

The Very Hungry Caterpillar

Written and Illustrated by Eric Carle

Dear Family Member,

Reading together may be a simple activity—but it's one of the most important things you can do with your child. The following tips can help even the busiest families get the most from reading together.

Check out the book's title and cover. Ask your child what the book might be about, based on its title and cover illustration. As you read the book, pause now and again to ask your child what he or she thinks will happen next.

Share the reading experience. If your child is able, invite him or her to read aloud with you. Try reading one character's dialogue and letting your child read another's. Children not yet able to read can chime in on rhyming words or words that appear over and over again in the story.

Encourage comments. As you read, ask your child to tell what she or her thinks about the characters, the pictures, and the story so far.

Happy Reading!

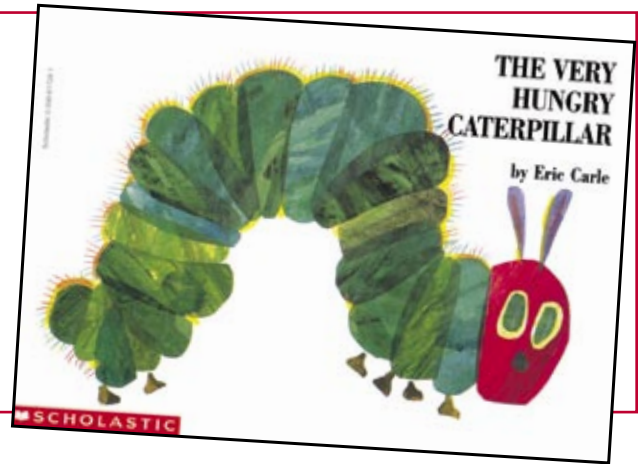


The Very Hungry Caterpillar

Written and Illustrated by Eric Carle

BOOK SUMMARY

A caterpillar hatches from a tiny egg and sets off in search of something to eat. Over the course of one week, he eats more and more food until he finally spins a cocoon, emerging several weeks later as a butterfly.



Talking Together

This story tells what the caterpillar eats each day for a week. Go over the days of the week with your child. Then see if each of you can remember what foods you've eaten this week, and on what days you ate them.

The caterpillar eats several healthful foods and a few not so healthful ones. Together, look at his meals and decide whether each was nutritious food or not.

In this story, the caterpillar grows in to a butterfly. Talk about the way other creatures grow and change. Some change completely—like tadpoles, which grow into frogs. Others change in more subtle ways. Talk about how your child is different now from when he or she was a baby.

Doing Things Together

The Very Hungry... Together, think of another insect or animal, and make up a story about it similar to *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*. Tell what the animal ate and some of the things it did before it grew to adulthood. You and your child may wish to share your story with other family members.

Collage Pictures. Eric Carle uses painted tissue paper to create his collage illustrations. Make similar pictures with your child, using colored tissue paper, paints, brushes, and glue.

Reading More Together

Here are some other books by Eric Carle: *Have You Seen My Cat?; Pancakes, Pancakes; Rooster's Off to See the World;* and *The Very Busy Spider*.