

Michele Rae Eich

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A message from Michele

Thank you for your interest in my book. I am thrilled that you took the time to check out my website!

I have been a teacher for over 25 years, and during that time, I saw a lot of kids getting bullied. I would like to say it only happened among students, but unfortunately many adults experience bullying as well. I wrote the book “Mari” to inspire people of all ages to stand up to the bullies and follow their dreams.

My book is about a little caterpillar who got lost in the bog with the worms. They tried to make her fit in, but she had a dream which let her know she was different. Mari quickly realized there was more to life than just surviving, and she set out to discover how to break free from the dark and dreary bog that had her stuck.

I have found that many people are not living their best life. Deep down they know that there is more, but they are not sure how to move forward and make lasting change. Sometimes real transformation happens within a chrysalis! Mari discovered this at the moment she was about to give up.

“Mari” is actually my story. An overcomer who faced my own bullies, I am following my dream of writing a book and inspiring others. I love to encourage people of all ages to pursue their dreams and move forward in life. Transformation is possible, and there is no better proof than an earth-bound caterpillar becoming a butterfly that takes flight!

I would love to meet you and discuss the possibility of speaking at your school, library, retreat, church, or other venue. Please contact me at micheleeich007@gmail.com to learn more.

Flying!

Michele
Author, Teacher, Speaker



About the book

Mari loved her home by the pond. After a rain, she discovered a drop of water on the edge of a leaf. She saw her reflection and grew captivated by it. The drop of water fell, and Mari went tumbling after it. She landed in a dark and scary bog where the worms live.

Mari met a worm named Ray. He wanted to help her get back home, but he didn't know how to do that. Mari became homesick, but at least she had one friend who promised to help.

The "bad guy" appeared on the scene. He was the "head honcho" or worm leader named Diablo. He didn't like Mari from the start, and he wanted her to fit in and obey his orders.

Mari tried to survive in the bog while also trying to figure out a way to get home. Ray was supportive but not much help. One night, Mari had a dream she could fly, and she told her friend all about it. Unbeknownst to her, Diablo had sent a spy to watch Mari's every move. The spy went back and told Diablo about the dream.

Diablo gathered everyone for an emergency meeting where he mocked Mari for her "crazy" dream. She was embarrassed and decided to stand up to Diablo. She told him he was a bully and didn't own her. She then grew scared and ran away with the enemy's minions in hot pursuit.

Mari hid in a cave for a few days. Just when she was ready to give up, she saw a tree in the distance. She thought that by climbing the tree, she could see her home and figure out a way to get there. While up in the branches, she became very dizzy and felt strange. She made the "J" on the branch and blacked out.

Weeks later, Mari emerged from the chrysalis. She realized that her dream had come true! She was not a worm at all, but a beautiful butterfly. When she proclaimed that truth, Ray heard her. His little friend had transformed into something magnificent!

Diablo returned and faced Mari in her new state. He would not, however, accept that it was actually Mari standing before him. In that moment, she saw Diablo for what he really was...just a scared little worm. It didn't matter what the bully thought. She decided to launch into her destiny and fly away. After all, the end is just a new beginning!



The messages of “Mari”

Bullying-Bullying is a huge problem in our society. It happens in schools, the workplace, social media, and in families. One way to counteract this problem is to have conversations about it. Sometimes stories can help people open up and find courage. Books can be a springboard for discussion which can lead to a resolution of the problem.

In my book, Mari realized that the bully was not really mean; he was afraid. I believe that many bullies act out because of fear. They want to appear strong, brave, and intimidating to mask the fear within. We need to address the bully as well as equip those being bullied.

Mari discovered her true identity, and when she confronted the bully, she saw Diablo for who he really was. She didn't waste her time trying to convince him that she was right, and he was wrong. Instead, she moved forward into her future. This is the heart of the story.

Dreaming-Dreaming is important. I find that children are natural dreamers. You know that kid who wants to be a professional athlete or the one who wants to be the next president? The book is written for them! Sadly, some children quit dreaming, and I want that to change!

I have also discovered that many adults love to dream big as well. When I tell people that I wrote a book, many will say, “I've always wanted to write a book, too.” Others have similar dreams, and I am here to tell you that it is never too late to work towards fulfilling them! Making changes, moving forward, and following dreams require risk. It is not always easy, but neither is staying stuck. I don't want anyone to regret not pursuing their dreams!

Transforming-I chose a caterpillar/butterfly as the main character of the book to illustrate the concept of transformation. Most people want to change their lives in some way, shape, or form. However, many do not know how to achieve the results they want. Change happens when a baby bunny turns into an adult rabbit. Transformation happens when something becomes brand new. A worm-like creature is eventually able to fly? It seems impossible, but nature has revealed this amazing truth.

“Mari” is based on my own journey. I actually wrote the book for people who were bogged down with life-controlling issues. They wanted new life, but they were not sure how to get it. If you want to learn more about this, please contact me at micheleeich007@gmail.com.



Interview Questions

Here are some great questions to ask me:

- How long did it take you to write the book?
- What is the age range for reading “Mari”?
- What advice would you give for someone who wants to write a book?
- What would you say is the theme or main message of “Mari”?
- You mentioned that the book is based on your life. Can you explain that?
- Why did you choose a caterpillar for the main character?
- How did you come up with the names of the characters?
- What is the hardest part about publishing a book?
- Do you have plans to write another book?
- You dedicated the book to the “Mariposas at the Farm.” Can you share a bit about that?
- If you could give one piece of advice to someone who is getting bullied, what would it be?
- If you could give one piece of advice to someone who is bullying others, what would that be?
- When you are not writing or speaking, what do you do in your spare time?

Let's connect!

I want to spread the message about the little caterpillar who faced the bully to follow her dream. You can help me accomplish this mission. How? Well, let's explore that!

As a former teacher, I really miss the atmosphere within a school. It is alive with so much activity and potential! I enjoy speaking to teachers, librarians, parents, guardians, and children of all ages. I have shared my story with preschoolers all the way up to adults. The message of standing up to bullies and pursuing dreams seems to resonate with everyone.

If you would like to host me at your venue or event, please contact me. I feel very comfortable in front of an audience no matter the size. (If you fill a stadium, that might make be little intimidating, but I am up for the challenge. I believe courage is doing it afraid!)

I like to use humor and real-life anecdotes to convey my message. As a former middle school teacher and mother of six, I have many experiences to draw upon! When I visit, I will have books available for purchase. I enjoy meeting people and encouraging them with this message.

Thank you again for taking the time to learn a bit more about me and Mari. As she would say, "Remember who you are and fly!"

Sincerely,
Michele Rae Eich

