

Sidney the Dancing Caterpillar

Information Sheet

“Catch the Reading Bug” with an exciting new short serial by **Mary Maden!** *Sidney the Dancing Caterpillar* is an ideal short serial story.



Story Description:

When a prank goes awry, 10 year-old Jamie lands in the middle of a garden—and in a whole lot of trouble! During summer vacation Jamie finds the wrong kind of excitement with his new friends, Billy and Josh. When the three boys race their bikes down a steep hill, Jamie finds himself in a “thorny” situation after he ruins Mrs. Garcia’s rose bush and flower garden.

Mrs. Garcia, a former librarian of the “old school” persuasion, insists that Jamie make restitution by restoring the garden. Reluctantly, Jamie agrees.

While working in the garden, something amazing happens. Jamie finds a strange-looking caterpillar there. But this caterpillar is no ordinary bug—it’s a Reading Bug with a hidden talent!

Jamie discovers the caterpillar’s extraordinary talent while reading aloud. Wonder of wonders—the caterpillar begins to dance. The bug loves reading so much that it literally dances for joy!

But, Sidney’s joy is cut short when tragedy strikes! Billy sets out to catch the dancing caterpillar in a jar and in the process; Billy may have “accidentally” stepped on the bug!

Fearing the worst, Jamie searches frantically for Sidney. But, the caterpillar is nowhere to be found! Heartbroken, Jamie believes that Sidney the Dancing Caterpillar is gone for good.

As the summer days pass, Jamie discovers that he likes gardening—and reading! He is grateful to Mrs. Garcia who helps him with something he has kept secret for years—his reading problem! And of course, he never forgets his friend, Sidney.

On the last day of summer vacation— a miracle occurs. Jamie is reading in his favorite spot in Mrs. Garcia’s garden when a beautiful butterfly flies up to him. As he expertly reads aloud, the boy notices something strange. The butterfly seems to be moving as if it were dancing. Something about the butterfly is so familiar... Suddenly it hits Jamie. The butterfly is Sidney!

His friend hasn’t died after all, but has changed. The once awkward caterpillar is now a beautiful, graceful butterfly! Jamie watches Sidney float happily on his new gossamer wings and smiles a big smile. He knows just how Sidney feels!

Story Specifics:

- Story integrates Character Education with English Language Arts for fantastic Teacher Appeal!
- Suggested reading level: 2nd and up. Read aloud for all ages.
- 8 chapters: 550 words precisely. No more, no less!
- Includes logo art and chapter art in black & white and color.
- Teacher’s Guide and Ad included **FREE** with your serial story!