

## Lesson 6: *Becoming Vanessa*

**THEME:** Believing in Yourself

**BOOK:** *Becoming Vanessa* Written and illustrated Vanessa Brantley-Newton

**MATERIALS:**

- **Song:** “Believe in Yourself”  
[Dedicated to Ziggy Marley \(Believe in Yourself\) - YouTube – \(This one has lyrics\)](#) Or  
[Ziggy Marley & the Melody Makers - Believe in Yourself - YouTube \(More Arthur Cartoons\)](#)
- **\*Laminated Poster 1:** Include title, author, & illustrator of book  
Vocabulary words:
  - confidence – a feeling or belief that you can do something well or succeed at something. Someone who has confidence is confident.
  - bursting – to be filled with something
  - accessory – something added to something else to make it more useful, prettier, or nicer looking
  - metamorphosis – a major, big change in the appearance or character of someone or something
  - caterpillar – a small creature that is like a worm with many legs and that changes to become a butterfly or moth
  - chrysalis - a moth or butterfly at the stage of growth when it is turning into an adult and is enclosed in a hard case
- **\*Laminated Poster 2:** Partial lyrics to song (highlighted) “Believe in Yourself”
- **Pointer**
- **Highlighter tape (optional)**

**POSSIBLE LITERACY FOCUS:** **In Song** - Letter W ( repeated 8 times at beginning of word also in words – view + down) Write the letter down and make the sound it makes at the beginning of the word.

**Sight words:** to (5 times and in together, and (6 times) Write the sight word on the poster or board and have some of the children come and highlight with highlighter tape or circle it with a marker.

### **Materials for Art Activity**

One Art Activity sheet for each student

Crayons or Markers

Pencils

**BEFORE READING OF BOOK:** Show book to children and read title, author and illustrator's names.

Ask: *What does the author do? What does the illustrator do? Authors have a purpose when they write a book. Sometimes they write story to give information or entertain --just for fun, or they want to tell us something. They have a message. As I read the book, I would like you to think about what the author's purpose or reason for writing the book might have been.*

**READ BOOK:** During reading of book, stop at vocabulary words. You can refer back to words on poster board or chart paper.

**AFTER READING OF BOOK/DISCUSSION:** *Did the author want to give us information, entertain us, or give us a message? What is Vanessa worried about? She is worried because it is the first day of school, and she is afraid that the kids won't like her. What does she do to prepare for the first day of school? Vanessa wants the kids to know she is special, so she dresses in a special way with many accessories. Do you think that children and adults become friends with a person because of the clothes they wear? Do you think that is right? Did Vanessa have a good day on the first day of school. No—the kids did not seem to understand about the clothes she wore, and she had trouble writing her name. You know many children have trouble writing their names during their first year of school. It takes practice and no one should feel bad about themselves if they are having trouble with it. Some children have longer names than others and it may take them longer to write it, and some children skills at writing will get better at a later time than others. All of us learn at a different speed, and that is okay.*

*Do you know what the word confidence means? (On previous page) So, it seems like Vanessa did not have confidence. She did not feel good about herself. She felt she had to wear fancy clothes to show her classmates that she was special. She did not believe in herself – she wanted a different name. What happened at the end of the story? She realized she did not have to wear special clothes to be someone special. She decided she liked her name and shared her drawing of the butterfly with the kids. Sharing with the children and the meaning of her name seemed to give her confidence. She shared a little bit of who she was. And just like Vanessa's mother explained how a caterpillar changes to a butterfly, as you learn and grow you are just beginning to become who you will be.*

**SONG:** Read and point to lyrics of the song. Discuss how lyrics relates to the book and to themselves. Invite a child to come and point to the words, as teacher and class read lyrics again. Assist child with one-to-one matching of oral word to print. If desired, invite children to come to board or poster to identify the uppercase letters ('W's or sight words)

The teacher may want to have the children sing the song with the video or the song can be played on phone with a speaker.

**ART ACTIVITY:** After story and singing of song, show children the art activity you have chosen for them to do. All but two include writing their name on the front of paper. Use the paper with the lines that will be appropriate for your students, or they can try and write the letters of their name in one of the 3 caterpillar outlines. Two of the caterpillar drawings are made out of circles; putting the letters of their name in the circle might be a difficult task for some of them. There is a butterfly shape with wings and one without wings. Children can draw the wings on main part of butterfly and decorate or decorate blackline drawing of butterfly. I would model ways to add wings to butterfly ...for example - Make some “C” shapes or “B” shapes on both sides of butterfly body.

If you would like the children to write their names on the lined paper, instead of within the caterpillar outlines, encourage them to make a drawing above their written name. Their drawings can reflect part of the story (maybe butterflies) or possibly something they like, or like to do. Fine motor skills are not quite developed yet, so decorating the paper with lines and different colors is fine. If you have stickers or rubber stamps, they can add that to their creations.

*Vanessa did not like her name because she was having a hard time writing it. It takes practice. Some letters in your name may be hard to write. Vanessa had a hard time with her S's. This happens many times. I will come around and help you with your name. Vanessa's mother said she gave her the name Vanessa because it means metamorphosis or butterfly. You are all at your beginning and as you grow and learn, you will also go through changes ---a sort of metamorphosis. Just as the book is titled:*

*“Becoming Vanessa” you are becoming you as you grow into adults.  
Believe in Yourself!*



# "Believe In Yourself (Arthur Theme Song)"

(Verse1)

Every day when you're walking  
down the street  
And Everybody that you meet  
Has an original point of view

(Chorus)

And I say, "Hey!"  
What a wonderful kind of day  
Where we can learn to work and play  
And get along with each other

(Verse2)

You got to listen to your heart  
Listen to the beat  
Listen to the rhythm  
The rhythm of the street  
Open up your eyes  
Open up your ears  
Get together  
And make things better  
By working together

(Bridge)

It's a simple message  
and it comes from the heart  
Oh, believe in yourself (Believe in yourself)  
Well, that's the place to start (Place to start)

(Chorus)

And I say, "Hey!" (Hey)  
What a wonderful kind of day  
If we can learn to work and play  
And get along with each other, hey

Repeat Verse 2

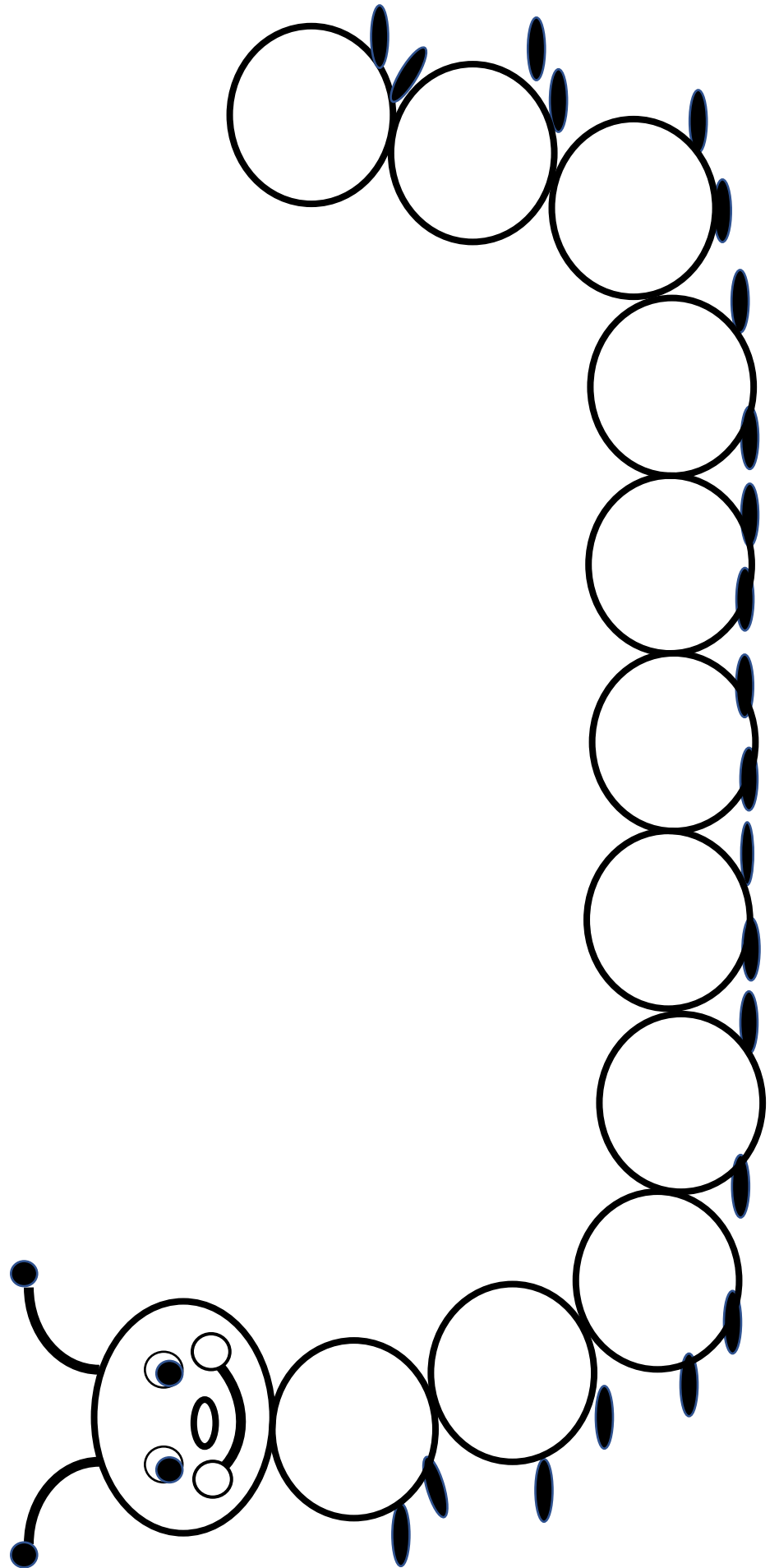
Repeat Bridge

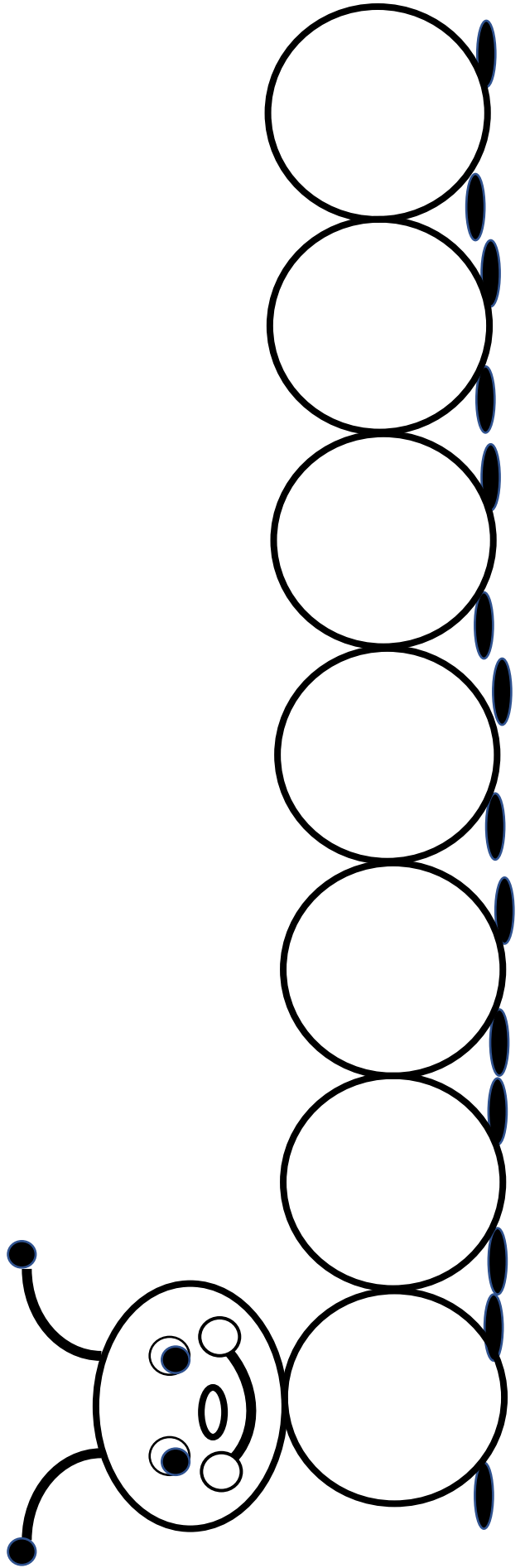
Repeat Chorus

End with →

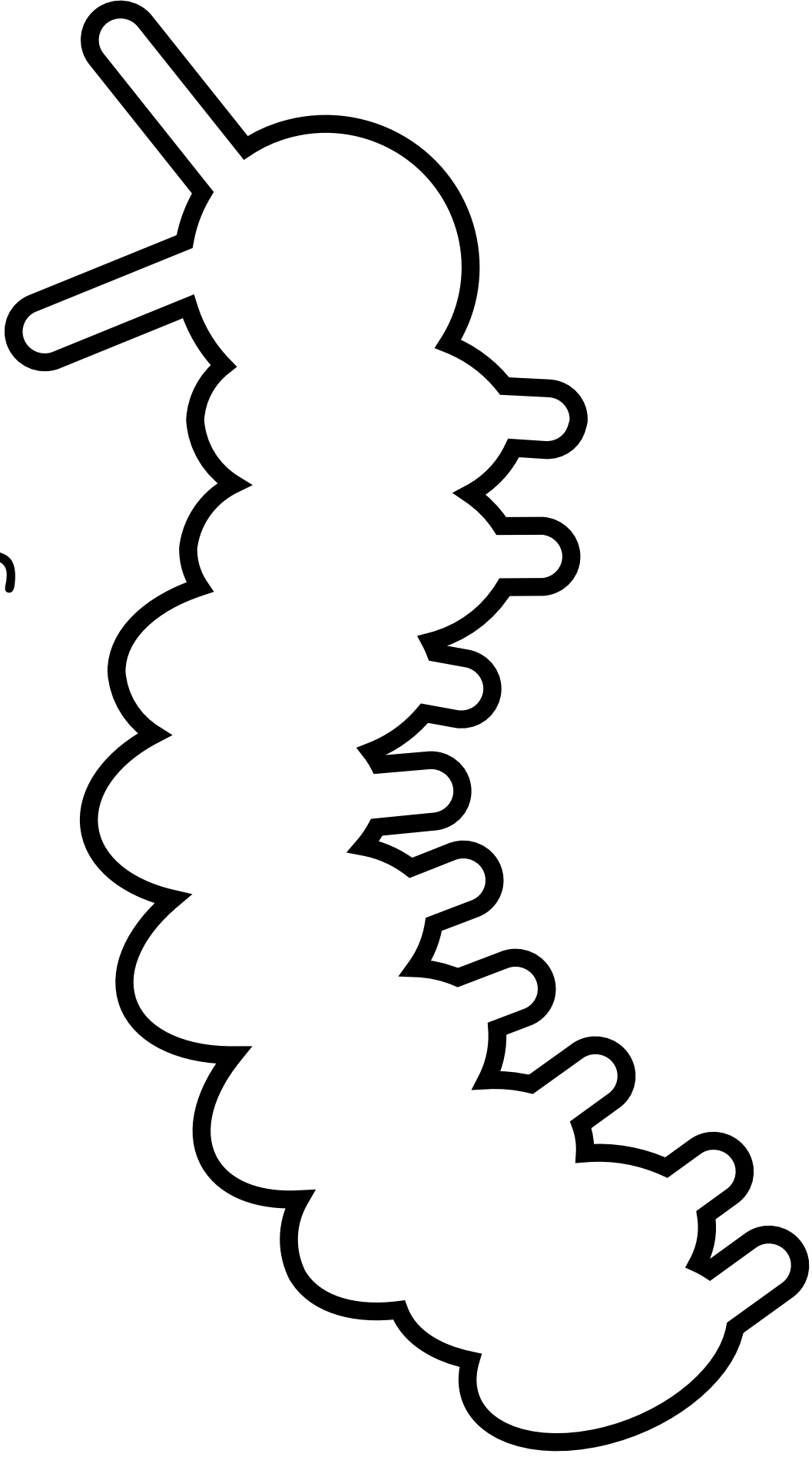
What a wonderful kind of day  
If we can learn to work and play  
And get along with each other  
Hey!

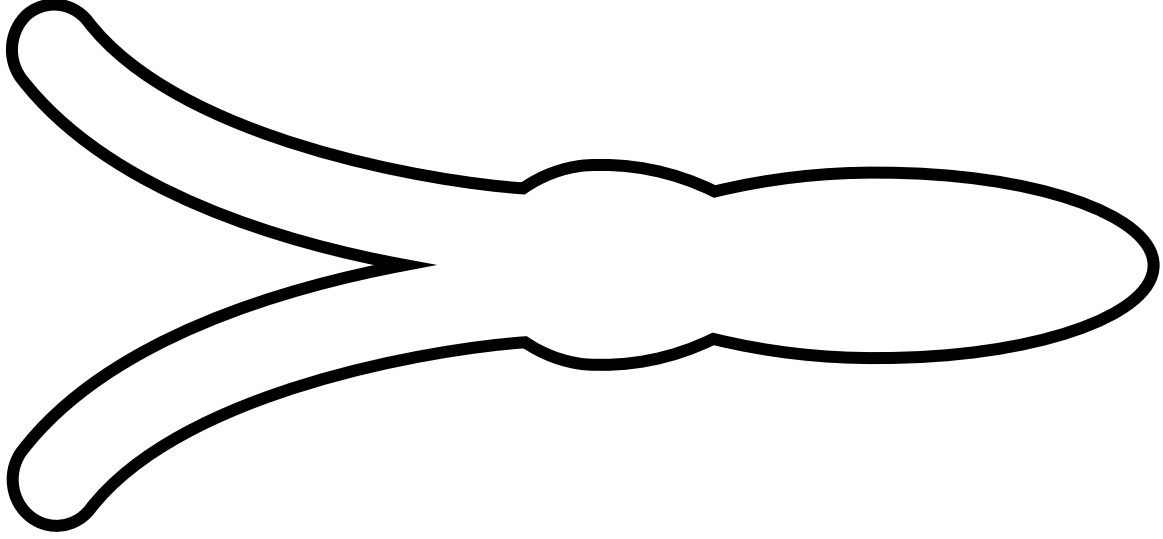
What a wonderful kind of day  
What a wonderful kind of day  
Hey!



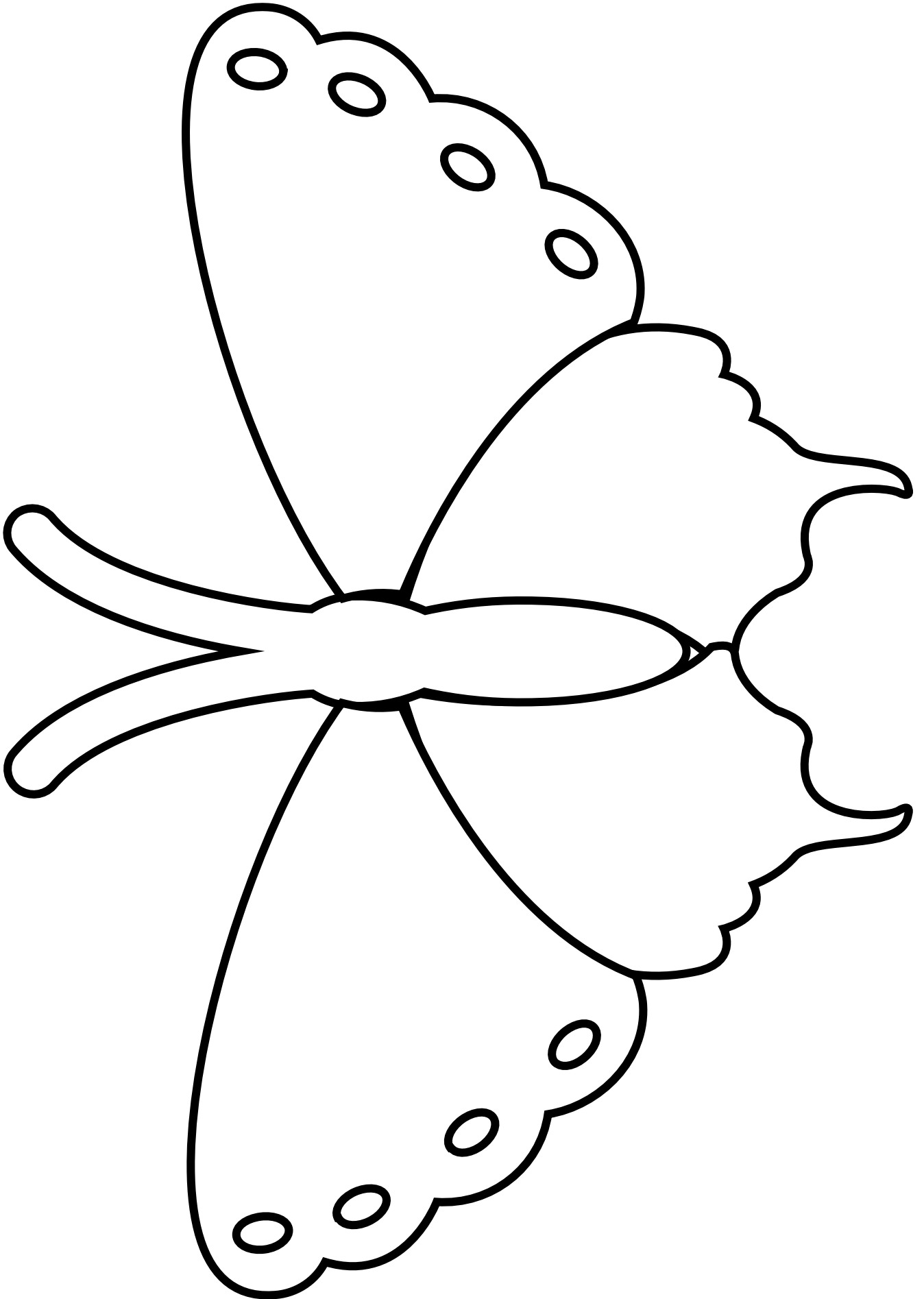


Becoming...





**Believe in yourself!**



Becoming...

Three horizontal lines are positioned on the right side of the page. The top and bottom lines are solid black, while the middle line is dashed grey. These lines are intended for handwriting practice.

Becoming...

This block contains three horizontal lines spanning the width of the page. The top and bottom lines are solid black, while the middle line is dashed black. These lines are positioned to provide a guide for handwriting practice, similar to primary school ruled paper.

Becoming...

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