

Coleridge Kindergarteners and 5th Graders Are “Reading Buddies”

Coleridge Elementary School’s “Reading Buddies” initiative, led by kindergarten teacher Kasey Peters and fifth grade teacher Holly Craven, has morphed into more than was originally envisioned.

The “Reading Buddies” program groups each kindergartener with two fifth graders. Initially, the students were provided the [Monarch Butterfly thinglink](#) to learn the basics of butterflies, but after determining that monarch butterflies may not be enough for everyone to write about, the [Butterfly Types thinglink](#) was added, and each group was able to pick its own type of butterfly.

The thinglink has one website linked to get students started, and then additional resources are provided to the students to guide their research. The kindergarteners, in particular, benefit from the additional resources, as the fifth graders are more independent with research.

Kindergarteners focus on the life cycle and needs of the butterflies/moths, while the fifth graders focus on the ecosystem. A book kit was ordered from Studenttreasures Publishing and, using their research, the students work together to write a book about the different types of butterflies and moths.

Each group will have two pages, one for the kindergarteners and one for the fifth graders. The “Reading Buddy” time will start with a focus on the kindergarteners’ writing, with the idea that the fifth graders can take on a mentor role. Some of the work will be done during reading rotations or remediation in the teachers’ respective classrooms, to ensure that the work is done in time.

See photos [here](#).