

## Writers Are Like Butterflies

by Sally Diamond Verrando

Writers are like butterflies. During our developing larval learning stage, we devour as much as we can of grammar, spelling, punctuation, and vocabulary. As pupae, we wrap words together on pages to create cohesive expressions, learning about diction and style. Those exercises can turn our brains to mush. Committed and improving every day, we finally emerge from that brain soup as writers. Not yet ready to fly, we fan our wings as we continue to hone our craft. Then, one day, we take off. Some are Monarchs. Others are Swallowtails. And still others are Skippers. Uniqueness and originality of writers are as infinite as the number of butterflies on earth.

Like the developing Lepidoptera, good writing depends on certain elements to succeed: first, a decent imagination and second, an ability to craft phrases and sentences with expertise and conciseness. I inherited my imaginative knack from my grandmother Hulie, a Southern redhead who enthralled us with raucous adventures of family and friends.