Monarchs on the Move
by Caleb Graham

Fountas-Pinnell Level N

Informational Text

Selection Summary
Monarch butterflies migrate up to two thousand miles each way between their summer and winter homes. Monarchs are dependent on milkweed plants—which grow only in the north—during the egg and caterpillar stages of their life cycle. However, as butterflies, they cannot survive a cold climate, so they must migrate in the winter.

Characteristics of the Text

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Genre</th>
<th>Informational Text</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Text Structure</td>
<td>Six sections, most with headings, of one to two pages each</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Information presented chronologically showing the life cycle and migration cycle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Content</td>
<td>Facts about the migration of monarch butterflies</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Life cycle of monarch butterflies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Threats to monarchs from loss of habitat and predators</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Themes and Ideas</td>
<td>Monarchs and other animals migrate in order to survive.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>If an animal’s survival depends on one plant, its life cycle revolves around the availability of that plant.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Animal migration is awe-inspiring.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Language and Literary Features</td>
<td>Writer talks directly to the reader (second person)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Important information contained in captions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sentence Complexity</td>
<td>A mix of short and more complex sentences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vocabulary</td>
<td>Content words: migrate, milkweed, caterpillar, hatches, chrysalis, nectar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Words</td>
<td>Words formed from base words: gently, really, fully, exactly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Contractions: it’s, can’t, don’t, doesn’t</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Illustrations</td>
<td>Map of monarch migratory routes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Book and Print Features</td>
<td>Twelve pages of text; easy-to-read section headings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Table of contents and glossary with photographs</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Build Background
Help students use their knowledge of butterflies and other insects. Build interest by asking questions such as the following: What do you already know about butterflies? What do you think butterflies need to do to survive? Read the title and author and talk about the photo of butterflies on the cover. Tell students that this book is informational text, and ask them what they might expect to learn when they read the book.

Introduce the Text
Guide students through the text, noting important ideas and helping with unfamiliar language and vocabulary. Here are some suggestions:

Page 2: Have students turn to page 2. Point out that the table of contents lists the titles of the text sections and the page on which each section begins.
Suggested language: Look at the first section head, “Two-Way Travelers.” What do you think you will learn about monarch butterflies in this section?

Page 4: Direct attention to the map, and guide students to read the labels. Have them study the map key and relate the colored arrows in the key to those on the map. Follow along as I read the caption: This map shows where and when monarchs migrate. In which direction do monarchs migrate, to move to a different place at a particular time of year?

Pages 6–7: Draw attention to the section heading, “Parts of a Monarch’s Life.” Explain that these pages tell about the different stages, or parts, of a monarch butterfly’s life. From the photos and labels, how many parts does a monarch’s life have? How are the four stages different? What makes all four stages alike?

Pages 10–11: Tell students that the photo shows how the monarchs live during cold weather. They look like a solid mass of wings! How might staying together in a tight pack like this help monarchs survive?

Page 14: Remind students that a glossary gives the meanings of words found in the book. How do the photos help you understand the meanings of the words?
Now turn back to the beginning of the book and read to find out about the life of monarch butterflies.

Target Vocabulary
accidents – events that happen and may cause harm
chilly – unpleasantly affected by cold
dramatic – spectacular or suspenseful, p. 7
frightening – scary
landscape – a long stretch of land seen from one place
migrate – to move to a different place at a particular time of year, p. 4
plenty – enough or more than enough, p. 8
solid – hard, with no breaks or hollow parts, p. 10
survival – continuing to live, p. 5
thunderous – very loud
Read
Have students read *Monarchs on the Move* silently while you listen to individual students read. Support their problem solving and fluency as needed.

Remind students to use the Visualize Strategy and to use text details to picture what is happening.

Discuss and Revisit the Text

**Personal Response**

Invite students to share their personal responses to the book.

*Suggested language:* What did you learn about why monarch butterflies migrate and where they go? What is the most surprising fact you learned about monarchs?

Ways of Thinking

As you discuss the text, help students understand these points:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Thinking Within the Text</th>
<th>Thinking Beyond the Text</th>
<th>Thinking About the Text</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Monarchs are the only butterflies that migrate.</td>
<td>• Migration is an example of how animals develop amazing ways to survive.</td>
<td>• The section titles give a good idea of what information will be covered.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• There are four stages in the monarch’s life: egg, caterpillar, chrysalis, and butterfly.</td>
<td>• Monarch butterflies face threats from predators and loss of habitat.</td>
<td>• The captions and labels help describe what is shown in the photos.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Monarchs depend on milkweed plants for a place to lay their eggs and as food for the caterpillars after they hatch.</td>
<td>• Being dependent on one plant or climate affects an animal’s life cycle.</td>
<td>• The map helps make clear where and when monarch butterflies travel during their migration.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>


Choices For Further Support

- **Fluency** Invite students to choose a passage from the text and demonstrate phrased fluent reading. Model using appropriate stress on words by reading a sentence aloud. Remind students to pay attention to punctuation, raising their voices slightly at the end of questions and placing extra stress on sentences with exclamation marks.

- **Comprehension** Based on your observations of the students’ reading and discussion, revisit parts of the text to clarify or extend comprehension. Remind students to go back to the text to support their ideas.

- **Phonics/Word Work** Provide practice as needed with words and word parts, using examples from the text. Remind students that when some words are changed into their plural form, the spelling of the word changes: butterfly/butterflies, leaf/leaves, mouse/mice.
Writing about Reading

Critical Thinking
Have students complete the Critical Thinking questions on BLM 22.7.

Responding
Have students complete the activities at the back of the book. Use the instruction below as needed to reinforce or extend understanding of the comprehension skill.

Target Comprehension Skill

Compare and Contrast
Remind students that they can compare and contrast by telling how text details or ideas are alike and different. Model the skill, using a “Think Aloud” like the one below:

Think Aloud

I can compare and contrast caterpillars and butterflies. This means that I look for ways things are alike and different. The chart on page 15 says that one way caterpillars are different from butterflies is that they eat milkweed leaves. On page 8, the author says butterflies don’t eat leaves, they drink nectar. That is another way they are different. I can put that detail under Butterflies in the diagram.

Practice the Skill
Have students review pages 6 and 7 and write two sentences that compare and contrast two details about the parts of a monarch’s life.

Writing Prompt: Thinking Beyond the Text
Have students write a response to the prompt on page 6. Remind them that when they think beyond the text, they use what they know and their own experience to think about what happens in the story.

Assessment Prompts
• Find the word on page 8 that helps the reader know the meaning of nectar.
• What is the paragraph on page 11 mainly about?
• In paragraph 1 on page 12, find the word that means almost the same as trip.
English Language Development

Reading Support  Give English learners a “preview” of the text by holding a brief small-group discussion with them before reading the text with the entire group.

Idioms  The book includes one idiom that might be unfamiliar. Explain the meaning of the expression making a wrong turn on page 9.

Oral Language Development  

Check student comprehension, using a dialogue that best matches your students’ English proficiency level. Speaker 1 is the teacher, Speaker 2 is the student.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Beginning/Early Intermediate</th>
<th>Intermediate</th>
<th>Early Advanced/Advanced</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Speaker 1: What insects are on the cover?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Speaker 2: butterflies</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Speaker 1: What colors are the butterflies?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Speaker 2: orange and black</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Speaker 1: What makes monarch butterflies amazing?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Speaker 2: They fly a long way.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Speaker 1: Why do monarchs have to leave the north?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Speaker 2: They can’t live in a cold place.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Speaker 1: Why do monarch butterflies need milkweed plants?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Speaker 2: They lay their eggs on milkweed plants. Then the caterpillars eat milkweed leaves after they hatch.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Speaker 1: What are the four forms a monarch butterfly goes through in its life?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Speaker 2: It starts out as an egg. A caterpillar hatches from the egg. When the caterpillar is grown, it makes a home called a chrysalis. A butterfly hatches from the chrysalis.</td>
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Critical Thinking  

Read and answer the questions. Possible responses shown.

1. Think within the text  Why do monarchs need the milkweed plant? Where does the plant grow?  
   Monarch butterflies lay their eggs on milkweed plants. They only grow where it gets colder in winter.

2. Think within the text  Where do monarchs go in the winter?  Why?  
   The monarchs go south because it is warm.

3. Think beyond the text  Where would you most likely find monarch butterflies in the spring?  
   Monarch butterflies are most likely found where milkweed plants grow or traveling north to find milkweed plants.

4. Think about the text  Why would Texas be a good place to see monarch butterflies?  What graphic feature helps you answer the question?  
   The butterflies migrate across Texas in both the spring and fall so you could see them twice a year. The map on page 4 helps answer the question.

Making Connections  What is another animal that you have read about that migrates? How is that animal’s migration like the migration of the monarch butterfly? How is it different?  
Write your answer in your Reader’s Notebook.
Monarchs on the Move

Thinking Beyond the Text

Think about the questions below. Then write your answers in one or two paragraphs.

On page 3, the author says that monarch butterflies are some of the most amazing travelers in the world. After reading the book, do you agree or disagree with the author? Why do you feel this way? Support your opinion using details from the book.
Critical Thinking

Read and answer the questions.

1. **Think within the text**  Why do monarchs need the milkweed plant? Where does the plant grow?

2. **Think within the text**  Where do monarchs go in the winter? Why?

3. **Think beyond the text**  Where would you most likely find monarch butterflies in the spring?

4. **Think about the text**  Why would Texas be a good place to see monarch butterflies? What graphic feature helps you answer the question?

Making Connections  What is another animal that you have read about that migrates? How is that animal’s migration like the migration of the monarch butterfly? How is it different?

Write your answer in your Reader’s Notebook.
# Monarchs on the Move • LEVEL N

## Running Record Form

### Selection Text

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>page</th>
<th>Selection Text</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>First, the caterpillar makes a special home for itself. This special home is called a chrysalis (KRIS uH lis). Inside the chrysalis, the caterpillar begins to make a dramatic change. In about two weeks, a beautiful butterfly hatches from the chrysalis!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>The new butterfly is hungry when it comes out of the chrysalis. Unlike the caterpillar, however, the butterfly doesn’t eat leaves. It drinks nectar, a sweet liquid in flowers. The monarch butterfly flies from flower to flower. It drinks plenty of nectar, and it gets fatter and fatter. The butterfly will use this fat as fuel for the long trip south.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Behavior Code Errors

- Read word correctly: **✓**
- Repeated word, sentence, or phrase: **⊙**
- Omission: **☆**
- Substitution: **cut**
- Self-corrects: **cut sc**
- Insertion: **the**
- Word told: **ο**

### Accuracy Rate

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Self-Corrections</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Accurate (%)</td>
<td>Total Self-Corrections</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Comments:

First, the caterpillar makes a special home for itself. This special home is called a chrysalis (KRIS uh lis). Inside the chrysalis, the caterpillar begins to make a dramatic change. In about two weeks, a beautiful butterfly hatches from the chrysalis!

The new butterfly is hungry when it comes out of the chrysalis. Unlike the caterpillar, however, the butterfly doesn’t eat leaves. It drinks nectar, a sweet liquid in flowers.

The monarch butterfly flies from flower to flower. It drinks plenty of nectar, and it gets fatter and fatter. The butterfly will use this fat as fuel for the long trip south.