

## Butterfly Story

One spring day, Beatrice, the butterfly, floated over the prairie looking for flowers. Beatrice loved flowers and today she was searching for the perfect one. Near the edge of the city park, Beatrice saw what she was looking for. It was larger than any flower she had ever seen. It had so many colors, she wondered if it might really be a rainbow!



Just as Beatrice was about to land on the flower, she noticed something strange. The flower was moving. As she looked more closely, she noticed the flower was on a lady's hat. She was about to fly away when the lady opened the door to a building. Beatrice was suddenly caught on the wind from the door and was whooshed into the building.

As Beatrice looked around, she saw the building was made of glass. It was called an arboretum. Beatrice did not know what an arboretum was, but she was about to find out! As she looked around, she saw that the building was filled with flowers! She was so excited. She wanted to explore the whole place.

Beatrice decided to start with a room called *beach*. Beatrice had never been to a beach. She was very surprised that there was a lot of water in the room. She also noticed that the air was very wet and the ground was mostly sand. Tall grasses grew out of the sand. The grasses were a golden brown color with large seeds on the top. There were lovely blue and white morning glories on green vines. She also saw pretty white red, orange, and yellow poppies. There were even some pink primroses!

As she left the *beach*, Beatrice went to a room called *sunflower field*. Because Beatrice lived on the prairie she knew about sunflowers, but she had never seen so many! The whole room was yellow gold. There were big sunflowers and small sunflowers. There were sunflowers with brown centers and ones with black centers. All of the sunflowers had beautiful green leaves. Beatrice could have spent all day in this room, but she wanted to see some other flowers too.

The next room was called a *garden*. Beatrice could not believe her luck. There were so many flowers here that she could not count them all. They were all different colors and types. There were blue iris, yellow daffodils, red tulips, and pansies of purple, yellow, blue, and orange with black centers. But she really loved the roses. They were different colors too. They were red, pink, yellow, white, and some were two colors. They were very beautiful. It was hard for Beatrice to leave this room, but she knew there were other beautiful flowers waiting for her.

The *forest* room was very new for Beatrice. She lived on the prairie and there were few trees on the prairie. She didn't know that trees could have flowers. The pine and juniper trees near her home didn't have flowers. She saw a redbud tree with pretty little red flowers and a dogwood tree with beautiful big white flowers. There was even a magnolia with showy pink flowers. There were also elm, oak, and maple trees, but they were green with brown trunks. They didn't have flowers yet. Beatrice decided that a forest was a very pretty place.



The next stop Beatrice made was to a place called *night*. Beatrice usually didn't go out at night, so she did not know what to expect. One thing that she noticed was that most of the night flowers were white. She thought that might make the flowers easier to see. There were pink, white, and yellow primroses. There were also white and pink campion with long green stems. And Beatrice saw large, white yucca flowers with their pointed green leaves. The night room smelled wonderful with all of these delicate flowers.

The next room was called *tropical* and Beatrice was excited to find

it. There were beautiful orchids throughout the whole room. They were every color you could imagine. There were even light green ones. Some of the orchids had several different colors on the same flower. One was pink and red. Another one was bright orange with a red center. The air in this room was really damp. Beatrice even found a waterfall.

As Beatrice moved into the next room, she could not imagine a place more different from the tropical room. This *desert* room was very dry. The ground was mostly sand and rock and most of the plants were cacti. There were tall saguaro cacti with white flowers and short prickly pear with big yellow flowers. There were even some plants that Beatrice thought were dead, brown twigs, but they had bright red flowers. They were called ochitilla. Beatrice also saw more yuccas with their large white flowers. There were even some barrel cacti with small yellow flowers. Beatrice thought a butterfly would have to be very careful in a place like this. There were many pointed spines on these cacti.

As she left this room Beatrice realized that she had seen all of the special places in the arboretum. As she was fluttering near the door, she saw the lady wearing the showy hat. Beatrice decided to follow the lady out of the building.

As she returned to the prairie, Beatrice realized that she had seen many beautiful flowers, but none of the rooms she had visited was really home for her. Her home was the prairie where she could drink the nectar of the milkweed and her young could eat their leaves. There were many beautiful places to visit, but Beatrice felt safest on the prairie. It was her home.**Song:**

