



Photo for FIA Lesson #7: Entering The *Mwaluganje Elephant Sanctuary*

The setting for Story #7, The Faith Story: “How Butterflies Came to Be,” is The *Mwaluganje Elephant Sanctuary* – again! This place was so inspirational! I took the photo below of one of our fellow travelers entering the Sanctuary. I tried to capture the feeling of being surrounded by trees in a very deep valley – I did my best with my Instamatic camera! The Government of Kenya created and cultivated this special place, not only as a haven for elephants but also as a haven for the Souls of the Ancestors of the Daruma People. In keeping with ancestral traditions, the Kenyan government sponsored a yearly ritual, even providing a cow to be sacrificed as a part of the ceremony. In my story, I brought together lessons I learned at the Butterfly Sanctuary (in Story #3) and my feelings when I entered the *Mwaluganje Sanctuary* and created a fantasy story to teach a lesson about faith and giving.





**Lesson #7 – Reading The Faith Story
“How Butterflies Came to Be”**

pp. 93-110, *Fia and the Butterfly: 7 Stories for Character Education* by Lonnetta M. Gaines

A Saying to Remember for The Faith Story
I practice faith in action. I am moving forward to meet my good.

AUTHOR’S NOTES

Repeat the Saying to Remember, write it down and share it with others. The Saying to Remember for The Faith Story reminds us that faith is something that you do. That’s one of the things that Fia learns in the seventh story – and look! Faith in action – that’s an acronym for Fia!

The *setting* for The Faith Story is The Mwaluganje Elephant Sanctuary which was developed by the government of Kenya as a protected area for elephants. This beautiful and serene place is where this story came to me. I looked out over the rolling tree-covered hills and the gently sloping valleys and I “heard” this story in my heart and in my mind. Of course, I still had to write it down, but I knew the story immediately, beginning, middle and end.

The Faith Story – “How Butterflies Came to Be” is the story that Nana Bea tells Fia to help her to deal with her deep sadness about the murder of the Four Little Girls in the 16th Street Baptist Church on Sunday, September 15, 1963 during the Civil Rights Movement. “How could something like this happen?” Fia wonders in disbelief. Nana Bea wants Fia to know that the lesson of The Faith Story is a very hard one, one that Fia will continue to learn for the rest of her life. That is the challenge of walking in faith.

FIA Lessons by Lonnetta M. Gaines written for the AACRC/African American Cultural Resource Center
Betty J. Johnson North Sarasota Library Website: BettyJJohnsonFriends.org
Ask for *Fia and the Butterfly: 7 Stories for Character Education* at your library or purchase the book at:
https://www.amazon.com/s?k=ISBN+9780979541407&ref=nb_sb_noss

In the story, when there is a crisis – when the land has dried up and the children of Earth and Sky are besieged by storms and unending droughts, they feel completely helpless. They come together to try to figure out what to do, but no one can come up with a solution, that is, until the smallest one says, “Just talking will not solve our problems. Each one of us has to give something of ourselves” – and they do . . . What does that have to do with butterflies and how they came to be? Read *The Faith Story* and find out!

And remember, the lessons of *Imani*, the lessons of Faith, are life lessons. These lessons are not always easy, but they are always necessary.

Here’s a personal story. My Dad, Mr. Lonnie W. Gaines, Jr., was my only parent for many, many years after my Mother, Mrs. Gladys Harris Gaines, died. Although I was an adult when Mother passed away, it was very very hard for me; but my Dad embraced me in what felt like both fatherly and motherly love. And then, many years after my Mother passed, Dad’s time came to die. We both knew it was happening. I was so distressed, and my Dad could see that. To comfort me, Dad said: “Remember what you wrote in your book. Now is a time for keeping your faith.” Dad was right. Keeping the faith is not always easy, but it is always necessary.

To remember *The Faith Story*, use your imagination to color the beautiful butterfly with the flowers on the following Coloring Page – FIA Activity #7. Enjoy!!!

Extra Credit (smile). Answer the twelve questions at the end of the story (pp 107 & 108). Complete the Character Development Activities (pp 109 and 110).



Name: _____ Date: _____

FIA Activity #7 – The Faith Story

Butterfly Coloring Page

Directions: Use your imagination to create a colorful picture of this butterfly with the flowers – enjoy!!

