

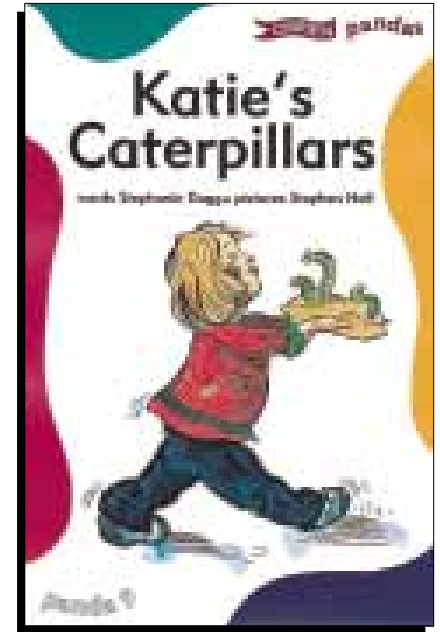
ACTIVITY SHEET 5

A SUMMERTIME ACTIVITY – KEEPING CATERPILLARS

O'BRIEN

You will need:

- a fish tank or similar, with lid
- soil and twigs
- plenty of leaves (the same sort as you found your caterpillar on.)



1. Put plenty of soil at the bottom of the tank. Put some twigs in too. If there aren't air holes in the lid already, ask an adult to help you make some. This is very important, as the caterpillars will die if they don't have enough air.
2. Now go on a caterpillar hunt. When you find some, lift them off the leaves and place them in the tank. Be very, very careful with how you lift them. Pick plenty of the leaves you found your caterpillars on and put those in the tank. Be sure to put in fresh leaves and take out the old ones EVERY day.
3. Be careful where you keep the tank. Don't put it on a windowsill or in direct sunlight as that would be too hot for the caterpillars.
4. Watch as the caterpillars turn first into pupae and then into butterflies. Release the butterflies as soon as they have dried their wings or are starting to flutter about in the tank. They may damage their wings if you keep them in the tank for too long. And please remember that caterpillars are living creatures. Treat them with respect and kindness.