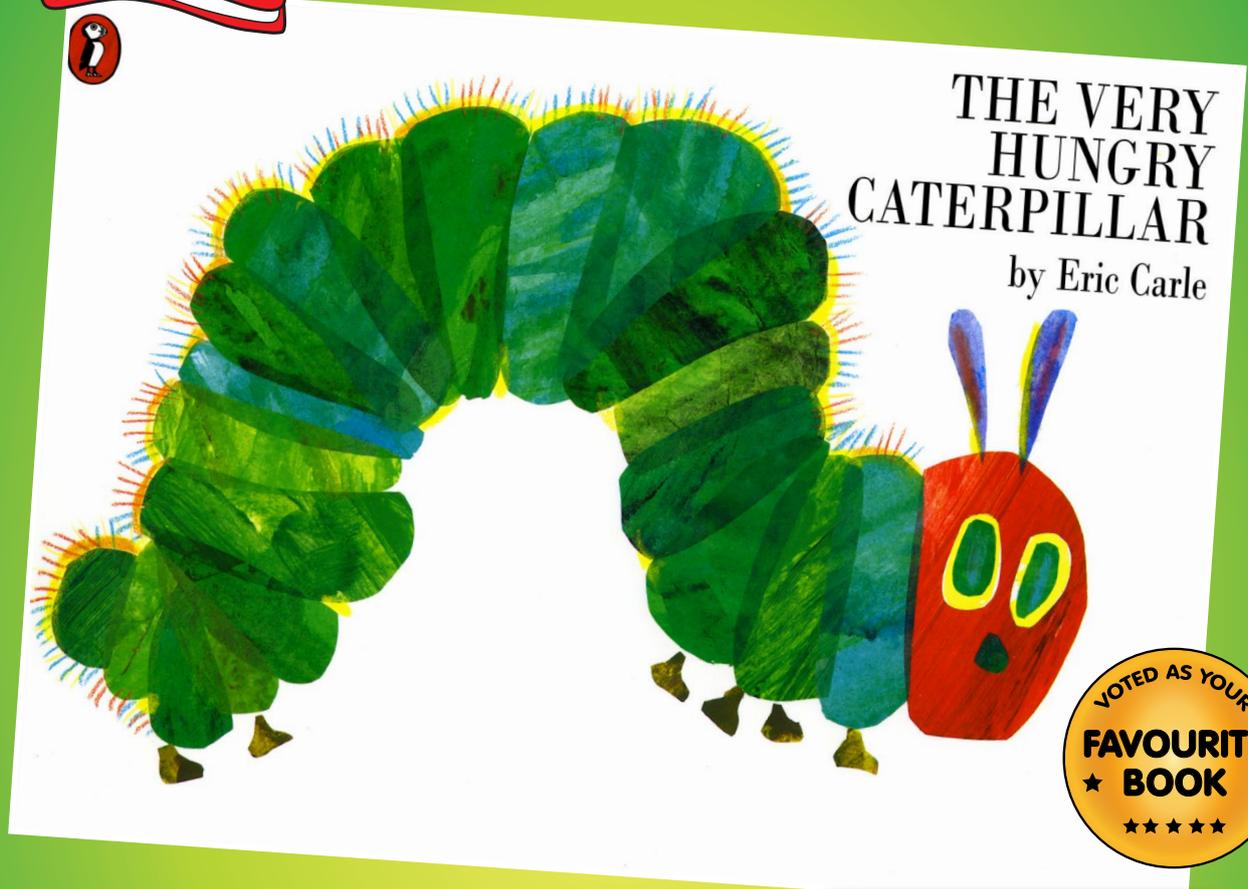




 SCHOLASTIC

# Book Talk



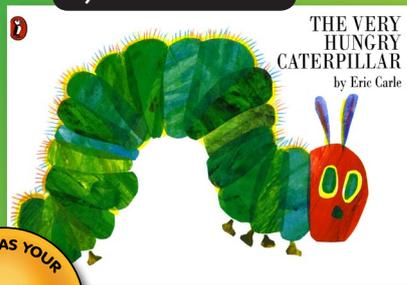
**AGES 2+**



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Price	£6.99
Case	Welcome to Reading
Author	Eric Carle
Publisher	Puffin

## Using this book in your classroom

### Themes

This classic picture book gives a wonderful introduction to the **life cycle of the butterfly**. It touches on many themes, including **food**, **change** and **development**.

### Summary

In the light of the moon, a little egg lays on a leaf... Out of the egg hatches a very hungry caterpillar, who goes off on a search for food. During the week he tries many different sorts of food, from the relatively sensible (an apple) to the completely unsuitable (lollipops, sausages etc.). Not too surprisingly, he ends up with a nasty stomach ache. The cure for this turns out to be a nice green leaf – and after eating this, the caterpillar is ready to begin his transition into a beautiful butterfly.

With vivid illustrations full of gorgeous, saturated colour, and holes in the pictures that are just the right size for small fingers to explore, this is an enduring classic that has been loved by children ever since its first publication in 1969.

### Did you know?

- The *Very Hungry Caterpillar* has been translated into more than 45 languages, and has sold over 30 million copies.
- Eric Carle creates his illustrations and artworks using collage. He hand-paints papers which he cuts and layers to achieve his distinctive, richly glowing pictures.



## The Story Session

### 1. Introducing the book

- If the children have already encountered *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*, share their thoughts about it. Can they explain what it is about to anyone who hasn't yet read it?
- Look at the front cover picture of the caterpillar and ask the children to help you describe him. Start with colour words, and then move on to describing his curved shape and spiky texture. Can the children think of any words to describe his expression?

### 2. Reading the story

- Read the whole story aloud to the children. Read it through once from beginning to end, and encourage the children to join in if they wish. Then re-read the story, inviting volunteers to come and turn the die-cut pages to reveal the different foods that the caterpillar eats.
- Encourage the children to act out the story using movement – wriggling like the caterpillar, curling up in a cocoon and stretching out to be a beautiful butterfly on the last spread.
- At the end of the story, ask: "How do you think the caterpillar felt when he turned into a beautiful butterfly? Would it be a nice feeling? Or might it feel a bit strange? What would you rather be – a caterpillar or a butterfly?"
- Relate the story to any prior information the children might have about the life cycle of the butterfly.

### 3. Follow-up

- Ask the children to make their own picture or model of the Very Hungry Caterpillar. They could use collage, like Eric Carle, or junk items, paints, felt-tipped pens or crayons. Encourage them to draw or make something for the caterpillar to eat as well, and put together a class display of hungry caterpillars!
- Together, draw and label a picture of the butterfly's life cycle, using information from the book and from other sources. Useful websites for research include [www.kidsbutterfly.org/life-cycle](http://www.kidsbutterfly.org/life-cycle) and [www.thebutterflysite.com](http://www.thebutterflysite.com).
- Eric Carle's website ([www.eric-carle.com](http://www.eric-carle.com)) is full of fascinating information about Carle and his work, and it includes newsletters, facts and downloadable resources.

### YOU TELL US

- Did you use these notes to have a Book Talk in class?
- Were they helpful?
- Are there any changes you'd like to see to make them more useful?

We're always happy to hear your comments, so please email us at [bookfairs@scholastic.co.uk](mailto:bookfairs@scholastic.co.uk)