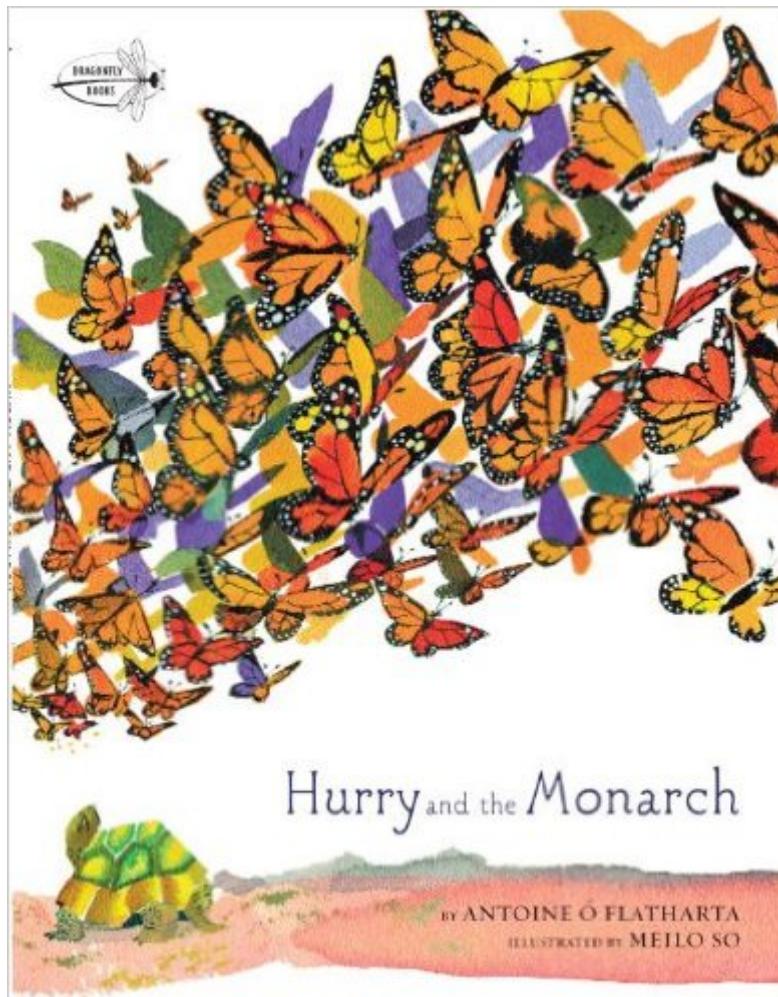


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# Hurry And The Monarch



## **Synopsis**

When the beautiful orange Monarch on her fall migration route from Canada to Mexico stops to rest at Wichita Falls, Texas, she makes friends with an old tortoise called Hurry. She tells him, "Maybe one day you'll break out of that shell, grow wings, and fly away," and then she is off again with millions of other Monarchs. In the spring, she stops again at Hurry's garden just long enough to lay her eggs and head north to Canada. Embedded in this lyrical and tender fictional presentation are the fascinating facts about the amazing 2,000-mile migration and the life cycle of butterflies. An afterword provides additional scientific data.

## **Book Information**

Lexile Measure: 710 (What's this?)

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Shipping Weight: 4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.9 out of 5 starsÂ  See all reviewsÂ  (10 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #72,231 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #28 inÂ  Books > Children's Books > Animals > Turtles

Age Range: 5 - 8 years

Grade Level: Kindergarten - 3

## **Customer Reviews**

Each fall the beautiful orange and black monarch butterflies migrate two thousand miles from Canada to Mexico. The facts about this migration are explained by Antoine O Flatharta in the Afterword to "Hurry and the Monarch," where young readers will learn about how each monarch begins life as a tiny egg on the underside of a milkweed leaf. However, it is the monarchs that are born in early autumn that end up making the long journey to Mexico, where they travel from 50 to 125 miles in a single day until they arrive in the fir forests of Mexico in early November and blanket the forest with millions of orange colored wings. Whereas the usual life span of a butterfly is four to six weeks, the monarchs that journey to Mexico usually live up to eight months and sometimes more. Compare this to the life of a land tortoise, which can live up to 100 years or more. That

comparison is apt because in "Hurry and the Monarch" one of the beautiful butterflies makes friends with a tortoise named Hurry. The facts about the migration of the monarchs are certainly interesting, but the story illustrated by the watercolors of Melo So will make a bigger impression on young readers. The story begins when Hurry, who lives in Wichita Falls in the northern part of Texas, finds one October that a monarch butterfly has landed on his back. She is much more interested in him than he is in her, wondering why he does not break out of his shell, grow wings, and fly away (after all, that is what happened to her). Both creatures are affected by the coming cold weather, but while the monarch flies south to warmer lands, the tortoise just sleeps and waits out the winter. Then the monarch joins her comrades and flies south to Mexico. Melo So is able to contrast the orange and black of the monarch butterflies with the green and yellow of the world in which they live their transitory lives. Working with a rather simple palette of colors So creates a series of lovely watercolors bringing Flatharta's story to life. As you might expect in such a tale, the monarch returns one morning in the spring to Hurry's garden on her way back north to Canada. She lays eggs on a milkweed plant and flies away. There is a poignant end to her journey, but the emphasis in the story is now on the newborn caterpillar that Hurry watches grow and then transform into a new monarch. The ending of the story continues the lyrical narrative spun and older readers will better appreciate how Hurry and the new monarch butterfly part ways at the end. Flatharta has a nice sense of subtlety in telling this story, beginning with the wry irony of the names but more importantly in terms of how he involves the readers in the story by leading them to certain things without necessarily telling them outright. This simple story about the life cycle of the monarch butterfly has a nice sense of depth, which lifts it to a higher level as a children's book.

I found this book in the public library when I was picking books to read with a grandchild. I liked it so much I ordered two copies. I live in Wichita Falls, Texas, which is mentioned in the book as a major stopping spot in the monarch migration to Mexico. Not every year but very often there are thousands of butterflies that cling to my mother's house and seem to drip from the trees near the backyard pond. They are amazing.

I picked this book up at the local library as I am keenly interested in the monarch migration story-- who wouldn't be? But this story adds a depth to the tale of animal migration. It's about love, loss and letting go. Absolutely beautiful illustrations along with a simple, yet powerful story which leaves the reader with a sense of inner peace about the natural world. And over all, it lends this feeling of how fortunate we are to be alive and living on this planet we call Earth! I will be purchasing many copies

of this book to offer as gifts to my friends and family members of all ages.

The art in this book is very well done and especially colorful, while the story line is fresh and entertaining for parent and child alike. In addition it provides interesting facts about the monarch butterfly.

This is a beautiful story, gently told, about the amazing migration of monarch butterflies. It's a lush picture book to be read to a younger child by a parent, ideal for the young reader, and full of facts in the back for adults. A find.

Such a journey traveled with two little friends and love to share this with our children. Love that they can grow together.

My 6 year grandson loved the story. It helped with some fears he still had after we release the butterflies we grew.

This is one of our favorites, I cry, the kids love the story.(Homeschool mama, former biology teacher)

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