



CHARACTER BUILDING LESSONS

CARL SOMMER

THE UGLY CATERPILLAR

About the Book

Speckles the spider and Crumbs the cricket think Katy the caterpillar is much too ugly to be their friend. But Annie the ant doesn't agree, and she and Katy become best friends. As Katy the caterpillar begins her strange transformation into a beautiful butterfly, her friend Annie is shocked and amazed. Speckles and Crumbs finally learn the true meaning of beauty and friendship—and caterpillars.

In this inspiring and beautifully illustrated book, Carl Sommer teaches the importance of respect for others, kindness, friendship, and the true meaning of beauty.



Main Virtues

Respect for Others/Kindness/ Friendship

Other Virtues

Appreciation, Caring, Cheerfulness, Commitment, Compassion, Cooperation, Creativity, Loyalty, Positive Mental Attitude, Self-Esteem, and Tolerance

Contents

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Kindness

“Hello!” shouted the caterpillar. She politely introduced herself. “I’m Katy. Can I play, too?”

“Of course!” said Annie with a great big smile. “Come float on the lake with us.”

Immediately, Annie began rowing to shore.

“W-a-i-t just a minute!” shouted Crumbs. “We don’t want you to play with us.”

“Why not?” asked Katy very softly.

“Because...well.” Speckles held back a laugh. “You’re just too ugly.”

Crumbs and Speckles did not want to make friends with Katy because they felt she was too ugly. We should not judge people by the way they look or the color of their skin. We should be kind to everyone.

Respect for Others and Friendship

“Look at you,” laughed Crumbs. “You have six little arms and ten short legs. And you don’t even have a neck! We’d be embarrassed to be seen with someone looking like you.”

“I can’t help the way I look,” said Katy as she began to cry. “I was born this way.”

“Sorry-y-y,” answered Speckles and Crumbs. “You’re much too ugly to be our friend.”

“You’re not ugly to me!” said Annie. She frowned at her rude friends and jumped onto the bank. “I’d love to be your friend.”

Annie showed compassion by respecting Katy and making friends with her. Annie felt the pain that was going on inside Katy, and she wanted to help.

Inward Beauty

When Annie and Katy were alone, Katy asked, “Why am I so ugly?”

“You’re not ugly because someone else says so,” answered Annie. “My parents say you can’t tell if someone’s ugly just by their looks.”

“What do you mean?” asked Katy.

“What you look like on the outside isn’t as important as what you look like on the inside,” explained Annie. “Things like love and kindness, honesty and goodness—those are the important things that make someone beautiful.”

Many times people judge others by their outward beauty or by the color of their skin, but what really matters is the person’s character—their inner beauty or character.

Being Thankful

Annie hugged Katy and said, “Thank you! Thank you!! You saved my life.”

Annie thanked Katy for rescuing her when she fell into the lake and could have been eaten by a hungry fish. We need to learn to be thankful when good things are done for us.

Appreciating Our Amazing World

After Annie saw Katy turn into a beautiful butterfly, she said, “This is amazing! If I hadn’t seen it myself, I never would have believed it.”

Our world is amazing. We need to open our eyes and see all the amazing and wonderful things in it.

Our Amazing World

(Let students list things of our amazing world.)

The vast universe of earth, sun, moon, and stars

People

Land animals

Ocean animals

Birds

Plants and trees

Microscopic life

Mountains and hills

Sunrise and sunset

Questions

1. Where did Speckles, Annie, and Crumbs live?

Speckles, Annie, and Crumbs lived under a giant willow tree beside Crystal Lake.

2. What did Crumbs point at that made him so excited?

Crumbs pointed to a yellow egg on a smooth green leaf.

3. What did Speckles say about the yellow egg when Annie said, “I wonder what lives in there?”

Speckles said, “I don’t know, but I bet its ugly.”

4. A. What did Annie say to Speckles when he said, “I don’t know, but I bet its ugly”?

Annie said, “Don’t say that! Something beautiful might be inside.”

B. Why was it wrong for Speckles to say what was inside the egg was ugly?

Speckles is giving a judgment on something he knows nothing about. It is also wrong to call others ugly.

5. What did Crumbs and Speckles do the rest of the day because Annie said, “Something beautiful might be inside”?

For the rest of the day, Crumbs and Speckles laughed at Annie.

6. What did the three friends peek at every day?

Every day the three friends would climb up the tree and peek at the tiny yellow egg.

7. What did Crumbs yell when he saw a strange-looking creature poking his head out of the egg?

Crumbs yelled, "Quick! Come look at this ugly worm."

8. What did Annie say when Speckles said the caterpillar was ugly?

Annie said, "No, it's not. Just because it's different doesn't make it ugly."

9. What did Annie say when Katy asked, "Can I play too"?

Annie said, "Of course. Come float on the lake with us."

10. What did Crumbs shout to Katy when Annie began rowing to shore?

Crumbs shouted to Katy, "Wait just a minute! We don't want you to play with us."

11. What did Speckles say when Katy asked, "Why not"?

Speckles said, "You're just too ugly."

Crumbs and Speckles did not want to make friends with Katy because they felt she was too ugly. We should not judge people by the way they look or the color of their skin. We should be kind to everyone.

12. What did Annie say and do when Speckles and Crumbs said Katy was too ugly to be their friend?

Annie said, "You're not ugly to me!" She frowned at her rude friends and jumped onto the bank. Then she said to Katy, "I'd love to be your friend."

Annie showed compassion for Katy. Annie could feel the pain that was going on inside Katy, and she wanted to help.

13. What did Annie first say when Katy asked, "Why am I so ugly"?

Annie said, "You're not ugly just because someone else says so. My parents say you can't tell if someone's ugly just by their looks."

14. What did Annie say to Katy about what was important about looks?

Annie said, "What you look like on the outside isn't as important as what you look like on the inside."

15. A. What did Annie say were the important things that make someone beautiful?

Annie said, "Things like love and kindness, honesty and goodness—those are the important things that make someone beautiful."

B. Why is inner beauty much more important than outer beauty?

Outer beauty is only skin deep; inner beauty deals with our character. Our character is much more important than our outer beauty.

Many times people judge others by their outward beauty or by the color of their skin, but what really matters is the person's character—his or her inner beauty.

16. What did Katy say about her skin when Annie said, “You’re coming apart”?

Katy said, “When my skin gets too tight, I just grow some more. Then I get rid of the old skin.”

17. What happened to Annie as she was playing on some leaves hanging over the lake?

Annie fell near a hungry fish.

18. A. What did Annie do and say to Katy after she was rescued?

Annie hugged Katy and said, “Thank you! Thank you! You saved my life!”

B. Why is it important that we say “Thank you” when people do kind things for us?

It is important to say “Thank you” because it shows appreciation for what was done.

We need to learn to be thankful to those who do good things for us.

19. What did Katy say to Annie about why she had to leave for a few weeks?

Katy said, “Something really big is about to happen to me, and I must find a safe place to stay.”

20. What did Katy change into after she tied herself to a branch?

Katy turned into a chrysalis.

(A butterfly comes from a chrysalis; a moth comes from a cocoon.)

21. What did Katy say happens to butterflies?

Katy said, “First we come from a small egg as a caterpillar. As we continue to grow we keep shedding our skin. Then we turn into a chrysalis. And finally—TA DAH—our bodies change into a butterfly.”

22. As Annie watched Katy drying herself in the sun, what did she say?

Annie said, “This is amazing! If I hadn’t seen it myself, I never would have believed it.”

Our world is amazing. We need to open our eyes and see all the amazing and wonderful things in it.

23. What did Katy say to Annie after she dried her wings?

Katy said, “Hop on my back, Annie. We’ll go for a ride.”

24. What did Crumbs first say to Annie when he saw Katy?

Crumbs said, “She sure is pretty. We’d love to have her as our friend.”

25. What did Crumbs say when Katy asked, “Why didn’t you like me when I was a caterpillar”?

Crumbs said, "We didn't know you would turn into such a beautiful butterfly."

26. What did Katy say when Crumbs said, "We didn't know you would turn into such a beautiful butterfly"?

Katy said, "It shouldn't matter what someone looks like on the outside. You never know—something beautiful might be on the inside."

27. Why were Speckles and Crumbs mad at themselves?

They were mad at themselves for having treated Katy so badly.

28. What did Crumbs mumble when Speckles said, "You know, Annie was right"?

Crumbs mumbled, "She sure was. Something beautiful was inside."