

8. The Three Little Butterfly Brothers

There were once three little butterfly brothers, one white, one red, and one yellow. They played in the sunshine, and danced among the flowers, and they never grew tired because they were so happy.

One day there came a heavy rain, and it wet their wings. They flew home, but when they got there they found the door locked and the key gone. So they had to stay outdoors in the rain, and they became wetter and wetter.

By and by they flew to the red and yellow striped tulip, and said, "Friend Tulip, will you open your flower-cup and let us in till the storm is over?" The tulip answered, "The red and yellow butterflies may enter, because they are like me, but the white one may not come in."

But the red and yellow butterflies said, "If our

white brother may not find shelter in your flower cup, then, we'll stay outside in the rain with him." So the butterflies flew away.

But the sun, who was behind a cloud, heard it all, and he knew what good little brothers the butterflies were, and how they had held together in spite of the wet, so he pushed his face through the clouds, and shone brightly on the garden.

He dried the wings of the three little butterflies, and warmed their bodies. They ceased to sorrow, and danced among the flowers till evening, and then they flew home, and found the door wide open.