

MISTER G
Presents

SEÑORITA MARIPOSA

Educational Study Guide

Developed by Kat Jamieson, MFA (aka Missus G)



The Performance

Señorita Mariposa: A Bilingual Eco-Adventure

Take flight and discover Señorita Mariposa's mundo maravilloso as we follow her miraculous journey from Canada to Mexico. With the help of friends along the way, she'll overcome challenges and tap into her superpowers to make the epic 3000-mile trip to reunite with her family.

Based on MISTER G's (Ben Gundersheimer) beloved children's picture book about the monarch butterfly migration, this interactive show uses music and movement to teach important lessons in language, biology, conservation, multi-culturalism and geography.



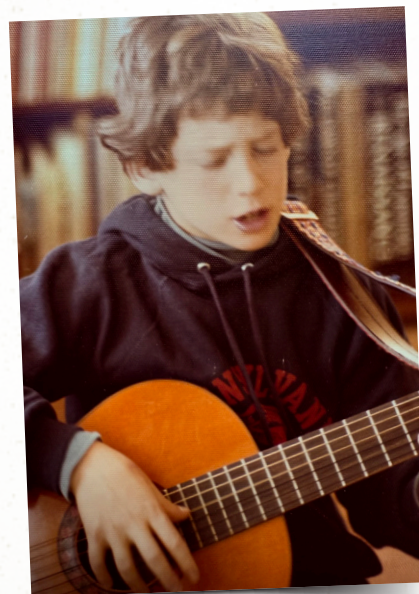
¡A VOLAR!



The Performers

Ben Gundersheimer: MISTER G

Ben Gundersheimer, M.Ed (known onstage at MISTER G) is a Latin GRAMMY Award-winning artist, author, and educator. Hailed as “a bilingual rock star” by *The Washington Post* and “irresistible” by *People* magazine, he’s released fourteen albums of original music, which have won 5 Parents’ Choice Gold Awards. Penguin Random House has published four picture books based on his original songs with two more forthcoming. Whether performing at the National Climate Rally or an orphanage in Mexico City, MISTER G’s dynamic, interactive performances aim to dissolve borders and foster cross-cultural connections through the power of story and song.



Kat Jamieson: Señorita Mariposa

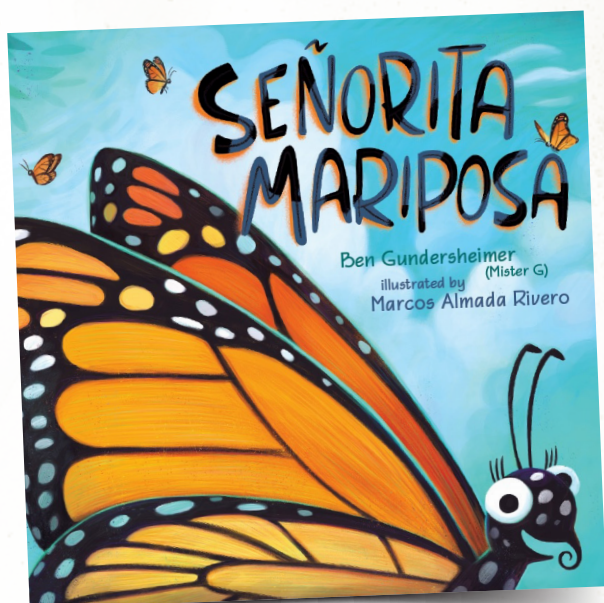
Kat Jamieson, MFA (MISSUS G) is a performer, producer and educator who leads the interactive component of the MISTER G concerts. She heads up the communications team for MISTER G, and develops curricula, workshops, and teacher training programs which she and Ben present nationally. Kat performs internationally with MISTER G at major venues and festivals such as Lollapalooza, Austin City Limits, the Getty Museum, New Orleans Jazz Fest and Central Park SummerStage. A former college literature professor and a graduate of the Iowa Writers Program, Kat has been published widely in *The New York Times*, *Boston Globe*, *Slate* and *Best Women’s Travel Writing*.



The Illustrator

Marcos Almada Rivero

Marcos Almada Rivero is an acclaimed Mexican author, illustrator, and animation director. Marcos has published fifteen books in Mexico, and he's been illustrating award-winning album covers and picture books with MISTER G since 2015, including *Señorita Mariposa*, *How Many Squirrels Are in the World?* and *Baby Ballena*. As an independent filmmaker, Marcos has produced several shorts, which have been recognized in festivals around the world. He also developed and directed the educational science TV series "El show del Dr. Gecko," which aired on public television stations for more than three years.



Origin Of Señorita Mariposa

The song...the book...the show!

“*Señorita Mariposa*” started as a song which appeared on my first bilingual album, *Chocolalala*. I was inspired to write it after some friends told me about their amazing visit to see the monarch butterfly sanctuary in Michoacán, Mexico. I recorded another version of the song on my 2019 album *Ritmo y Rima* featuring Argentinian vocalist Mica Farias-Gomez.

Marcos Almada Rivero and I had become friends when we collaborated on the cover of *Los Animales*, our bilingual album that won the Latin Grammy. When I had the opportunity to develop the song into a book with Penguin Random House, I thought he would be the perfect illustrator to bring it to life. Marcos was excited about the idea of reimagining the song as a picture book which would tell the incredible story of the 3000-mile monarch butterfly migration from Canada to Mexico.

On the face of it, *Señorita Mariposa* celebrates the wonder of the monarch butterfly’s annual migration, but the book is also about understanding the responsibility that all three nations – Canada, the US and Mexico– share in safeguarding butterfly habitat. .



Published by Penguin Random House in 2019, *Señorita Mariposa* chronicles the extraordinary annual migration of monarch butterflies across North America. The bilingual book aims to inspire the next generation of eco-activists and spark dialogue about butterfly habitat and the responsibility that all children share as stewards of the environment. *Señorita Mariposa* is now in its 18th hardcover printing and has been released in paperback by Scholastic Books. In 2024, Stages Theater in Minneapolis adapted the book into a play featuring a soundtrack of songs from my albums.

I’ve been humbled to see what began as a song of appreciation for monarch butterflies evolve into a book which is now read in thousands of classrooms, homes and libraries. “Señorita Mariposa: A Bilingual Eco-Adventure” was created in response to the great enthusiasm for the book we’ve seen from teachers, parents and children across the country -- we hope you enjoy the show!

Señorita Mariposa Soundtrack

listen on



Hola Amigos

Chocolalala

Squirrels

Fireflies

We'll Make Things Better Together

Cocodrilo

Patás en el Aire (Paws in the Air)

Señorita Mariposa

Mundo Verde (Green World)



Five Things To Do Before The Show



- ✿ Watch the read-aloud and sing-a-long video of Señorita Mariposa with MISTER G
- ✿ Teach children about the concept of migration and the reasons that animals and insects need to change their environment based on the season
- ✿ Watch the video of MISTER G's journey to Michoacán Mexico with Marcos Almada Rivero to see the butterflies in their winter habitat
- ✿ Learn Spanish vocabulary words that appear in the book and the show (see the box below)
- ✿ Create a butterfly art project (see Activity 1) or use the Mariposa coloring page (last page of the teaching guide)

Vocabulary of Señorita Mariposa

- Mariposa = Butterfly
- Alas = Wings
- Volar = To Fly
- Cielo = Sky
- Montañas = Mountains
- Tierra = Earth
- Sol = Sun
- Luna = Moon
- Flores = Flowers
- Bosque = Forest



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Activity One:

The beauty of symmetry



Subject Areas: Biology • Ecology • Anatomy • Art • Conservation

Skill Areas:

- Following directions
- Developing creativity
- Small motor skills

Learning Intentions:

- ✿ Students will identify the external body parts of butterflies: head, thorax, abdomen, wings, antennae
- ✿ Students will learn about the life cycle of the butterfly using images and information in *Señorita Mariposa*
- ✿ Students will learn what “bilateral symmetry” is in butterflies and how humans and many other animals have this kind of symmetry as well
- ✿ Students will learn why butterflies have patterns on their wings
- ✿ Students will experiment with creating symmetrical butterfly art

Materials

- Construction paper
- Tempera paint
- Paintbrush or sponge
- Hard surface to press on
- Glitter and pipe cleaners (optional)



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Activity One:

The beauty of symmetry



Steps:

This simple butterfly art project shows children how to create symmetry. The technique ensures a mirror image on both halves of the paper.

- 1 **Fold:** Fold the paper in half lengthwise, creating a crease. Make sure the crease is visible.
- 2 **Paint:** Unfold the paper and paint half of a butterfly on one side. Start with the head and body, then add wings and antennae. Leave the other side blank.
- 3 **Press:** Fold the paper back along the crease carefully and slowly. Press down firmly so that the paint transfers to the other side of the page.
- 4 **Unfold:** Unfold the paper gently. You should have a symmetrical butterfly on both sides, illustrating bilateral symmetry.
- 5 **Enhance:** Feel free to add more details or colors to either side of the butterfly after the initial transfer. You can also use glitter and pipe cleaners for 3-dimensional antennae.

Reflection questions:

- What did you learn about symmetry in animals in insects?
- What did you enjoy about the art project?
- What was challenging about creating the butterflies?
- Can you think of other art projects you could do using this same technique?



Activity Two:

Miraculous Migrations

Subject Areas: Geography • Biology • Conservation • Environmentalism

Skill Areas:

- Understanding cross-cultural exchange
- Map reading
- Understanding animal migration

Learning Intentions:

- ✿ Students will learn about migration and why it is important for butterflies and other animals to migrate
- ✿ Students will learn about different ecosystems that benefit butterflies and what we can do to protect them
- ✿ Students will consider the different cultural understandings of butterflies in different countries

Materials:

- *Señorita Mariposa* book or projected images
- Video of MISTER G and illustrator Marcos Almada Rivero in Mexico



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Activity Two:

Miraculous Migrations

Steps:

Show or project the image of the butterfly migration map on a screen

- 1 Ask the students to identify the different routes that the butterflies take on their journey down through North America.
- 2 How many routes are there? Do they all make it down to Mexico?
- 3 Teach children about the different ways butterflies are seen in various cultures, including the Day of the Dead celebration in Mexico
- 4 Lead a discussion about migration of animals and insects.
 - Why do some animals and insects need to migrate, but others do not?
 - Do you think it's harder to migrate each year or stay in one place? Why?
 - Why are pollinators important for our ecosystem?
 - What would happen if we didn't have pollinators?
 - How can we help the butterflies on their journey (planting milkweed, planting nectar-rich flowers like goldenrod, avoiding using pesticides)?



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Activity Two:

Miraculous Migrations

Reflection Questions:

- Do the butterflies fly through your state? Do you see them when they're making their journey?
- If not, what other pollinators do you see?
- How are monarch butterflies seen differently in the United States and Canada and Mexico?
- Why is it important for people to think about the impact they're having on monarch butterflies?
- What are some things we can do to help the butterflies on their journey?



Five Things To Think About During The Show



- ✿ The book *Señorita Mariposa* and the show are not exactly the same. Take note of some of the similarities and differences. What are some things that happen in the show that don't take place in the book?
- ✿ What are some of the challenges Señorita Mariposa faces in her journey? Who helps her along the way?
- ✿ What is Señorita Mariposa's favorite food? What is MISTER G's favorite food?
- ✿ What kinds of instruments are used in the show? How did you learn to make music with your body during the show?
- ✿ Color in the Señorita Mariposa page at the end of the teaching guide





Fascinating Facts About Monarchs

Migration:

Monarchs migrate south for the winter, up to 3000 miles flying 60 miles or more a day. They travel from as far north as Canada to overwintering grounds in Mexico or along the California coast.

Toxicity:

Monarch caterpillars only eat milkweed which contains toxins called cardiac glycosides. These toxins protect the butterflies by making them poisonous to most predators.

Life Cycle:

Monarchs have an incredible life cycle. They start out as eggs on milkweed and then grow into caterpillars. After transforming into a chrysalis, they emerge as adult butterflies.

Unique Wings:

Monarch wings are beautiful and delicate. They are covered in tiny scales which can be damaged and cause the butterfly to lose its color and ability to fly.

Taste with their feet:

Monarchs taste with sensory cells called “chemoreceptors” on their legs. This way they can figure out if plants are suitable for laying eggs on or for feeding their young.

Navigation:

It is thought that monarchs use a combination of the sun's position and the earth's magnetic field to navigate, but scientists are still trying to figure out exactly how they make their miraculous journey.

Pollinators:

Some people think that bees are the only pollinators, but actually butterflies pollinate as well. Monarchs spread pollen from flower to flower as they feed on their nectar.



Activity Three:



The Monarch's Journey: Exploring plot and sequence in stories

Introduction:

In this activity, we'll explore the astonishing journey of the monarch butterfly using the Story Spine technique to learn the importance of sequence in storytelling.

Students will engage theater and improvisation activities, acting out the different stages of the butterfly's migration from Canada to Mexico, and illustrating how each event leads to the next in a coherent narrative. By using their bodies to represent the butterfly's adventures and challenges, students will gain a deeper appreciation for how the sequence of events shapes the story.

This interactive approach helps students understand the concepts of plot and sequence while having fun and learning about the natural world.

Skill Areas:

- English Language Arts
- Theatre

English Language Arts:

- Identify the main story elements (characters, setting, events)
- Explain the importance of the order of events in a story
- Explain how the sequence of events helps to understand the plot
- Describe how the order of events influences the story's outcome
- Explain the cause-and-effect relationship within the sequence of events



Activity Three:






The Monarch's Journey: Exploring plot and sequence in stories

Theatre:

- Create and tell stories about real and imaginary experiences
- Adapt stories for performance, focusing on sequence and structure.
- Act out the sequence of events in a story, identifying key moments
- Identify how sequence in storytelling affects the audience's understanding
- Use improvisation to explore how sequence and plot create meaning

Learning Intentions:

-  Understand the sequence of events in the story of the monarch butterfly migration
-  Use my body to act out the different stages of the butterfly's journey from Canada to Mexico
-  Work collaboratively to bring the story to life

Materials:

- Space for movement
- Optional: butterfly wings or props for enhanced visual representation

Steps:

Guided questions:

- How does the sequence of events in the butterfly's migration affect the story?
- What can we learn from how the butterfly overcomes challenges and completes its journey?

Skill Building and Procedure for Lesson:

Introduction:

- Read the *Señorita Mariposa* picture book
- Talk about the story of the monarch butterfly migration and its key events
- Review the Guiding Questions with the students



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Activity Three:

The Monarch's Journey: Exploring plot and sequence in stories

Main Activity: Story Spine:

Story Spine: Mapping the Monarch Butterfly's Migration Journey

Divide the class into small groups and assign each group a part of the Story Spine to act out, using their bodies to represent different elements. With younger students they can all work as one large group while the teacher facilitates the sequence.

Groups present their part of the Story Spine in sequence using gestures, facial expressions, levels and movements. Refer to the theater vocabulary list below. Discuss how the sequence of events is critical to the butterflies' journey and the overall story.

Theatre vocabulary list

Facial Expressions The use of facial muscles to convey emotions and reactions

Gestures Movements of the hands, arms, or body used to express ideas or emotions.

Levels The height at which actors perform (high, medium, low) to create visual interest and represent different actions or statuses.

Interactions How characters or actors engage with each other or with imaginary elements in a scene

Emotions The feelings portrayed through actions, facial expressions, and voice

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Activity Three:



The Monarch's Journey: Exploring plot and sequence in stories

Story Spine Structure Example:

Use the example below or let students create their own:

- 1 **Once upon a time...** Once upon a time, there was a little monarch butterfly with bright orange wings who fluttered through the trees, playing with bumblebees.
- 2 **Every day...** Every day, the little butterfly admired the beauty of the sky and the joy of playing with her friends, but she knew it was time to begin a long journey.
- 3 **Until one day...** Until one day, the little butterfly had to say goodbye as she started her journey, flying 60 miles or more a day towards Mexico.
- 4 **And because of that...** And because of that, the little butterfly traveled over mountains capped with snow, across deserts down below, facing challenges like changing weather and long distances.
- 5 **Until finally...** Until finally, the little butterfly arrived in Mexico, where she joined a magnificent gathering of monarchs, filling the skies with their bright colors and finding a place to rest.
- 6 **And ever since then...** And ever since then, the butterfly has been part of a grand fiesta, surrounded by millions of friends, where the celebration of their journey never ends.



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Activity Three:

The Monarch's Journey: Exploring plot and sequence in stories

REFLECTION AND DISCUSSION:

- ✿ Gather students and discuss how each part of the Story Spine represented a key event in the butterfly's journey.
- ✿ Reflect on how the sequence of events was important to the story's progression and overall meaning.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS:

- ✿ How did the sequence of events in the butterfly's migration help you understand the story better?
- ✿ What was your favorite part of acting out the story, and why?

What is a Pollinator?



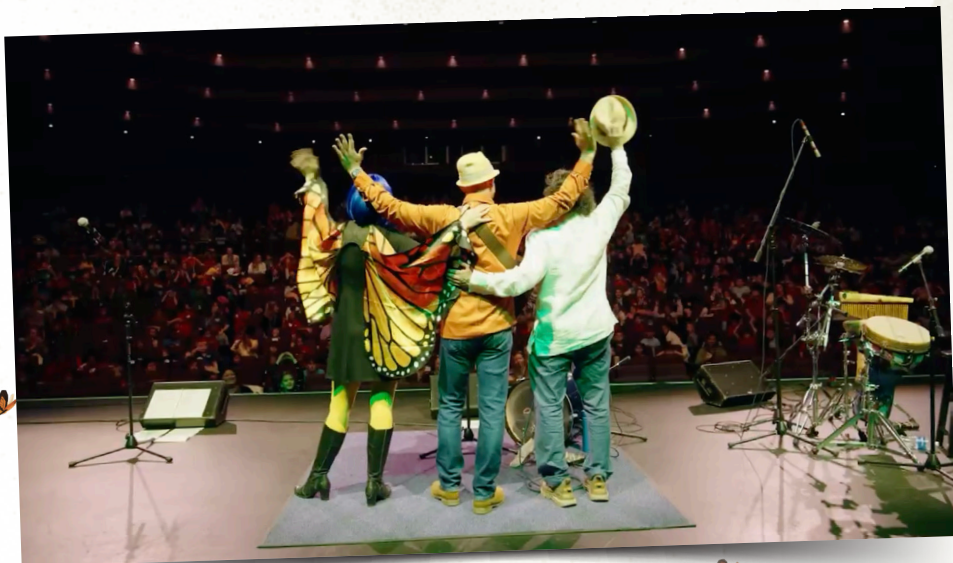
A pollinator is an organism that helps carry pollen from the male part of a flower to the female part of the same or another flower. The movement of pollen must occur for the plant to become fertilized in order to produce fruit, seeds, and other plants.

Some plants are self-pollinating, some may be fertilized by pollen carried by wind or water, and some are pollinated by insects and animals such as bees, moths, butterflies, and small mammals like bats.



Five Things To Do After The Show

- ✿ Think about some of the challenges that Señorita Mariposa faced in her journey. How did she overcome them?
- ✿ Can you think of anything you can do to help butterflies on their journey down to Mexico?
- ✿ What inspires you about Señorita Mariposa's journey? How would you like to be like her in your own life?
- ✿ Butterflies can symbolize change, hope, freedom, and fragility. How might freedom and migration be connected?
- ✿ Why do you think Señorita Mariposa's journey makes a good story for a book? For a performance?



Resources For Follow-Up After The Performance

Read-aloud and Sing-a-long video of *Señorita Mariposa* filmed at Penguin Random House Studios

Monarch Joint Venture: partnering to preserve the monarch butterfly migration

Trip to Michoacán with Marcos Almada Rivero to see the butterfly migration

Journey North: tracking migrations and seasons

Monarchs and More Curriculum: a curriculum on monarchs developed for educators by Monarch Joint Venture

US Forest Service Monarch Resources

Pollinator Partnership: Promoting the health of pollinators, critical to food and ecosystems, through conservation, education, and research.



SEÑORITA MARIPOSA

Let the butterfly fiesta begin!

