

## The Beautiful Blue Butterfly (*facilitator notes in parentheses*)

Once upon a time there were two little girls (*pick out two in the audience to point to*) who were very curious. They were always asking their parents questions and their parents got very tired of it. So one summer they sent the two sisters up a mountain to live with a wise old woman (*or man if you like - point the person out in the audience*).

The woman knew the answers to everything and for a while the girls were happy. But they were also mischievous and they wanted to find a question that the wise old woman would get wrong. One day one of the girls ran up to the other cupping her hands and she opened them a bit and showed her sister, saying “Look, I have a beautiful blue butterfly (BBB). Let’s go to the old woman and tell her we have a BBB in our hands and ask her “Is it alive or is it dead?” If she says it’s dead, I will open my hands and it will fly away. If she says it’s alive, I will squeeze it real quick and it will be dead.

The girls were very excited and so they went to the old woman and said “We have a BBB in our hands. Is it alive or is it dead?” The old woman looked at the two little girls, scratched her head and said, “The butterfly is....”

*(Then take a sip of water and ask participants to retell the story and find an ending. Listen to their versions, and then finish the story.)*

So there were the two little girls holding this BBB and the wise old woman was thinking about what to say ... and finally she said “The butterfly is ..... in your hands.”

*(ask non-native speakers if they know the 2 meanings to “in your hands”, physically in your hands and “responsibility”, both of which are true of the two little girls).*

*You can end the class/workshop by saying “And the information I have given you today, and the experiences you have had in the activities are now in your hands.”*

**Contributed by Meg Einhorn**

**Notes by Tim Murphey**

**--- Note that this is also told in Africa referring to a bird in the hands of a little boy.**