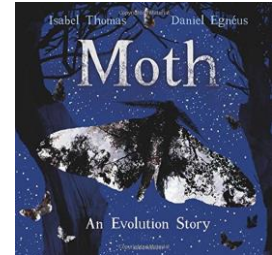


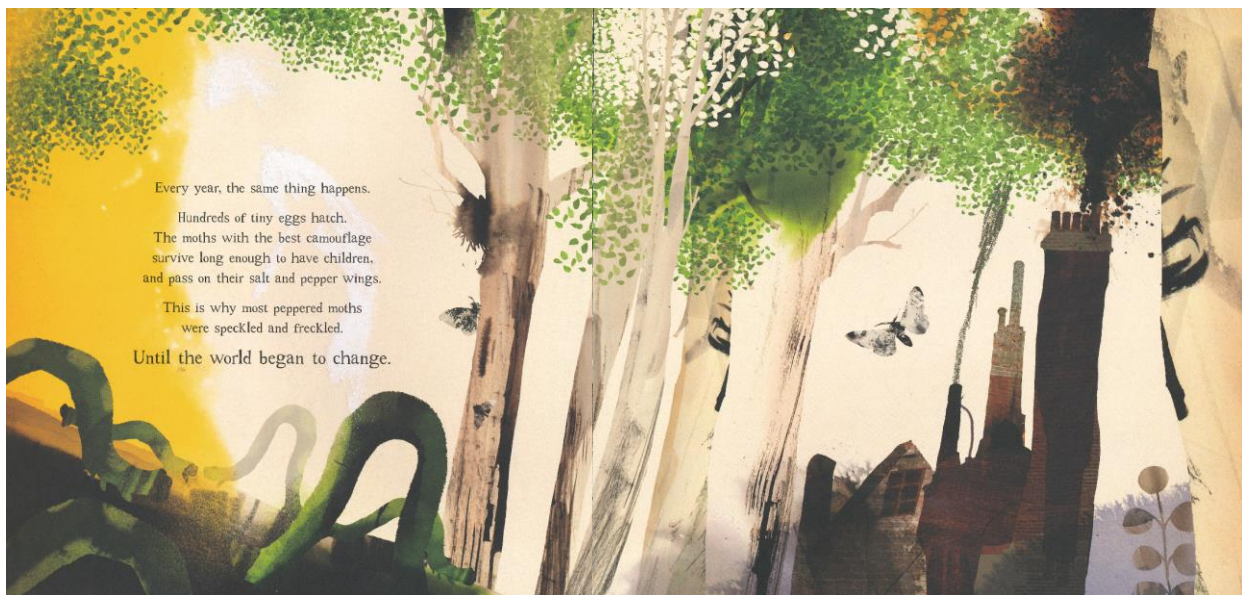
Take 5: Ideas for Independent/Home Learning

Moth by Isabel Thomas and Daniel Egnéus (Bloomsbury)



1. Explore it

Look at the illustration and read the text below:



Did you spot the moths in the picture? Were there any interesting words or any that you don't know? Do you know what camouflage means? Look at the moths again. Where is the best place for them to hide? What makes you think this? How is the moth similar to the tree bark?

Now look at the front cover of the book above and read the title. Do you agree that 'speckled and freckled' is a good description? How would you describe the moth?

Look again at the illustration on the spread above and move your eye from left to right. Look how it changes from fresh green leaves and pale tree trunks to black sooty chimneys. What will the smoke do to the tree trunks?

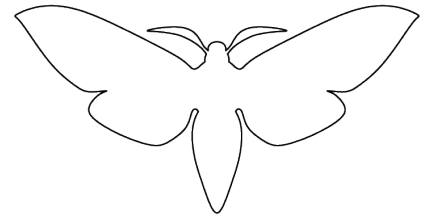
What will happen to the moths if the tree trunks turn black with soot? Will they still be camouflaged? What would have to change for them to remain camouflaged? This is a story about how moths changed to keep up with the changes in the world. Do you know anything else about how any other animals have changed over time?

2. Illustrate it

Look at the illustrations of the peppered moths. What do you notice about it? If you were going to draw a peppered moth, what would you include?

What is special about them? How would you describe the patterning on the wings? Are all the moths the same as each other? What is the same? What shape are the wings? What do the antennae look like?

Can you draw or paint your own peppered moths like the ones in this book? Fold a sheet of paper in half and draw half of the shape of the moth, with the body along the fold, so that the moth remains together. Now cut around the shape so that you end up with a symmetrical shape. You could use the image here to get an idea of the shape.



3. Talk about it

- Which words best describe these moths? Which description do you like the best?
- Why do the peppered moths need camouflage? Who do you think are they hiding from?
- How has the world begun to change? What made this happen? How does it make you feel?
- How else might this smoke affect the environment?

4. Imagine it

What if the peppered moths wanted to be camouflaged around your home? Where is the best place for them to rest? Why? You could test this out. Look at the peppered moths you have made. Cut them out and place them somewhere they would be camouflaged. Does this work? Can someone else find them easily or do they stay hidden for a while? Try somewhere else.

What if your peppered moth had to change in order to stay camouflaged? Which places made terrible hiding places? Why? What if you could make a moth to match this background? What would your moth look like now?

Create a set of moths that can be camouflaged in different places in your home. See how long they can stay camouflaged and hidden.

What will you call them? Why? You could look at moths and their names here for ideas: <https://butterfly-conservation.org/moths/identify-a-moth>

5. Create it

Think about the local wildlife you can see in and around your home. You might look for birds outside your window, insects and minibeasts on your windowsill, balcony, in your garden or on the paths, grass, bushes and trees around your home. You may even spot a fox!

Keep a wildlife diary over the period of a week, drawing and writing about any of the wildlife you spot. You might write about what it looks like, how it moves, what time or where you saw it, or any other information you know or can find out about each creature. Think about the language Isabel Thomas uses to describe the moths like *'speckled and freckled'* or *'salt and pepper wings'*. Can you think of descriptive words for the creatures you spot? Share what you found with other people in your home. Have they seen the same of any other creatures?

You can hear the author Isabel Thomas read the whole of Moth here:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bh8vyeU-J_o