

# Afternoon tea with a butterfly

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*Inspired by a true conversation  
(in early-2023) with my son,  
Isaac Ali Erzurumluoglu*



*Isaac and our cat, Newton (2021)*

*Images generated using Midjourney – in  
collaboration with Fatma Nursima Arslan &  
Stefanie Müller*

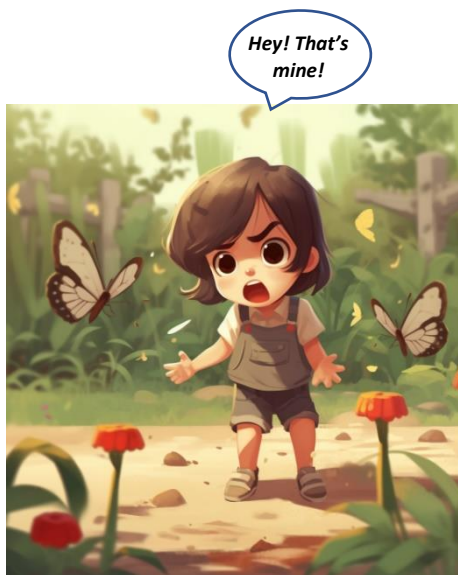
***Freely read and disseminate***



This is Isaac. He is 4 years old. He loves drinking tea because it's tasty (and hot chocolate – as can be seen above – but let's not digress!). Beside being delicious, tea is also full of good stuff called **antioxidants** and can be very healthy if consumed in moderation. But because normal tea is too hot for Isaac, his parents usually make him iced tea. They add some fruits in it too, which are also full of healthy stuff called **vitamins**.

Isaac loved drinking his iced tea in the garden as he watched the bugs and birds. He was especially fond of snails, ants, and **butterflies**.

One day, as Isaac was observing an ant trail in the garden, a butterfly started sipping on his iced tea. As soon as Isaac saw this, he got angry and shooed the butterfly away.

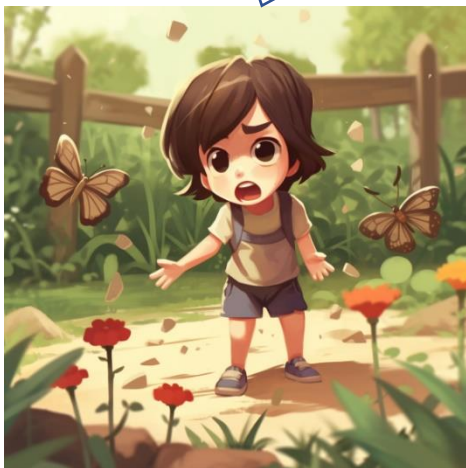


After a moment's thought, Isaac decided that he did the wrong thing and hoped that the butterfly would come back so he could say sorry. Unfortunately, it didn't.

The next day, Isaac decided that he would ask his parents to make two cups of iced tea – one ‘normal’ size for himself and one (very) small size. He explained that the small one is for the butterfly. His parents obliged.

Isaac sat on his chair patiently waiting for the butterfly to come. And there it was! Isaac signalled to the butterfly to join him and enjoy some iced tea. The butterfly was shy at first but then realised that the small cup of iced tea was solely for him. He happily flew over and sat on the other side of the table.

*I'm sorry! I  
shouldn't have  
shouted at you like  
that.*



*Thank you for  
being kind enough  
to share your tea  
with me!*



Isaac said "Sorry!" for what he did. *"I hope you can forgive me. I actually like to share. My parents always remind me that 'Sharing is caring' and I forgot about this again"*. The butterfly was happy but also surprised as he had never been in this situation. The butterfly decided to reply back: *"I understand. There is nothing to be sorry for. I should not have sipped your tea without asking. I am a butterfly, and we usually just sip anything we see useful to survive"*.

Now it was time for Isaac to be surprised. *"You can talk?!"*

The butterfly replied: *"Yes; those of us who live with humans can speak very well actually. We just don't have the chance or the courage to. But I could see that you are someone that I can trust and converse with"*

Isaac was very excited and immediately started asking questions: *"Why is your name 'butterfly'? Is it because you like to eat butter?"*

*“Actually I have different names in different cultures. Our name is **Butterfly** only in the English-speaking world. As for food, rather than butter, we would prefer drinking the juice of mushy fruits. But, in nature, we feed mostly on nectar from flowers. So we should be called a **Nectarfly** if anything 😊”*

*“We’re called all sorts of things. For example, Germans call us **Schmetterling** - which most probably derives from the German word for cream. So we’re known as **Creamfly** in German 😊 It is said that people believed witches were flying around in the shape of butterflies to steal milk and cream”*

*The butterfly continued: “In France, we’re called **Papillon** (flying, fluttering thing). In Danish, we’re the **Sommerfugl** (summer bird). In Spanish, we’re called **Mariposa** (Mary, alight!). In Turkish, **Kelebek** (beautifully patched)... In Russian, we’re called a **Baboshka** (old woman or grandmother). In Persian, **Parvane** (guide/leader)... There are many other names (and myths!) and I love them all!”<sup>i</sup>*



**A creamfly?** 😊



**A summer bird?** 😊

*“It was lovely to meet you!” said the butterfly. “If you don’t mind, I would like to come visit you again”.*

Isaac was flabbergasted with how knowledgeable the butterfly was. *“I would love to see you again! I’m very excited to learn more about your life and family. Your iced tea will be ready tomorrow!”*

Isaac ran inside and told his parents all that he learned about butterflies! He also called his aunts, uncles and grandparents and told them too!



**Isaac’s drawing of our ‘happy’ family**



(Felt tip pen on cardboard)

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<sup>i</sup> Sources: Oxford Dictionary, Wikipedia, Google Translate, Nişanyan Sözlük