Second Grade Comprehensive Lesson Plan

"Bella Brown—Grandma's Missing Butterfly Locket" by J.W. Zarek

Overview

This comprehensive lesson plan leverages "Bella Brown—Grandma's Missing Butterfly Locket" to engage second-grade students (ages 7-8) in an integrated study of butterflies, global awareness, family traditions, and storytelling. The plan balances teacher support with growing independence, provides structured research opportunities, and focuses on one main writing piece while incorporating appropriate phonics, vocabulary, and measurement activities.

Learning Objectives

Literacy Objectives

- Students will identify story elements and analyze how characters respond to events
- Students will use descriptive language to create vivid setting descriptions
- Students will express and support opinions about butterflies in the story
- Students will identify and use compound words and prefixes/suffixes related to butterflies
- Students will use context clues to determine meanings of unfamiliar words

Science Objectives

- Students will identify and describe butterfly characteristics and habitats
- Students will compare butterfly species using simple graphic organizers
- Students will sequence and explain the butterfly life cycle
- Students will sort butterflies by observable traits
- Students will identify plants that attract butterflies

Social Studies Objectives

- Students will locate the four countries/regions from the story on a world map
- Students will identify 1-2 key cultural elements associated with each location
- Students will explore family traditions and keepsakes
- Students will make connections between geography and butterfly habitats

Mathematics Objectives

- Students will measure butterfly wingspans using inches and centimeters
- Students will collect and organize simple data about butterflies
- Students will create and interpret pictographs and bar graphs
- Students will solve simple addition and subtraction word problems using butterfly data
- Students will identify and extend butterfly color patterns

Materials Needed

Books and Reading Materials

- "Bella Brown—Grandma's Missing Butterfly Locket" by J.W. Zarek
- Pre-selected, leveled non-fiction books about butterflies
- Guided reading books about butterflies at various levels
- Picture books about the countries in the story

Classroom Supplies

- Chart paper and markers
- World map or globe
- Butterfly life cycle diagrams
- Writing paper with space for illustrations
- Prepared research folders with simplified information
- Rulers with inches and centimeters
- Butterfly word cards for word work
- Butterfly measurement recording sheets

Craft Materials

- Watercolor paints and brushes
- Construction paper in various colors
- Tissue paper

- Pipe cleaners
- Butterfly templates
- Materials for locket crafts (paper plates, foil, string)

Science Materials

- Butterfly life cycle sequencing cards
- Magnifying glasses
- Laminated butterfly picture cards with measurements listed
- Butterfly sorting cards (by color, size, habitat)

Day 1: Story Introduction and Butterfly Exploration

Morning Meeting (15 minutes)

1. Introduce the book "Bella Brown—Grandma's Missing Butterfly Locket"
2. Activate prior knowledge: "What do you know about butterflies?"
3. Create a class KWL chart (Know, Want to learn, Learned)
4. Preview key vocabulary with picture support: migration, habitat, locket, tradition
5. Quick butterfly movement break: "Flutter like a butterfly"

Read-Aloud and Discussion (25 minutes)

1. Read the first part of the story (through China butterfly adventure)
2. Model think-alouds focusing on descriptive language
3. Guide discussion with questions:
    - "Why is Grandma Yetta's locket important to her?"
    - "How does the author help us 'see' the Red Wing butterflies?"
    - "How would you feel if you saw thousands of butterflies?"
4. Begin a simple story map (characters, setting, problem)

Word Work: Butterfly Vocabulary (15 minutes)

1. Introduce word cards with butterfly-related vocabulary
2. Sort words into categories (colors, actions, places)

3. Identify compound words (butterfly, caterpillar)
4. Find words with common prefixes/suffixes
5. Practice reading words with partner

Guided Butterfly Research (30 minutes)

1. Divide class into four research teams (with teacher support):
    - Red Wing Butterflies (China)
    - White Butterflies (Japan)
    - Blue Morpho Butterflies (Colombia)
    - Monarch Butterflies (Arkansas)
2. Provide each team with a research folder containing:
    - Simple information text at appropriate reading level
    - Pictures of their butterfly
    - Research recording sheet with 3 guiding questions:
        - What does your butterfly look like?
        - Where does it live?
        - What does it eat?
3. Model how to find and record information
4. Teacher rotates to support each group
5. Teams create a simple butterfly fact sheet with drawings

Butterfly Measurement Station (20 minutes)

1. Set up measurement stations with butterfly pictures
2. Demonstrate how to measure butterfly wingspan using rulers
3. Model recording measurements in inches and centimeters
4. Students work in pairs to measure and record 3-4 butterfly pictures
5. Class creates a measurement chart comparing butterflies
6. Simple math talk: "Which butterfly has the longest/shortest wingspan?"

World Geography Connection (20 minutes)

1. Using a simplified world map, locate the four places from the story
2. Place butterfly pictures on the correct countries
3. Play a simple mapping game: "Fly to Japan! Fly to Colombia!"
4. Create a class chart: "Butterflies Around the World"
5. Discussion: "Are these places near or far from where we live?"

Closing Circle (10 minutes)

1. Review what we learned about butterflies today
2. Quick share: "One thing I learned about my butterfly is..."
3. Preview tomorrow's activities

Day 2: Cultural Connections and Story Continuation

Morning Meeting (15 minutes)

1. Review yesterday's learning with a quick quiz game
2. Add new information to the KWL chart
3. Introduce sensory words from the story with movements:
    - "tink-tink" (pretend to ring chimes)
    - "flutter" (wave hands)
    - "soft" (gentle touch motion)
4. Preview today's focus: settings and sensory details

Read-Aloud Continuation (25 minutes)

1. Brief recap of yesterday's reading
2. Continue reading about Japan and Colombia adventures
3. Focus on sensory details:
    - Sounds of wind chimes
    - Smells of cherry blossoms
    - Weight of the Blue Morpho

4. Add to story map with new settings
5. Discussion: "How does the author help us feel like we're in these places?"

Setting Description Writing Workshop (40 minutes)

1. Mini-lesson on sensory language (5 minutes)
2. Provide a graphic organizer for sensory details:
    - What do you see?
    - What do you hear?
    - What do you smell?
    - What do you feel?
3. Model writing a setting description using the organizer
4. Students choose ONE setting from the story to describe
5. Provide word banks with sensory words
6. Conference with students as they draft
7. Partner feedback: "What sensory words do you notice?"
8. Revise and publish setting descriptions
9. Author's Chair: Students share their writing

Cultural Exploration Stations (30 minutes)

Set up four stations with clear instructions:

Station 1: China

- Pictures and simple facts about China
- Red Wing butterfly information and pictures
- Activity: Practice Chinese character for "butterfly"

Station 2: Japan

- Pictures of Japanese temples and cherry blossoms
- Simple origami butterfly instructions
- Activity: Listen to wind chime sounds and draw what you imagine

Station 3: Colombia

- Pictures of Colombian rainforests
- Blue Morpho butterfly information
- Activity: Sort rainforest animals by groups

Station 4: Arkansas

- Simple map of Monarch migration route
- Pictures of butterfly gardens
- Activity: Match butterflies to their host plants

Rotate students through stations (7-8 minutes each) with teacher guiding one station at a time

Butterfly Data Collection and Graphing (25 minutes)

1. Class survey: "Which butterfly from our story do you like best?"
2. Model how to record data on a class tally chart
3. Count the tallies together
4. Create a simple bar graph or pictograph with the data
5. Guide students in analyzing the graph:
    - "Which butterfly did most students choose?"
    - "Which butterfly did fewest students choose?"
    - "How many more students chose ___ than ___?"
6. Students complete a simple graph interpretation worksheet

Opinion Writing (20 minutes)

1. Mini-lesson on opinion statements and reasons
2. Model writing frame: "I think the _____ butterfly is the most interesting because _____."
3. Students complete the opinion statement with at least one supporting reason
4. Illustration to support their opinion
5. Partner share: Students read their opinions to a partner

Closing Circle (10 minutes)

1. Review cultural connections explored today
2. Movement break: Act out butterfly life cycle
3. Preview tomorrow's activities

Day 3: Story Conclusion and Projects

Morning Meeting (15 minutes)

1. Review story events with picture cards
2. Play "Butterfly Word Chain" (each student adds a butterfly-related word)
3. Quick measurement review: "Show me with your hands how big different butterflies are"
4. Preview final day's activities

Read-Aloud Conclusion (25 minutes)

1. Review story events from the first two days
2. Read the final part of the story (Arkansas butterflies and the surprise ending)
3. Complete story map with resolution
4. Discussion questions:
    - "How did Bella feel when Grandma gave her the locket?"
    - "Why was this gift special to Bella?"
    - "What is the main lesson of this story?"
5. Partner turn-and-talk: "What was your favorite part of the story?"

Butterfly Life Cycle Science (25 minutes)

1. Review butterfly life cycle with pictures
2. In small groups, students sequence life cycle cards
3. Discuss how long each stage lasts for different butterflies
4. Create a class butterfly life cycle chart
5. Students complete individual life cycle sequence diagrams

6. Extension: Add simple facts about each stage

Butterfly Math Story Problems (20 minutes)

1. Present simple word problems using butterfly data:
    - "A Blue Morpho butterfly lives for 115 days. A Monarch lives for 60 days. How many more days does the Blue Morpho live?"
    - "There are 24 butterflies in the garden. 8 fly away. How many are left?"
2. Model solving strategies using pictures, numbers, and words
3. Students work in pairs to solve 3-4 butterfly problems
4. Share solution strategies with the class

Locket Memory Project (30 minutes)

1. Connect to the story's special locket
2. Students create paper "memory lockets":
    - Fold paper plates in half
    - Decorate outside with butterfly designs
    - Inside, draw a special memory with a family member
    - Add a simple sentence explaining the memory
    - Attach string to make wearable
3. Share lockets in small groups
4. Display in classroom "Butterfly Museum"

Butterfly Pattern Art (20 minutes)

1. Show examples of butterfly wing patterns
2. Discuss symmetry in butterfly wings
3. Provide half-butterfly templates
4. Students create symmetrical patterns using colors and shapes
5. Extension: Create pattern sequences using butterfly colors

Culminating Activity: Butterfly Museum (40 minutes)

1. Transform classroom into a "Butterfly Museum" with four sections:
    - Butterfly Research Center (fact sheets and measurements)
    - Butterfly Literature Corner (setting descriptions and opinions)
    - Butterfly Art Gallery (symmetry art and lockets)
    - Butterfly Data Center (graphs and charts)
2. Assign students as museum docents in small groups
3. Practice simple explanations of their learning
4. Invite another class to tour the museum
5. Students share what they've learned about butterflies

Closing Reflection (15 minutes)

1. Complete the "L" section of the KWL chart
2. Individual reflection: "My favorite part of our butterfly journey was..."
3. Circle share: "One thing I'll remember about butterflies is..."
4. Preview home butterfly activity

Assessment Strategies

Formative Assessment

- Observation during discussions and activities
- Check-ins during writing process
- Review of butterfly measurement recordings
- Quick comprehension checks during read-alouds
- Exit tickets with simple prompts

Summative Assessment

- Setting description writing piece (focus on sensory details)
- Opinion statement with supporting reason
- Butterfly measurement accuracy
- Butterfly fact sheet completion

- Butterfly Museum presentation
- Life cycle sequencing accuracy

Differentiation Strategies

For Students Needing Additional Support

- Provide sentence starters and word banks for writing
- Offer partially completed graphic organizers
- Create mixed-ability research groups
- Provide simplified measurement tasks with visual guides
- Use visual cues and picture supports
- Allow for oral responses when writing is challenging
- Break multi-step tasks into smaller segments

For Advanced Learners

- Encourage more detailed sensory descriptions in writing
- Add additional research questions for butterfly investigation
- Incorporate more complex measurement comparisons
- Create multi-step butterfly word problems
- Design original butterfly symmetry patterns
- Add non-fiction text features to butterfly fact sheets
- Research butterfly symbolism in different cultures

For English Language Learners

- Pre-teach key vocabulary with pictures and actions
- Provide bilingual butterfly books when available
- Use consistent visuals and gestures
- Allow for drawing before writing
- Pair with supportive peers
- Label classroom displays in multiple languages

- Provide extra processing time for responses

Cross-Curricular Connections

Technology Integration

- Use pre-selected websites for butterfly research
- Take photos of butterfly projects for digital display
- Record students explaining their butterfly knowledge
- Virtual tours of butterfly gardens
- Interactive butterfly life cycle animations

Art Integration

- Butterfly symmetry art
- Cultural art connections (origami, Chinese characters)
- Memory locket project
- Sensory setting illustrations
- Butterfly life cycle models

Music and Movement

- Butterfly migration movements
- Songs about butterfly life cycles
- Cultural music from story locations
- Movement breaks between learning activities

Home Connection

Family Engagement

- Send home a "Butterfly Spotter's Guide"
- Family interview: "What special keepsakes does our family have?"
- Simple butterfly craft instructions
- List of local butterfly gardens to visit
- Butterfly book recommendations from the library

Follow-Up Activities

- Butterfly journal to record any butterflies seen at home
- Plant butterfly-friendly seeds in a small pot
- Share photos of family keepsakes for class display
- Read additional butterfly books at home

Additional Resources

Book Connections

- "Gotta Go! Gotta Go!" by Sam Swope
- "Señorita Mariposa" by Ben Gundersheimer
- "A Butterfly Is Patient" by Dianna Hutts Aston
- Books about family traditions and special objects

Classroom Extensions

- Butterfly vocabulary word wall
- Butterfly-themed classroom jobs
- Ongoing butterfly sightings log
- Pattern blocks in butterfly shapes
- Butterfly books in classroom library
- Measurement center with butterfly pictures

Teacher Reflection Questions

After implementing the lesson, consider:

1. Which vocabulary activities most effectively built students' butterfly language?
2. How did students engage with the measurement activities?
3. What evidence of sensory language appeared in students' writing?
4. Which cultural connections resonated most with students?
5. How might this unit connect to future learning about plants, habitats, or family history?