



The Very Hungry Caterpillar

by Eric Carle

- **Things to get ready:**

1. Try to have available the fruits that are in the story.
One red apple, two green pears, three blue plums, four red strawberries, five orange oranges
2. Having “real” things helps teach children because they are able to see, feel, smell, and touch them. They also help to build vocabulary because there is something real to connect with the “name.”
3. Snack idea: have one or two of the foods in the story for snack.
4. Egg carton caterpillars- Egg cartons, markers, paint, feathers, glitter, glue, pipe cleaners, googly eyes

- **Getting the children ready to listen:**

1. Ask the children what they know about caterpillars. Have ready the illustration enclosed, or a caterpillar book or picture to show them.
2. Tell them you will be reading a story about a caterpillar and you have a poem to get them in the mood. Say the poem two or three times to allow the children time to participate and say it with you.

Caterpillar by Beverly Qualheim (Do actions as rhyme indicates.)

*Caterpillar creeping.
Caterpillar crawl.
Caterpillar climbing
All along the wall.*

*Caterpillar spinning,
Caterpillar snug.
Caterpillar changing,
What have you become?
(Say, “A butterfly!” and pretend to fly around room.)*

- **Read-Aloud Guide**

BEFORE you read the book:

1. Show the front cover of the book and read the title and the author. Ask the children what you already know about this caterpillar from the title. *(that he's very hungry)*
2. Show them the back cover. Connect it with your previous discussion and ask them what this caterpillar is eating. *(a green leaf)*
3. Tell them to listen carefully because the caterpillar in this story eats a lot of different things, and something very special is going to happen.

DURING reading:

1. Use lots of expression in your voice.
2. Be sure to allow plenty of time for the children to examine and enjoy the illustrations.
3. On the pages where the caterpillar eats the cake, etc., let your voice show exaggeration and surprise.
4. Do the same thing with your voice when the butterfly emerges.

AFTER reading:

1. Ask the children what was special that happened to the caterpillar. Show those pages again.
2. Have a few share their favorite parts or pages and tell why they like them.
3. See if the children can remember some of the good things he ate.
4. Recall some of the things he ate that made him sick. *(They may want to share some of their own stories about what has given them a stomachache.)*

- **Extension Activities**

Fruit

Have your fruits that you have brought spread out on a table. Ask the children what **one** thing the caterpillar ate...*a red apple*. Show that fruit. Continue on with the other amounts and kinds of fruit. This would also be a good time to discuss healthy and unhealthy food. You can talk about how all the foods that the caterpillar ate on Saturday made him sick.

Egg Carton Caterpillars

1. Cut the egg carton into smaller pieces, (three cells in each piece makes a good size caterpillar).
2. Turn the pieces over so that the humps face up.
3. Use markers or paints to color the caterpillars crazy colors.
4. Decorate with feathers, glitter, scraps of paper, etc.
5. Glue on pipe cleaners for the antennae, and googley eyes for the eyes.

- **Related Books**

Waiting For Wings
by Lois Ehlert

Growing Like Me
by Anne F. Rockwell