



TEACHING GUIDE

Worm and Caterpillar are Friends

Author & Illustrator: Kaz Windness

Grade Levels: K-2

Description: Worm and Caterpillar are friends – and Worm thinks that’s because they’re exactly the same! Caterpillar points out they have many differences. Caterpillar worries that if they change, Worm won’t want to be their friend. When Caterpillar transforms into a butterfly, Worm proves their friendship by accepting and embracing Caterpillar’s new form.

Conversation Starters

- Worm and Caterpillar have some similarities and some differences. How are you similar to your friends? How are you different from them?
- How do you think Caterpillar felt before they emerged from their cocoon?
- As Caterpillar was changing, they were feeling nervous about revealing their new self. Does anybody have a story about a time they were nervous to share something about themselves with a friend?

Why Include This Book in Your Library?

This story...

- Offers a beautiful metaphor for the coming out process and the worries LGBTQ+ people may face when sharing their authentic selves.
- Uses onomatopoeia to add excitement and playfulness to the story.
- Clearly explains how to follow the story by reading the speech bubbles in orders, for readers unfamiliar with the format.



Pride and Less Prejudice

Standards Alignment

Kindergarten	CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.K.1.A Follow agreed-upon rules for discussions (e.g., listening to others and taking turns speaking about the topics and texts under discussion).
	CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.K.1 With prompting and support, ask and answer questions about key details in a text.
1st Grade	CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.1.2 Retell stories, including key details, and demonstrate understanding of their central message or lesson.
	CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.1.4 Identify words and phrases in stories or poems that suggest feelings or appeal to the senses.
2nd Grade	CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.2.4 Describe how words and phrases (e.g., regular beats, alliteration, rhymes, repeated lines) supply rhythm and meaning in a story, poem, or song.
	CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.2.2 Recount or describe key ideas or details from a text read aloud or information presented orally or through other media.