

North American Inclusion Month
NAIM
BUILDING AN INCLUSIVE JEWISH COMMUNITY

The Butterfly

Suggested ages: 2nd grade +

A man found a cocoon of a butterfly. One day a small opening appeared and he sat and watched the butterfly as it struggled to force its body through the little hole. Then it seemed to stop making any progress. It appeared that it had gotten as far as it could.

The man decided to help the butterfly, so he took a pair of scissors and snipped off the remaining bit of cocoon. The butterfly then emerged easily, but it had a swollen body and small shriveled wings.

The man continues to watch the butterfly because he expected that, at any moment, the wings would expand and be able to support the body, which would contract in time. Neither happened! In fact, the butterfly spent its whole life crawling around with the swollen body and shriveled wings. It was never able to fly.

What the man, in kindness and haste, did not understand was that the restricting cocoon and the struggle required to get through the tiny opening were God's way of forcing fluid from the body of the butterfly into the wings, so that it would be ready for flight once it achieved freedom.

Sometimes struggles are exactly what we need in our life.

If God allowed us to go through life without obstacles, it would cripple us. We would not be as strong as we could have been and we would never fly.



For more information contact:
Yachad, The National Jewish Council for Disabilities



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Discussion Questions

- 1) What do you think the message of this poem is?
- 2) How can we apply these lessons to our everyday life?
- 3) Does this suggest that we not help people?
- 4) Who do you think this is intended to be speaking to or about?
- 5) Parents: What does this poem suggest to us as parents?
- 6) Teachers: What does this poem suggest to us as teachers?
- 7) How does this piece relate to the message of NAIM: North American Inclusion Month



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