

The Very Hungry Caterpillar

by Eric Carle

First published in 1969 and popular with children and parents ever since, this is a wonderful narrative about a hungry caterpillar with some growing to do.



Read

Before:

Introduce the book and tell the children a little bit about it. Follow that with a comment or question that is related to the story such as, *Do you think a caterpillar eats very much?* Encourage a discussion so the children can comment, ask questions, and express their feelings. Set the stage for listening by asking an "I wonder" statement based on the cover illustration.

- I wonder if this caterpillar can move very fast?

During:

Encourage the children to comment on the illustrations, ask questions, and predict what will happen next in the story. Children gain confidence and a sense of achievement through being able to correctly predict how a story will end. Point out "rare words" (e.g., those words that are not commonly used in every day conversation) and help the children relate the meaning in a way that makes sense to them.

Rare Words in *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*

- salami: a large, thick type of sausage
- cocoon: a sheath or house for a caterpillar
- nibbled: to take small quick bites

After:

Discuss the story. Ask questions...

- The caterpillar hatched out of an egg. What other animals hatch from eggs?
- How big do you think the egg was that the caterpillar hatched out of?
- On Monday, he ate through one apple. Tell me some things you know about apples.
- Who can describe what a pear looks like?
- Which is bigger – a pear or a plum?
- Do strawberries grow underground? What color are they before they ripen?
- Why did the caterpillar have a stomachache?
- After the caterpillar ate through a nice green leaf, he felt better. What makes you feel better when you have a stomachache?
- Has anyone ever seen a cocoon?
- Why are butterflies so beautiful?

Do

Story Sequencing

Copy the attached Story Sequencing printable and cut out the pictures. Ask the children, individually or as a group, to create the story of *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* using the pictures.

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