



Photo for FIA Lesson #4: “How Mother Nature Makes the Butterfly”

Because of Tasneem Adamji of African Quest Safaris, I had an opportunity to visit the Tototo Women’s Group. We were shy with each other at first, but after a while, we were sharing stories with each other from our lives. These women had worked together, engaging in small business projects and sharing their income to build a school for their children. What a living example of *UJAMAA*, Cooperative Economics, in action.

Below is a photo of the women of the Tototo Women’s Group. I’m in this photo, too, smiling broadly. May these women and all the women of the world continue in God’s Grace.





**Lesson #4 – Reading The Cooperative Economics Story
“How Mother Nature Makes the Butterfly”**

pp. 55-64, *Fia and the Butterfly: 7 Stories for Character Education* by Lonnetta M. Gaines

A Saying to Remember for “The Cooperative Economics Story”
I care and I share. I aim to increase the good in the world.

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 sharing your time and other gifts with others. When you share, you help to make the world a better place for everyone. Now – to the story!

The *setting* for the Cooperative Economics Story is the Tototo Women’s Group in Mombasa, Kenya. My tour to Kenya in 1999 was arranged by Tasneem Adamji, founding partner, along with her brother Taher, of African Quest Safaris. She was so attentive! I am pleased to report that African Quest is still there! (www.africanquestsafaris.com) Tasneem asked me what I would like to do in Kenya; one of the things I requested was to have an opportunity to meet and talk with women, so she arranged for me to visit with the Tototo Women’s Group. Although I couldn’t find current information about this organization, the model that they established – of women helping themselves and each other – still exists.

Fia and Nana Bea listen in on a meeting of the Tototo Women’s Group. Fia learns that the women are getting together to raise money to get running water for their village. Fia

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Ask for *Fia and the Butterfly: 7 Stories for Character Education* at your library or purchase the book at:
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is learning that in this world, not everyone has running water. “I want to help,” she tells Nana Bea. “Yes,” Nana Bea replies. “But first, Fia, you must develop yourself.” Fia wonders what that means, and Nana Bea tells her to learn from the developing butterfly. Nana Bea wants Fia to look at the life cycle of the butterfly – egg, caterpillar, chrysalis, and fully developed butterfly.

Think about your own life. How can you compare your life to the stages of development of the butterfly?

Before ending, I’d like to share with you an experience I had while in Kenya. I was visiting a traditional village along with a guide who helped me when translations were necessary. At one point, I purchased handmade jewelry from two of the women in the village. Several other women were clustered around, and I wanted to give them a gift, but not just to the women who sold me the jewelry. I wanted them to share. I was having difficulty making my intentions known, not only to the women but to my guide. Everyone was looking confused. But then I remembered the 4th Principle of *KWANZAA – UJAMAA!* “*UJAMAA!*” I repeated. And everyone smiled, repeating this *Kiswahili* word which means sharing with others. “*UJAMAA!*” we all repeated, smiling in mutual understanding. Wow! How exciting! One of the *KWANZAA* Principles had helped me to communicate with my Sisters in Kenya!

Review “How Mother Nature Makes the Butterfly” by completing the Crossword Puzzle in FIA Activity #4. Enjoy!!!

Extra Credit (smile). Answer the twelve questions at the end of the story (pp 61 & 62). Complete the Character Development Activities (pp 63 and 64).

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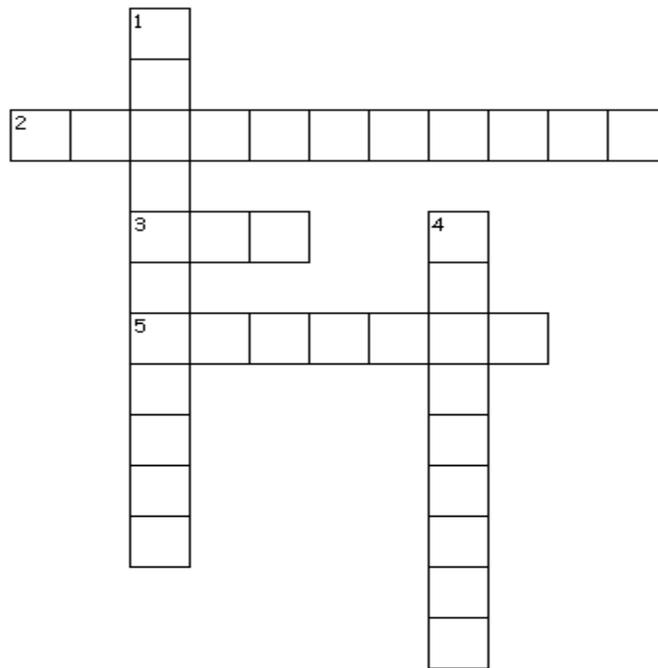


Name: _____ Date: _____

FIA Activity #4 – “The Cooperative Economics Story” Crossword Puzzle

Directions: Think about the stages in the Life Cycle of the Butterfly that you read about in “The Collective Work and Responsibility Story” in *Fia and the Butterfly*. Use this knowledge to complete the Crossword Puzzle below.

Life Cycle of the Butterfly



Across

2. Eats leaves
3. First Stage
5. Butterflies care for them

Down

1. Have beautiful wings
4. Transformative stage

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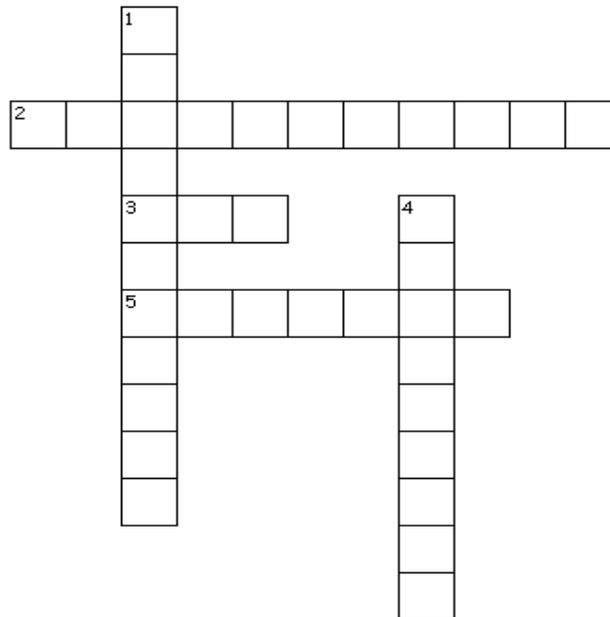


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KEY: FIA Activity #4 – “The Cooperative Economics Story” Crossword Puzzle

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Life Cycle of the Butterfly



Across

- 2. Eats leaves -- **caterpillar**
- 3. First Stage -- **egg**
- 5. Butterflies care for them -- **flowers**

Down

- 1. Have beautiful wings -- **butterflies**
- 4. Transformative stage - **chrysalis**

LIFE CYCLE OF THE BUTTERFLY First, Mama Butterfly lays her **egg** on the underside of a leaf. Then, the egg hatches and out comes the hungry **caterpillar**. After a time, the caterpillar attaches itself to a twig with a sticky thread. Then, the caterpillar becomes very still and the outside of its body becomes hard, like a shell. This is the **chrysalis** stage. Inside the chrysalis, the caterpillar transforms into a beautiful butterfly. And when it is time, the **butterfly** emerges!

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