



Reading Reinforcement  
Kit for

# The Very Hungry Caterpillar

by Eric Carle

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Reading Reinforcement Kit for

# **The Very Hungry Caterpillar** by Eric Carle

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## Introduction

Information about Eric Carle and his artfully crafted books can be found on "The Official Eric Carle Web Site," a great source of educational ideas for teachers, and answers to questions the author is frequently asked by children young and old.

The Official Eric Carle Web Site

<http://www.eric-carle.com/>

Biographical Notes

<http://www.eric-carle.com/bio.html>

List of Books by Eric Carle, 1983-2002

<http://www.eric-carle.com/ECbooks2.html>

Questions for Eric Carle

<http://www.eric-carle.com/catindex.html>

### **The Very Hungry Caterpillar**

by Eric Carle

Philomel Books

Putnam & Grosset Group

New York

ISBN: 0-399-22690-7

## Notes

## #1. Pre-Reading Activities & Materials

\*Note:

Materials and activities in the pre-reading section can usually be used as follow-up activities as well.

### Possible Themes:

- caterpillars & butterflies
- food: fruit ~ healthy eating
- counting to five and the days of the week
- growth & change

### Songs, Poems & Finger Plays

#### **I'm a Hungry caterpillar**

sing to the tune of "I'm a Little Teapot"

taken from an Eric Carle web site submission by Mary-Ellyn Tarzy July 21, 1999

I'm a hungry caterpillar walking slowly (Slowly walk two fingers from right hand up your left arm)

Looking for something (place hand above eyes searching for something)

To fill my belly (Rub belly)

When I go to sleep (Close eyes, tilt head and rest on folded hands)

I make a little cocoon (Cup hands together)

Pop! I'll be a butterfly soon. (Throw open hands, link thumbs and make flapping movement)

#### **One Hungry Caterpillar**

taken from an Eric Carle web site submission by Leigh Wiley March 24th, 1998

One hungry caterpillar went out for a treat

He spotted some leaves and began to eat.

Well he ate and he ate

And when he was done

He was a bigger caterpillar than when he begun.

### Small group activity suggestion:

Have large solid colored T-shirts (i.e., red, blue, orange..) to put on the children. Sing the song through starting with one child, then sing the song and add another child. Keep singing until you have a long colorful caterpillar! Preschoolers especially love this!

**First Comes the Caterpillar**

sing to the tune of "Up on the Housetop"

taken from an Eric Carle web site submission by Diane Beck April 22, 1998

First comes the butterfly and lays its eggs,  
Out comes the caterpillar with its many legs,  
Oh, see the caterpillar spin and spin,  
A little chrysalis to sleep in,  
Oh, oh, oh, look and see,  
Oh, oh, oh, look and see,  
Out of the chrysalis, my oh my,  
Out comes a pretty butterfly!

**T.V. Programs**

Any nature show dealing with caterpillars and butterflies would be a wonderful pre-reading activity.

**Videos**

**Eric Carle: Picture Writer Video**

Winner of *The Andrew Carnegie Medal for Excellence In Video for Children*, this video demonstrates how Eric Carle creates his beautiful colored tissue paper and collage illustrations. An inspiring video easily used as a pre-reading introduction to the author and his art form.

**#2. Reading Readiness & Introducing New Words:**

Reading readiness activities are important to help prepare children to recognize and read letters, sounds, words, etc. These activities can be done anytime prior to reading.

**\*Note:**

Materials and activities in this section can usually be used as follow-up and ongoing activities within the theme of the story as well.

Introduce new words by involving as many of the .senses as possible! Introduce words and concepts (ideas) through, visual, tactile, kinaesthetic, oral and listening methods to make learning easier! Use games, songs, puzzles, everyday materials (i.e., things found at home), additional books (i.e., "Today is Monday" by Eric Carle), art activities (see *art suggestions* for additional art ideas) and everyday conversations with children (i.e., use new vocabulary when talking to children ~ this puts new words in context).

All or some of the following vocabulary could be introduced depending on the level and age of the child.

- caterpillar
- butterfly
- one
- two
- three
- four
- five
- Monday
- Tuesday
- Wednesday
- Thursday
- Friday
- Saturday
- Sunday

~ Days of the week ~

- Use a large wall calendar to talk about and show the days of the week.
- Use the names of the days in everyday speech with children (i.e. On Sundays we go to see Grandpa.)
- Write the days of the week on blank index cards. Color and decorate. Every day have the child stick the correct day of the week on the fridge. Change it daily as part of a routine.
- Make a caterpillar out of cut out circles. Write a day of the week on each circle. Attach the caterpillar with glue while saying/reading each day of the week Watch the caterpillar grow with each additional day!

~ One to five ~

- Use everyday materials to practice counting (i.e. fruit from the story, pasta, teddy bears, etc.)
- Play a counting or rhyming game using numbers up to five (i.e. One little monkey went to the market, two little monkeys went swimming )
- Write and draw the numbers on blank index cards (make two sets). Mix-up the cards and play a match game by matching the two 3's etc. Play a Match 'n Memory game: shuffle the cards. Turn cards face down and deal out in two rows. Take turns turning the cards over and try to find a matching pair. Turn card back over if a match is not made, continue taking turns until all numbers are paired.
- Bake cookies in rows of five, counting them out one at a time!

~ Butterfly & caterpillar ~

- Use pictures of butterflies and caterpillars to talk about them.
- Make a butterfly (see art suggestions).
- Write the words butterfly and caterpillar on art paper and have the child draw and decorate a picture.

### #3. Introducing the Book

**Always** introduce a new book. This does not have to be a lengthy process! It could be as quick or as long as you would like to make it (don't make it an interrogation either!). Discussion should be natural and flexible..it is an interaction with the child, the reader and the book. New books, especially picture books, can be introduced by looking at the book cover ~ you can discuss, predict and explore using some of the following ideas:

1. the title & cover illustration
  - Tell me what you see.
  - What do you think the story will be about?
  - Who do you think the characters of the story may be?
  - Where do you think the story takes place?
  - Do you think it's a happy story?
  - What do you feel when you see the cover illustration?
  - Does the cover remind you of anything?
  - etc.
2. the author and illustrator
  - Do you know the author or illustrator?
  - If so, what book/s do you know? Tell me about them.
  - How would you design a book cover with this title?
  - etc.
3. story or series
  - Do you know the story? What did you think about it?
  - Is this part of a book series? ...discuss the other books and the ideas in them. How are they alike or different?
  - Discuss any themes presented from the story or series. Compare.

### #4. Reading the Book

Reading can be a cozy bedtime or afternoon cuddle session with your child, an exciting, interactive experience or a fun and creative moment spent with children. There are numerous ways to read a story. All forms of reading can be beneficial, especially if they are varied. (i.e. Is it simply a chance to spend quiet time with your child or an opportunity to be interactive and teach new ideas?) Choose the best one suited to you and your child's needs.

#### Sample Reading Methods & Models

1. **Listening Model**
  - reader reads aloud and child follows silently looking at the pictures
2. **Reading Together**
  - Reader and child read together with the reader ahead by one or two syllables



3. **Choral Reading/Speaking**

- Reader and child recite together a poem, poetic prose, or a story refrain using rhythm without music (ideal for small groups)

4. **Echo Reading**

- Reader reads a word, sentence or page (depends on book and level) child reads the same while imitating the reader's stress and intonation

5. **Audio Reading**

- child listens to a taped recording of the story while following along either silently or as an echo reading

6. **Prediction Reading**

- Reader reads parts of the story, stopping at key points in the story to ask the child what he/she thinks will happen next

7. **Participation Reading**

- child participates by actively opening windows (pop-up and pull books), pushing buttons (sound books), touching (tactile books), using puppets or props, or by acting out the story through drama and/or dance

## Reading Tips

- use intonation and facial expression ~ use different voices for different characters
- use visual aids (i.e. puppets and props)
- ask questions
- use pop up or push button sound books to promote reading participation
- read predictable and rhyming books for children to join in (i.e. chorus or a repeated line)
- pause while reading for a child to "fill-in-the-blank" (i.e. On Wednesday he ate through three plums, but he was still [hungry]!)
- ask for predictions ~ What will happen next?
- ask for reactions ~ How do you think the caterpillar feels now? Did you think that was going to happen?

## #5. Follow-up Activities

### Questioning

#### Post Reading Questions

The reading introduction questions and discussion prior to reading the story can be followed up after reading the story. For example:

1. the title & cover illustration
  - Tell me what you thought about the story
  - Was the story what you expected?
  - Who were the characters of the story? How did you feel about them?
  - Did the story take place where you thought it would?
  - Do you think it was a happy or a sad story?

- Do you feel different when you see the cover illustration, now that you've heard the story?
- etc.

2. the author and illustrator
  - Do you like what the author wrote?
  - Did you enjoy the illustrations?
  - Was it different from other books made by the author or illustrator?
  - Does the illustration of the front cover represent the story? Do you have a better idea?
  - etc.
3. story or series
  - Did you enjoy the story?
  - Was this similar to the series and the ideas in them?
  - Discuss any themes presented from the story or series.
  - etc.

## Neat Ideas

It is a good idea to do some kind of a follow-up activity after reading a new story with a child. This can be as simple as talking about the story over breakfast...what made the story so good...retelling the story...how full the caterpillar must of felt after eating so much, etc. Follow-up activities can take many different forms and may involve some materials or preparation. The point is that there are all kinds of NEAT IDEAS! Try a couple of the following:

- Retelling ~ Have the child retell the story in his/her own words
- Lessons learned ~ Discuss any morals, values or lessons learned:
  - the growth cycle of a caterpillar to a butterfly
  - eating a lot of junk can give you a stomachache ~ better to eat healthy!
- Sequencing ~ Go over the story in the proper sequence of events ~ Have the child draw key parts of the story...mix them up and put them in the proper sequence
- Comprehension ~ Did the child understand what happened to the caterpillar? Have a discussion and use pictures to help explain or watch a nature show.
- Author info. ~ Read and discuss the author's and/or illustrator's biography
- Author's questions answered ~ Read the questions asked to Eric Carle from his web site and read the answers...a great starting point for discussion
- Internet fun ~ Search the web together for book, author, subject, illustrator and/or story information. Make it into a scavenger hunt for information @ <http://www.eric-carle.com/>
- Outings ~ Visit The Botanical Garden and Insectarium to see the collection of bugs and butterflies @ 401 Sherbrooke East tel.: (514) 872-1400 fax: (514) 872-3765
- Other books ~ use the story as a point for reading other books by Eric Carle (see List of Books 1983-1998)
- Go back ~ Go back to some of the pre-reading activities and try one you haven't done yet or pullout a favorite (i.e., sing a song that was learned)

## Art Ideas

### Action Fruit

Prepare on poster board large pictures of the fruit and food used in the story, Cut a circle, large enough to fit an arm through, in the middle of each picture. Laminate if possible. Make a caterpillar arm puppet out of an old sock and a butterfly that could be hidden inside the puppet Reread the story and have the child place the food picture over the caterpillar puppet as he eats throughout the story. At the end, pull a butterfly out of the caterpillar puppet.

### Metamorphosis Art

adapted from an Eric Carle web site submission by Carol strange July 12, 1998

Glue pom poms (green with one red one for the head) to green popsicle sticks. Add oval wiggly eyes and precut pipe cleaner pieces for the antennae and mouth. Attach the caterpillar to a wall, bulletin board or fridge. After a few days help the child cocoon the caterpillar by wrapping it in tissue or crepe paper. Staple or tape shut. Make butterfly wings using 2 cup cone filters cut along the vertical sides, leaving them attached at the bottom. Decorate the wings using eyedroppers of diluted food coloring. Leave the wings folded during this if you want to create a symmetrical pattern. Put the wings aside for up to two weeks (the amount of time it takes for the Metamorphosis...if you can wait that long!) Surprise the child with a beautiful butterfly by opening the "cocoon" and gluing the wings to the back of the popsicle stick caterpillar. He/she should be very excited when, instead of the cocoon, a splendid butterfly is discovered later that day!

### Messy Caterpillar Food Art

taken from an Eric Carle web site submission by Cheryl Butler June 7, 1998

#### Ingredients:

½ banana per person  
cherry or strawberry Jell-O powder  
lime Jell-O powder  
Chow mein noodles  
raisins

Cut the banana into sections (for the body and head of the caterpillar). Roll 1 piece in the red powder (to make a head) and the other pieces in the green Jell-O powder (for the body sections). Place sections on a plate to create a caterpillar. Use the noodles as antennae and the raisins for the eyes. Eat and enjoy!

### **The Very Hungry Caterpillar Mobile # 1**

adapted from an Eric Carle web site submission by Julie Washburn April 29, 1998

Create a mobile using the different foods from the story. Have the children draw or cut pictures of the food from a magazine. Using construction paper make a caterpillar, a cocoon and a butterfly. Punch a hole in all of the completed pictures and creatures. Use wool, string or pipe cleaners to hang the items from a hanger to create a mobile. Decorate with sparkles and glue for added pizzazz!

### **The Very Hungry Caterpillar Mobile # 2**

taken from an Eric Carle web site submission by Jennifer Warren April 10, 1998

Make a mobile! Cut out circles of construction paper in many bright colors. Tape them to the bottom of a clothes hanger. Punch holes in the circles and using yarn and fruit shaped construction paper, hang the fruit from the circles of the caterpillar body. There you have a caterpillar/fruit mobile!!

### **Butterfly Clips**

adapted from an Eric Carle web site submission by Melanie VanWyk January 19, 1999

Using washable markers, color beautiful patterns on the coffee filters. Wet the filters using a wet paint brush to let the colors blend. Let the filters dry and fold in an accordion style. Clip them in the middle with a clothespin. Twist on a pipe cleaner for antennae and use a dark marker for the eyes. Presto! Beautiful fluttery butterflies that can be clipped anywhere.

### **Hand Butterflies**

adapted from an Eric Carle web site submission by Pat Kolintzas May 16, 1999

Have children make a butterfly using their hands. Using paint and construction paper put a glob of paint on their hands and have them rub them together to spread the paint evenly over the hands. Have the children place both thumbs side by side in the air to create the shape of a butterfly. Slowly have the children place their hands on the construction sheet while keeping the butterfly shape. Have them slowly lift their hands off of the paper, leaving the imprint shape of a butterfly! Let dry and decorate with glue on sequins, gems, beads, glitter and fabric.

## **Other Great Ideas**

### **Interactive Reading Sing Along**

taken from an Eric Carle web site submission by Jenny Scott April 4, 1999

Before rereading the story, introduce the song: "Oh me, oh my, I need something to eat, oh me, oh my, another little treat." Sing the song after each page of food that the caterpillar eats.

### **Blanket Fun**

taken from an Eric Carle web site submission by Jean Garrett July 29, 1997

Use the child's nap blanket for this FUN, FUN, FUN activity. After first acting out the eating parts of the story, wrap up in the blanket like a cocoon...after a "long" wait unwrap from the blanket and use it for the wings of a butterfly that just broke free from a cocoon. Put some nice music on for the butterflies to dance and move to.

### **Cocoon Drama**

taken from an Eric Carle web site submission by Peta Wells September 21, 1998

Small group activity: In groups of three have one child play the caterpillar. The other two children wrap the caterpillar in a cocoon using toilet paper. On a signal caterpillars break: out of their Cocoon and fly around the room as butterflies!

### **The Very Hungry Reading Caterpillar**

Create a long caterpillar listing all of the books read with your child. Start the caterpillar with a cut out circle shape with the child's name on it For every book: read together add a circle to the caterpillar's body with the name of the book and the date it was read. Watch the caterpillar grow as the child eats up the books!! After every 20 books, for example, replace the caterpillar with a beautiful butterfly. Try to make a wall full of butterflies!

### **Measuring Caterpillars**

adapted from an Eric Carle web site submission by S. Flinn April 18, 1999

Use caterpillars for measuring. Copy a strip of one inch caterpillars onto construction paper. Use the strip to measure things throughout the house. Make a longer strip to measure people!

### **Hungry Mr. Caterpillar**

poem

taken from an Eric Carle web site submission by Judy Nickerson April 16, 1998

Hungry Mr. Caterpillar was looking for a treat.  
He said to the (blank), "What's good to eat?"  
(Blank) said to Mr. Caterpillar, "If you're hungry for a treat, try some (blank) that's good to eat!"

Children have to think of an animal and a food that animal might advise a caterpillar to eat (i.e. a rabbit might tell him about carrots, a monkey about bananas, etc.). A picture of the animal, Mr. Caterpillar and the food could be drawn on a paper with the poem pre-written or copied by the parent or child.

### **Healthful Eating**

The Very Hungry Caterpillar can be used to discuss healthful eating following a discussion about what the caterpillar ate and how he got sick

### **Marshmallow Caterpillars**

taken from an Eric Carle web site submission by Kathy May 25, 1997

1 bag of marshmallows  
food coloring  
milk  
chow mein noodles  
raisins  
waxed paper

Make small containers of red and green "paint" by adding a few drops of food coloring to 1/4 cup of milk. For each caterpillar, paint 1 marshmallow red for the head and 3 marshmallows green for the body. (Pastry brushes work well!) Stick marshmallows together while wet and place on a piece of waxed paper. Attach raisins for the eyes and feet, and insert chow mein noodles for antennae. Eat!

### **Very Hungry Caterpillar Fruit Salad**

taken from an Eric Carle web site submission by Motoko September 9, 1996

Ingredients:

1 Apple  
2 Pears  
3 Plums  
4 strawberries  
5 Oranges  
Bunch of Mint Leaves

Peel, pare, seed, hull, and section each fruit. Cut into bite-sized pieces, put together in a bowl and chill. Garnish each serving with a sprig of mint. Serve to a small group of friends, after reading a good book. You'll enjoy every bit of it.

## Notes

[illegible]



## #1. Pre-Reading Ideas

Use these ideas before reading The Hungry Caterpillar.

### Songs, Poems & Finger Plays

Sing a song, read a poem or try a "finger Play" before reading The Hungry Caterpillar. (see the activity master sheets)

### Videos

Look at this video with your child:

#### **Eric Carle: Picture Writer Video**

This video shows how Eric Carle makes his nice paper and collage pictures. A video that can be used as a pre-reading look at Eric Carle and his art form.

- Talk about the pictures found in a book (illustrations) and the person who drew them (the illustrator) before watching the video.
- After watching the video make a picture like the ones talked about in the video.
- Talk about the video with your child.

## #2. Getting Ready to be a Reader

These ideas are important to help make a child ready to read letters, sounds, words, etc before reading. \*Note: All of these ideas can be used before or after reading the story.

1. Show new words using as many of the five senses as you can! LOOK, SEE, HEAR, TOUCH and TASTE (yes, even taste!!)
2. Use games, songs, puzzles, things found at home, other books like: "Today is Monday" by Eric Carle, art ideas and talking with your child to help him/her get ready to become a reader!

New words you can use with this book:

- |               |             |
|---------------|-------------|
| • caterpillar | • Monday    |
| • butterfly   | • Tuesday   |
| • one         | • Wednesday |
| • two         | • Thursday  |
| • three       | • Friday    |
| • four        | • Saturday  |
| • five        | • Sunday    |

~ Days of the week: things you can do ~

- Use a large calendar to talk about and show the days of the week.
- Use the names of the days when you talk with your child (i.e. On Sunday we will go to see Grandpa.)
- Write the days of the week on blank cards. Color and decorate. Every day have the child stick the correct day of the week on the fridge every day. (see new word cards)
- Cut out the large new word cards. Use the cards to:
  - read or spell the words
  - to copy the spelling of the words on a picture
  - talk about what you do each day of the week
- Make a caterpillar out of cut out circles. Write a day of the week on each circle. Stick the caterpillar with glue while saying/reading each day of the week. Watch the caterpillar grow with each new day!
- Try an idea of your own!

~ One to five ~

- Use things from home to count to five (i.e. fruit from the story, pasta, teddy bears, etc.)
- Play a counting or rhyming game using numbers up to five (i.e. One little monkey went to the store, two little monkeys went to school....)
- Cut out the large new word cards. Use the cards to:
  - Put the numbers in order
  - To read and spell the numbers
  - To write the number (i.e. five: 5)
- Write and draw the numbers on blank index cards (make two sets). Mix-up the cards and play a match game. Match the two 3's, the two 5's, etc.
- Bake cookies in rows of five, counting them out one at a time!

~ Butterfly & caterpillar ~

- Use pictures of butterflies and caterpillars to talk about them.
- Make a butterfly (see art ideas).
- Write the words butterfly and caterpillar on art paper and have the child draw and decorate a picture.

### #3. Introducing the Book

Show your child a new book before opening it ~ you can talk about the book by using any of these ideas:

1. Look at the front of the book. Ask questions and talk about the cover and picture. For example:
  - Tell me what you see.
  - What do you think the story will be about?
  - Do you think it's a happy story?
  - What do you think of when you see the cover picture?
2. Tell your child the person who wrote the book (author) is Eric Carle. The same person made all of the pictures (illustrator). Talk about any stories your child may know by Eric Carle. Talk about the pictures (illustrations). For example:
  - Do you know the author/illustrator?
  - What do you think about the title and the picture?
  - What would you draw to go with the title of the book?

## #4. Reading the Book

Reading can be really fun with young children. Your child will love to hear and read The Very Hungry Caterpillar over and over again! Try any of these reading ideas:

1. (First time only) Read the story and sometimes stop to ask your child what he/she thinks will happen next.
2. Read the story to your child while he/she listens and looks at the pictures.
3. Read the book out loud together ~ at the same time.
4. Listen, with your child, to a taped recording of the story ~ follow along silently or read a loud with the tape.

## Reading Tips

- Have your child help turn the pages and count the fruit
- To make the story come alive:
  - raise and lower your voice (intonation)
  - use a different voice
  - make faces (facial expression) to show surprise, etc.
- use a caterpillar puppet and fruit props to tell the story

## More Reading Tips

- ask questions and talk about feelings (reactions) ~ How do you think the caterpillar felt after eating all of that food? Have you ever felt like that that? ...or...Did you think that was going to happen in the story?
- pause (slow down) while reading for your child to " fill-in-the-blank":
  - stop before reading the days of the week: (i.e., On .....pause... [Tuesday] he ate through two pears...
  - or stop before reading a repeated line: (i.e., ...but he was still .....pause.....[hungry]!)

## #5. Follow-up Activities

### Questions to ask after reading the book

You can ask questions and have a talk with your child after reading the story. For example:

1. the title & cover illustration
  - Tell me what you thought about the story.
  - Was the story what you expected?
  - Do you think it was a happy or a sad story? Why?
  - What did you like about the story and the pictures?

2. Eric Carle (the author and illustrator)
  - Was it different from other books by Eric Carle?
  - Does the picture of the caterpillar match the title and story? Do you have a different idea to tell the story?

## Neat Ideas

Try any of these ideas after reading the story:

- Have your child retell the story in his/her own words
- Talk about any lessons learned. For example:
  - how a caterpillar grows into a butterfly
  - eating a lot of junk can give you a stomachache ~ better to eat healthy!
- Did your child understand what happened to the caterpillar? Have a talk and use pictures to help explain the cycle.
- Read and talk about Eric Carle's biography (life history)
- Read the questions asked to Eric Carle from his web site and read the answers...a great place to start a talk
- Search the Internet together for more information about Eric Carle and his books @ <http://www.eric-carle.com/>
- Outings ~ Visit The Botanical Garden and Insectarium to see the collection of bugs and butterflies @ 4101 Sherbrooke East tel.: (514) 872-1400 fax: (514) 872-3765 (see information sheet)
- Read other books by Eric Carle (see List of Books 1983-1998)
- Go back to some of the pre-reading ideas and try one you haven't done yet or pullout a favorite (i.e., sing a song that was learned)



Reading Reinforcement Kit for

# The Very Hungry Caterpillar by Eric Carle

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## Art Ideas

After reading the story you can try an art idea. Children love to draw, color and create!  
(see "Art Ideas" instruction sheets for ideas)

## Other Great Ideas

After reading you can also try activities that involve:

- drama play and dancing
- puppets
- singing
- fun food activities

(see "Other Great Ideas" instruction sheets for ideas)

## Notes

[illegible]

WORD CARDS

Word card suggestions:

Cut the cards out. Cards can be left as is, glued on heavy card stock, laminated or decorated. Use the cards to talk about the new words. See "New Word Ideas" on the instruction sheet.

one	two
three	four
five	butterfly

WORD CARDS

caterpillar

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

Sunday

## Poem ~

### One Hungry Caterpillar

taken from an Eric Carle web site submission by Leigh Wiley March 24, 1998

One hungry caterpillar went out for a treat

He spotted some leaves and began to eat.

Well he ate and he ate

And when he was done

He was a bigger caterpillar than when he begun.

## Song

### First Comes the Caterpillar

taken from an Eric Carle web site submission by Diane Beck April 22, 1998  
sing to the tune of "Up on the Housetop"

First comes the butterfly and lays its eggs,

Out comes the caterpillar with its many legs,

Oh, see the caterpillar spin and spin,

A little chrysalis to sleep in,

Oh, oh, oh, look and see,

Oh, oh, oh, look and see,

Out of the chrysalis, my oh my,

Out comes a pretty butterfly!

## Finger Play

I'm a Hungry Caterpillar

sing to the tune of "I'm a Little Teapot"

taken from an Eric Carle web site submission by Mary-Ellyn Tarzy July 21, 1999

I'm a hungry caterpillar walking slowly (Slowly walk two fingers from right hand up your left arm)

Looking for something (Place hand above eyes searching for something)

To fill my belly (Rub belly)

When I go to sleep (Close eyes, tilt head and rest on folded hands)

I make a little cocoon (Cup hands together)

Pop! I'll be a butterfly soon. (Throw open hands, link thumbs and make flapping movement)

Any nature show dealing with caterpillars and butterflies would be a wonderful pre-reading activity.

## Art Ideas

### Action Fruit

Things you will need:

large poster board

scissors

markers, pencils or crayons

old sock

things from the house to make a caterpillar puppet (i.e. buttons, wool, etc.)

butterfly (see butterfly art ideas)

Prepare on poster board large pictures of the fruit and food used in the story. Cut a circle, large enough to fit an arm through, in the middle of each picture. Laminate if possible. Make a caterpillar arm puppet out of an old sock and a butterfly that could be hidden inside the puppet. Reread the story and have the child place the food picture over the caterpillar puppet as he eats throughout the story. At the end, pull a butterfly out of the caterpillar puppet.

### Messy Caterpillar Food Art

taken from an Eric Carl web site submission by Cheryl Butter June 7, 1998

Things you will need:

½ banana per person

cherry or strawberry Jell-O powder

lime Jell-O powder

Chow mein noodles

raisins

Cut the banana into sections (slices) (for the body and head of the caterpillar). Roll 1 piece in the red powder (to make a head) and the other pieces in the green Jell-O powder (for the body sections). Place sections on a plate to create a caterpillar. Use the noodles as antennae and the raisins for the eyes. Eat and enjoy!

## Art Ideas

### The Very Hungry Caterpillar Mobile #1

adapted from an Eric Carle web site submission by Julie Washburn April 29, 1998

Things you will need:

magazines to cut  
scissors  
markers, crayons or paint  
heavy paper  
hole puncher (if possible) \*you can use scissors  
wool, string or pipe cleaners  
sparkles and glue

Make a mobile using the foods from the story. Have your child draw or cut pictures of the food from a magazine. Using heavy paper make a caterpillar, a cocoon and a butterfly. Punch a hole in all of the pictures. Use wool, string or pipe cleaners to hang the items from a hanger to make a mobile. Decorate with sparkles and glue.

### The Very Hungry Caterpillar Mobile # 2

taken from an Eric Carle web site submission by Jennifer Warren April 10, 1998

Things you will need:

clothes hanger  
construction paper  
scissors  
hole puncher (if possible) \*scissors can be used  
tape  
wool

Make a mobile! Cut out circles of construction paper in many bright colors. Tape them to the bottom of a clothes hanger. Punch holes in the circles and using wool and fruit shaped construction paper, hang the fruit from the circles of the caterpillar body.



## Art Ideas

### Butterfly Clips

adapted from an Eric Carle web site submission by Melanie VanWyk January 19, 1999

Things you will need:  
washable markers  
water and paint brushes  
coffee filters  
clothespins  
pipe cleaner

Using washable markers, color and draw on the coffee filters. Wet the filters using a wet paint brush to let the colors blend. Let the filters dry and fold in an accordion style. Clip them in the middle with a clothespin. Twist on a pipe cleaner for antennae and use a dark marker for the eyes. Presto! Beautiful butterflies!

### Hand Butterflies

adapted from an Eric Carle web site submission by Pat Kolintzas May 16, 1999

materials:  
construction paper  
glue and paint  
things to decorate: (i.e. sequins, gems, beads, glitter, material, etc.)

Have your child make a butterfly using their hands. Using paint and construction paper put a glob of paint on their hands and have them rub them together to spread the paint evenly over the hands. Have the children place both thumbs side by side in the air to make the shape of a butterfly. Slowly have your child place his/her hands on the construction sheet while keeping the butterfly shape. Have them slowly lift their hands off of the paper, leaving the shape of a butterfly! Let dry. Decorate with glue on sequins, beads, and glitter.

## Art Ideas

### Metamorphosis Art

adapted from an Eric Carle web site submission by Carol Strange July 12, 1998

Materials:

pom poms  
wiggly eyes  
glue  
2 cup cone coffee filters  
food coloring  
plastic grocery bag  
Kleenex or tissue paper

1. Glue pom poms (i.e. green with one red one for the head) to popsicle sticks. Add wiggly eyes and precut pipe cleaner pieces for the antennae and mouth.
2. Attach the caterpillar to a wall, bulletin board or fridge. After a few days help your child "cocoon" the caterpillar by wrapping it in tissue, Kleenex or crepe paper. Staple or tape shut.
3. Make butterfly wings using 2 cup cone filters cut the seam edges off just leaving them attached at the bottom. Place wings on a plastic shopping bag to keep the area clean. Wet the wings. Decorate the wings using drops of food coloring. Spread the colors if you want. Let dry. Put the wings aside for up to two weeks (the amount of time it takes for the Metamorphosis...if you can wait that long!)
4. Surprise your child with a beautiful butterfly by opening the "cocoon" and gluing the wings to the back of the popsicle stick caterpillar. He/she should be very excited when, instead of the cocoon, a beautiful butterfly is found later that day!

## Other Great Ideas

### Cocoon Drama

taken from an Eric Carle web site submission by Peta Wells September 21, 1998

Small group activity: In groups of three have one child play the caterpillar. The other two children wrap the caterpillar in a cocoon using toilet paper. On a signal caterpillars break out of their cocoon and fly around the room as butterflies!

### Interactive Reading Sing Along

taken from an Eric Carle web site submission by Jenny Scott April 4, 1999

Before reading the story again, introduce the song: "Oh me, oh my, I need something to eat, oh me, oh my, another little treat." Sing the song after each page of food that the caterpillar eats

### Blanket Fun

taken from an Eric Carle web site submission by Jean Garrett July 29, 1997

Use your child's nap blanket for this FUN, FUN, FUN activity. After first acting out the eating parts of the story, wrap up in the blanket like a cocoon...after a "long" wait unwrap from the blanket and use it for the wings of a butterfly that just broke free from a cocoon. Put some nice music on for the butterflies to dance and move to.

### Measuring Caterpillars

adapted from an Eric Carle web site submission by S. Flinn April 18, 1999

Use caterpillars for measuring. Copy a strip of one inch caterpillars onto construction paper. Use the strip to measure things throughout the house. Make a longer strip to measure people!

## Other Great Ideas

### The Very Hungry Reading Caterpillar

Make a long caterpillar listing all of the books read with your child. Start the caterpillar with a cutout circle shape with your child's name on it. For every book read together add a circle to the caterpillar's body with the name of the book and the date it was read. Watch the caterpillar grow as the child eats up the books!! After every 20 books, for example, replace the caterpillar with a beautiful butterfly. Try to make a wall full of butterflies!

### Hungry Mr. Caterpillar

poem taken from an Eric Carle web site submission by Judy Nickerson April 16, 1998

Read the poem:

Hungry Mr. Caterpillar was looking for a treat.  
He said to the (blank), "What's good to eat?"  
(Blank) said to Mr. Caterpillar, "If you're hungry for a treat, try some (blank) that's good to eat!"

Ask your child to think of an animal and a food that animal might tell a caterpillar to eat (i.e. a rabbit might tell him about carrots, a monkey about bananas, etc.).

Have your child draw a picture of the animal, Mr. Caterpillar and the food. Copy the poem on the picture.

## Other Great Ideas

### Healthful Eating

The Very Hungry Caterpillar can be used to talk about healthful eating following a talk about what the caterpillar ate and how he got sick.

### Marshmallow Caterpillars

taken from an Eric Carle web site submission by Kathy May 25, 1997

things you will need:

1 bag of marshmallows

food coloring

milk and 2 small containers with pastry brushes

chow mein noodles and raisins

waxed paper

Make red and green "paint" by adding a few drops of food coloring to  $\frac{1}{4}$  cup of milk. For each caterpillar, paint 1 marshmallow red for the head and 3 marshmallows green for the body. (Pastry brushes work well!) Stick marshmallows together while wet and place on a piece of waxed paper. Use raisins for the eyes and feet, and push in chow mein noodles for antennae. Eat!

### Very Hungry Caterpillar Fruit Salad

taken from an Eric Carle web site submission by Motoko September 9, 1996

Things you will need:

1 Apple ~ 2 Pears ~ 3 Plums ~ 4 strawberries ~ 5 Oranges

Bunch of Mint Leaves

Prepare and cut fruit into bite-sized pieces, put together in a bowl and chill. Use a sprig of mint to decorate. Serve to a small group of friends, after reading a good book. You'll enjoy every bit of it.

## Notes

[illegible]

Reading Reinforcement Kit for  
**The Very Hungry Caterpillar** by Eric Carle

# The Very Hungry Caterpillar by Eric Carle

...notes, new ideas, neat books, etc...

[illegible]