

Susan Smith Jones, PhD

BOOK REVIEW

JOY & THE BUTTERFLY

The Magical Garden



*What the Prestigious
"BookLife/Publisher's Weekly" Says about
JOY & THE BUTTERFLY*

"Susan's latest children's book (following her other award-winning book *Vegetable Soup/The Fruit Bowl*) introduces Joy, a compassionate and imaginative 10-year-old girl who loves animals and nature. When she first moves to a farm with her parents and five siblings, she misses city life but she soon realizes 'it is more fun to live on a farm with lots of animals.' In multiple stories, Joy explores her country home, discovers a magical garden, and encounters talking animals, such as a baby alpaca and a flying unicorn transformed from her beloved pet horse, Champ. She also meets a special butterfly named Violet who harbors uncanny wisdom: 'This is my first time being a butterfly, but I have been around for a very long time,' she tells a stunned Joy. What happens next will knock your socks off!

"Susan creates a vibrant world where even ordinary activities like picking berries or walking in the creek feel laced with exciting possibilities. In nature, Joy finds solace

and comfort, like when she sees her reflection in the water and realizes her freckles and hair color are pretty despite what her bullies say. Her infectious positivity will encourage all readers to find beauty in themselves and the world around them, and her empathy toward her siblings, friends, and animals is refreshing and endearing. Each story balances adventure with life lessons such as the Golden Rule, how to treat people and animals, and the importance of childhood and family bonds, creating ample opportunities for learning and discussion.

"The illustrations brim with color and energy, and the lovable pets, magical garden, and unique animal friendships make this an engaging story of the wonder of nature, the bond between children and animals, and the joys of childhood adventure.

"**Takeaway:** The cheery adventurer discovers myriad blessings on her farm and the magic of ordinary days... and you will, too." 🦋



JOY & THE BUTTERFLY won the Gold Medal from the Mom's Choice Awards organization for the best "Family-Friendly Book & Inspiring Story." This 18-chapter novelette features a butterfly as a heavenly messenger that teaches a young girl how kindness, faith, gratitude, courage and love can transform her life—and her whole community.



Available at: SusanSmithJones.com/JoyButterfly

in both Hardback and Softcover in Ultra Premium Color. You can also get 'limited edition' autographed copies — includes a personal notecard from Susan & bookmark. This heartwarming, enchanting book is for children of all ages and also young-at-heart adults. Makes a wonderful gift for any occasion. It is guaranteed to make you smile and brighten up your day.

CREDENTIALS: Susan is a frequent media talk show guest, a holistic health and lifestyle consultant and Pulitzer-nominated author. For 30 years, she taught students, staff and faculty at UCLA how to be healthy and fit. Her latest wellness books include *UPLIFTED*, *A HUG IN A MUG* and *VEGETABLE SOUP/THE FRUIT BOWL*.

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