

# Zanzibar

by Jeanne Willis

I found a caterpillar  
I called him Zanzibar.  
I gave him willow leaves to eat  
And put him in a jar.  
He wandered up and down his twig,  
He ate and ate and ate.  
I've never seen a caterpillar  
Put on so much weight.  
And then he seemed to shrink a bit  
And off he went and hid.  
He turned into a chrysalis  
Beneath the jam-jar lid.  
He slept for many days and nights,  
When suddenly he stirred,  
He stretched his wings and fluttered  
Like a scarlet hummingbird.  
I didn't want to let him go  
But I heard Grandad say,  
'When things grow up, like butterflies,  
They have to fly away.'

**Note to teachers:** see teaching notes for this poem.

**Note to parents or carers:** your child's teacher has been reading this poem aloud to your child's class so that they grow up with a love of poetry. You can help by reading this poem aloud to your child.

Do not ask your child to read the poem to you as it is above their reading level.