



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

Back Cover, *Fia and the Butterfly*

**UPDATED: About the Author**

Dr. Lonnetta M. Taylor-Gaines, a retired New York City educator, taught and advised graduate students at the Bank Street College of Education, consulted with principals and their teams nationally and internationally under the leadership of Dr. Lorraine Monroe, and counseled and taught freshmen at the Borough of Manhattan Community College. She cofounded The Learning House, a community pre-school in Atlanta, Georgia and Education Arts in Louisville, Kentucky. Dr. Gaines has also performed as a professional dancer in several New York City-based companies including the companies of Eleo Pomare, Dianne McIntyre, and George Faison, has told stories at museums, libraries and community centers in New York City, Selma, Alabama, Mombasa, Kenya, and in Sarasota, Florida where she now lives. In Sarasota, she worked as Artist-in-Residence at the North Sarasota Library, and acted with the West Coast Black Theatre Troupe and the Florida Studio Theatre. She is currently Historian with Manasota ASALH/Association for the Study of African American Life and History, a member of the Unity Church of Sarasota, and the *Lambda Omicron Omega* Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority. Dr. Gaines is also a member of the Friends of the Betty J. Johnson North Sarasota Library, the sponsor of The AACRC /The African American Cultural Resource Center.

\$13.99

**Fia and the Butterfly: 7 Stories for Character Education**  
**Dr. Lonnetta M. Taylor-Gaines**

You are about to enter a very special, magical world where you will meet Fia, an 11-year-old African-American girl who lives during the year 1963. Fia has some of the same joys and some of the same problems that you have in your life—she has to meet new friends at her new school, she doesn't like the way she looks, and she just hates her school uniform! In addition, because she lives during the time of the Civil Rights Movement, Fia has an unusual problem, too—she's afraid to go to church! Travel with Fia as she learns lessons about life and about herself. Meet Fia's wise friend who teaches her these lessons. Answer the questions and complete the Character Development Activities in order to learn your own lessons . . . and discover the magical powers of reading and your own imagination!

*"This book is WONDERFUL!! It touches the qualities of African-American while you read great stories. My favorite story is 'How the Ch-Ch Butterflies Got Their Permanent Wings.' I love this book."*

**~Fourth-Grade Student**

*"The stories are wonderful and they each have an awesome moral. They are really cool!"*

**~Seventh-Grade Student**

*"I have finished reading your book Fia and the Butterfly and I must say it was a joy to read . . . Overall, Dr. Gaines, this was a good book. I enjoyed reading it and will do so again."*

**~High School Senior**

*"As a minister, I highly recommend Fia and the Butterfly: 7 Stories for Character Education. The stories are uplifting and deliver messages about caring for self and others that are important for adults as well as children. My wife and I enjoyed reading the book and made sure that all our grand children get copies."*

**~The Rev. Canon Jesse F. Anderson**

*"This lovely book of allegorical stories is useful to all teachers, parents, and counselors who are concerned about the development of character in our children and our youth. I recommend it highly."*

**~Dr. Lorraine Monroe, International Educator**

*"When an imagination! A marvelous, insightful gem! What a soul! This book may have been written for children but it has a message for adults who seek the profound child within."*

**~The Rev. C. T. Vivian, Legendary Civil Rights Activist**



**About the Author**

Educator and storyteller, Dr. Lonnetta M. Taylor-Gaines was raised in Mobile, Alabama and Louisville, Kentucky. An alumna of Fisk University, Bank Street College of Education, and the Union Institute, she has performed nationally and internationally as a professional dancer with the companies of Eleo Pomare, Dianne McIntyre, and George Faison. Dr. Gaines, a member of the historic Mother A.M.E. Zion Church in Harlem, is Vice President of the Lorraine Monroe Leadership Institute, working to help principals and their teams to increase student achievement and to enrich students' lives.

Photo by James J. Ritzgerman, Jr.

Cover Art by Harvey Richards

CEP-Character Education Press  
www.taylor-gaines.com



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



## ***Beginning Lesson – Let's Get Started!***

pp. VII – XII, *Fia and the Butterfly: 7 Stories for Character Education* by Lonnetta M. Gaines

Dear Scholar,

What a pleasure it is to meet you through my book, *Fia and the Butterfly: 7 Stories for Character Education*. I am a member of Manasota ASALH/Association for the Study of African American Life and History. Part of our work includes reaching out to students in our local Sarasota schools so they can learn more about our cultural legacy.

For the first months of 2020, a group of us from Manasota ASALH volunteered to work in an afterschool program at the Emma E. Booker Elementary School. One of the books that we used in our program was *Fia and the Butterfly*. We didn't finish the lessons because schools did not reopen after Spring Break because of the pandemic. Mrs. Marion Black-Ruffin was a member of that teaching team and asked me to post the lessons that we used – and those we were planning to use – on this new Website sponsored by The AACRC/The African American Cultural Resource Center that is based in the Betty J. Johnson North Sarasota Library. The AACRC was founded by renowned educator, Mrs. Lovette Harper in collaboration with author and educator Dr. Cheryl Smith. Currently, the AACRC is chaired by educator and musician, Mrs. Lois Wilkins. With the help of our Website Coordinator, Mrs. Marion Black-Ruffin, the AACRC will post a series of lessons for elementary students (suggested Grades 3 through 5) based on the stories in *Fia and the Butterfly*. We hope that these lessons will be fun and engaging and that they will help you to learn more about the African American Cultural Celebration of KWANZAA and the 7 Principles (or values) that are a part of this celebration. These values are important, not only during KWANZAA but year-long! We also hope that you will be inspired to learn more about the rich and enduring legacy of African Americans in this country and beyond. One of the reasons the AACRC exists is to help to inspire and cultivate the interest of young people – actually all people – in African American culture and history. We hope you will get on board!!!

---

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

Before you begin reading the stories, here are some things to think about:

Look at the book – the front and back covers – and the comments made by other students about the book. What do you predict that this book will be about?

1. Read the Table of Contents – notice that the book includes an Introduction, a Conclusion, and 7 Stories in between – one for each of the 7 Principles of KWANZAA. Also read the “front matter” – the letter from me that lets you know the year – 1963 – in which the story takes place. Finally, read and think about the historic statement by the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. on page XII.
2. *Be prepared!* Because I chose to include elements of FANTASY in my stories, you will meet talking butterflies, a talking millipede, a talking cricket – even talking clouds! That’s the fun of FANTASY – it’s a genre – a type of writing, that you often find in folktales like mine. So just relax, have fun, and find out what my stories have to teach you.
3. Each Lesson will include a Lesson Activity at the end. I’m hoping you will read the chapters of the book you participate in the Lesson Activities. It might be fun to read the chapters and these lessons along with a friend, a teacher, or a parent.
4. Finally, of course, I’m hoping you will enjoy *Fia and the Butterfly: 7 Stories for Character Education*. Feel free to let us know at [www. BettyJJohnsonFriends.org](http://www.BettyJJohnsonFriends.org)

Now, go to the next page and complete the Beginning Activity. Enjoy!

