

Quotation Analysis - *Day of the Butterfly* by Alice Munro

On page 144: When the prize is found:

"It was a brooch, a little tin butterfly, painted gold with bits of coloured glass stuck onto it to look like jewels."

1. What do you think the butterfly represents in this story, and why is it so important?
2. Why do you think the story was titled "The Day of the Butterfly"?
3. Can you think of a better title for this story? And why?

On page 145: When Helen insists Myra keep the butterfly brooch.

"We were both surprised. We both looked at each other; I flushed but Myra did not. I realized the pledge as our fingers touched; I was panicky, but *all right*. I thought, I can come early and walk with her other mornings. I can go and talk to her at recess. Why not? *Why not?*"

1. What do you think Helen meant when she said " I realized the pledge as our fingers touched."
2. How do you think this moment changed the way Helen thought of Myra?
3. What was the purpose of some words being italicized in this sentence?

On page 148: When Myra is in the hospital.

"This sound made Myra, her triumph and her bounty, and most of all her future in which she had found this place for me, turn shadowy, turn dark. All the presents on the bed, the folded paper and ribbons, those guilt-tinged offerings, had passed into this shadow, they were no longer innocent objects to be touched, exchanged, accepted without danger."

1. What do you think the narrator means when she says "Her future in which she had found this place for me, turn shadowy, turn dark"?
2. What do you think the danger is that the narrator speaks about at the end of the quote?
3. Why do you think the presents that Myra received were "guilt-tinged"?