Read the short story and answer each question.

The Butterfly Train

Nina stood at the edge of the garden, holding her suitcase. The petals on the flowers shivered like they were excited too.

Suddenly, the ground glowed. A train made of vines and petals slid into view. Its wheels were leaves. Its whistle sounded like a bird's song.

The door opened. A butterfly in a little vest waved her wings. "All aboard!"

Nina stepped inside. The train smelled like honey and grass. Soft moss cushioned the seats.

"Where are we going?" Nina asked.

"To the Flower Festival!" the butterfly said.

Outside the window, giant tulips danced and bees hummed a tune. When they arrived, the butterflies gave Nina a crown made of petals.

She laughed and twirled. "This is the best train ride ever!"

When she blinked, Nina was back in her garden—but a petal crown still rested on her head.





Name:

The Butterfly Train

1. What shows this story is fiction?		2. What does Nina get at the Flower Festival?	
Α.	The butterfly wears a vest and drives a flower train	А. В.	A butterfly A suitcase
	Nina rides the subway The story takes place in a garden	С. D.	A flower crown A map
D.	Nina visits a flower shop		

3. Fill in the blank:

The train was made of vines and _

4. What parts of this story could not really happen in real life?

5. How would a nonfiction book about butterflies or trains be different from this story?





Guide Reading Level: J Lexile Level: 290L-450L Grade Level: 1st Grade, End of the Year Genre: Fantasy (Fiction)

Introducing the Text

"Today's story is about a magical train made of flowers and a talking butterfly conductor. As we read, let's look for clues that show this is a made-up story and talk about how it's different from a nonfiction book that teaches real facts."

Vocabulary: suitcase, festival, cushion, petal, twirled

Before Reading Discussion Questions

- 1. Have you ever seen a butterfly up close?
- 2. What do you think it would be like to ride a train made of flowers?
- 3. What's the difference between a real train and a pretend one?

During Reading Discussion Questions

- 1. What makes this train ride magical or imaginary?
- 2. How does the author describe the train in a fun way?
- 3. What surprises Nina during her journey?

After Reading Discussion Questions

- 1. How is this story different from a book that teaches about trains or butterflies?
- 2. Why do you think Nina still had her crown at the end?
- 3. What kind of pretend story would you write about a train?

Activity Idea

Have students design their own "magic transportation" (e.g., a bubble bus, a rainbow scooter). They can draw it and write one sentence explaining why it's fiction. Label their vehicle with fun details that show it couldn't exist in real life.

