is spinneret?

Narrator 2: Is it...silken thread maker?

Narrator 1: What is chrysalis?

Narrator 2: Is it...protective shell?

Narrator 1: What is metamorphosis?

Narrator 2: Is it...change in form?

Narrator 1: Now will you please join the cast of Mariposa in thanking the people who have sought protection for the Monarch through legislation, found private funding for volunteers to tag the traveling Monarchs, and encouraged the creation of ecological preserves and tourist paths.

Narrator 2: And especially the people who are seeking to save the habitats of the Monarch, both east and west of the Rockies, so they can continue to make their magical migrations to their overwintering sites, forevermore.

Narrator 1 and 2: Thank you for being a great audience.