



Ray

Educator Notes



Written and Illustrated
by Sarah Zweck

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Recommended for: ages 4 – 7 (lower primary)
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Plot Summary

When a little one's beloved butterfly flies away, they make themselves feel better with the simple joys of life: friends, tasty food and jumping! A story as beautiful as a butterfly, with an ending that will win the hearts of all readers.

Themes

- Feelings and emotions
- Inclusion
- Friendship
- Nature

Rich and interesting words: fluffiest, interesting, treasures, gigantic, gasped

Key Curriculum Learning Areas

Early Years Learning Framework:

Learning Outcome 2 – Children are connected with and contribute to their world

Children develop a sense of connectedness and belonging to a group when they attend preschool/kindergarten/school and are with their peers regularly. They also develop a sense of pride and self-esteem when sharing something special with the group through 'show and tell', like we see in the book. This story presents several opportunities to talk about being part of a larger group, with examples of turn-taking, sharing, and the children supporting each other when one of them is feeling sad or anxious.

Learning Outcome 3 – Children have a strong sense of wellbeing

Sub-outcome 3.1 – Children become strong in their social, emotional and mental wellbeing

This is evident when children communicate their physical and emotional needs. This story has various examples of communicating different emotions, both literally (I was so excited) and figuratively (It felt like a thousand butterflies were in my stomach, all trying to escape). Use this book in conjunction with discussions around feelings and emotions, and the physiological feelings that come along with our emotions.

Australian Curriculum

Learning Area: English

Foundation

Language: Language for interacting with others	Explore different ways of using language to express preferences, likes and dislikes (AC9EFLA02)
Literature: Engaging with and responding to literature	Respond to stories and share feelings and thoughts about their events and characters (AC9EFLE02)
Literacy: Interacting with others	Interact in informal and structured situations by listening while others speak and using features of voice including volume levels (AC9EFLY02)

Year 1

Language: Language for interacting with others	Understand how language, facial expressions and gestures are used to interact with others when asking for and providing information, making offers, exclaiming, requesting and giving commands (AC9E1LA01)
Literature: Engaging with and responding to literature	Discuss literary texts and share responses by making connections with students' own experiences (AC9E1LE02)
Literacy: Interacting with others	Use interaction skills including turn-taking, speaking clearly, using active listening behaviours and responding to the contributions of others, and contributing ideas and questions (AC9E1LY02)

Conversation Starters

Before Reading

- The front cover is very bright and colourful. What can you see on the cover?
- This book is called Ray. Who do you think Ray might be?
- Make a prediction. What do you think the story is about?

While Reading

- “It felt like a thousand butterflies were in my stomach, all trying to escape.” What do you think that means? Do you think there are actually butterflies in their stomach? What sorts of emotions do you think they might be feeling?
- “Kirra didn’t feel like sharing with the class today, and that’s okay. Maybe tomorrow.” How do you think Kirra is feeling here?
- Why do you think this page where they’re about to show their rock to the class is dark and a bit gloomy?
- The butterfly’s name is Ray. Why do you think she’s called Ray? If you had a butterfly, what would you call it?

After Reading

- Can you think of any other bugs that weren’t in this book?
- There were more than just bugs in this book. What else did you see?
- This story used describing words for all of the bugs. What describing words would you use to describe yourself?

FURTHER ACTIVITIES AND DISCUSSIONS

Check out the activity sheets on our website: littlebookpress.com.au

About the Author

Sarah Zweck is a debut author/illustrator who lives in Naarm, Melbourne. Since becoming a mother, Sarah has harboured a desire to write and illustrate her own picture books. This aspiration has taken her on a journey of discovery, honing her illustrative practice and narrative voice. The result is an extraordinary debut that is sure to launch Sarah spectacularly into the kid-lit world.