



**Photo for FIA Lesson #3: “How the Chi Chi Butterflies Got their Permanent Wings”**

Shortly after I arrived in Kenya, African Quest Safaris arranged for me to travel from Nairobi to Mombasa, where I met one of their agents who told me about the arrangements for the rest of my 9-day stay. I was on my own for the afternoon and decided to stroll on the road outside of the hotel. It was my good fortune to happen upon the *Bamburi* Forest Nature Trails. I knew immediately that I had found a very special place – see the photo below. My smile only got broader as I visited the Butterfly Breeding Station and was taught so many facts about butterflies by one of the informative guides. I put several of those facts into my stories. (The *Bamburi* Forest Nature Trails is now called Haller Nature Park, and the Butterfly Breeding Station is called the Butterfly Pavilion. They’re still there! <https://lifeinmombasa.com/tag/butterfly/>)

Below is a photo of me entering the Bamburi Nature Trails. Look at those beautiful palm trees!





**Lesson #3 – Reading The Collective Work and Responsibility Story  
“How the Chi Chi Butterflies Got their Permanent Wings”**

**pp. 39-53, *Fia and the Butterfly: 7 Stories for Character Education* by Lonneta M. Gaines**

A Saying to Remember for The Collective Work and Responsibility Story  
***I work well with others. I am helpful and responsible.***

**AUTHOR’S NOTES**

Repeat the saying to remember, write it down and share it with others. The Saying to Remember for the Collective Work and Responsibility Story reminds you of the importance of being helpful and cooperative. Remember, you are an important part of your community. Now – to the story!

The *setting* for The Collective Work and Responsibility Story is the Butterfly Breeding Station at the *Bamburi* Forest Nature Trails in Mombasa, Kenya. Looking at the beautiful butterflies, I was inspired to write “How the Chi Chi Butterflies Got Their Permanent Wings,” a fantasy story about young butterflies who, like our young Fia in the story, are very concerned about how they look. In fact, like Fia, they spend a lot of time looking at themselves in the mirror – in their case, Mirror Lake.

In the story, our young butterflies – who I call Chi Chi Butterflies – learn some important lessons that help them to see the importance of being pretty on the *inside*. The Chi Chi Butterflies are the heroines and heroes of the story – they save the life of their Queen!

I learned a lot about butterflies at the Butterfly Breeding Station. For example, I learned that Mother Nature organizes the butterflies so that butterfly species are attracted to specific types of flowers. I put that into my story. I also learned that the African Queen Butterfly is poisonous to birds, so I put that into my story, too.

FIA Lessons by Lonneta 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](https://www.amazon.com/s?k=ISBN+9780979541407&ref=nb_sb_noss)

In my story, when the butterflies are driven away to a new land where the flower supply is limited, they organize themselves by choosing specific types of flowers for their food so that they all can eat. And because their Queen is poisonous to birds, she is able to remain in their native land when the greedy birds drive the other butterflies away.

I want you to know another thing about this story. I was thinking about my people, about African Americans, when I wrote this story. Like my people, the butterflies start out in a land of abundance and plenty. Then, they are forced to leave their Motherland and have to learn to survive in a cold new land of scarcity and hardship. When a crucial problem arises – in this case, the life-threatening situation of their Queen, it's the young butterflies – the Chi Chi Butterflies – who are bold enough to take action. When I wrote about those young butterflies, I was thinking about the young people in the Civil Rights Movement who, along with their elders, risked their lives in a mighty Movement for Justice. (I wrote a little about the Civil Rights Movement in the End Notes, pages 123 and 124, in *Fia and the Butterfly*.)

So, Dear Readers, while you are reading the Fantasy story about the Chi Chi Butterflies and their permanent wings, you may find yourself thinking about other situations as well . . . maybe situations in your school or in your neighborhood . . . and also about the continuing Movement for Justice in our communities, in our country, and in the world.

Review some of the key lessons in “How the Chi Chi Butterflies Got their Permanent Wings” by completing the Reflections in FIA Activity #3. Enjoy!!!

***Extra Credit (smile). Answer the twelve questions at the end of the story (pp 50 & 51). Complete the Character Development Activities (pp 52 and 53).***



**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

## ***FIA Activity #3 – The Collective Work and Responsibility Story Reflections***

**Directions:** At the end of The Collective Work and Responsibility Story, “How the Chi Chi Butterflies Got their Permanent Wings” in *Fia and the Butterfly*, the young Butterflies make several statements expressing what they have learned as a result of their experiences. (See pages 48 and 49.) These statements are important to reflect upon and remember.

**What does each of these statements mean to you? Write your own ideas in the space below each statement.**

STATEMENT ONE

***It feels good to be helpful.***

STATEMENT TWO

***Even when you feel afraid, you can still take action.***

STATEMENT THREE

***What you do is more important than how you look. Goodness is better than beauty.***