

The Very Hungry Caterpillar

By Eric Carle

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THE all-time classic picture book, from generation to generation, sold somewhere in the world every 30 seconds! Have you shared it with a child or grandchild in *your* life?

"The very hungry caterpillar literally eats his way through the pages of the book—and right into your child's heart..."

—**Mother's Manual**

"Gorgeously illustrated, brilliantly innovative..."

—**The New York Times Book Review**

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The Very Hungry Caterpillar By Eric Carle Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #68 in Books
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- Released on: 1994-03-23
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 7.13" h x .67" w x 5.00" l, .55 pounds
- Binding: Board book
- 26 pages

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

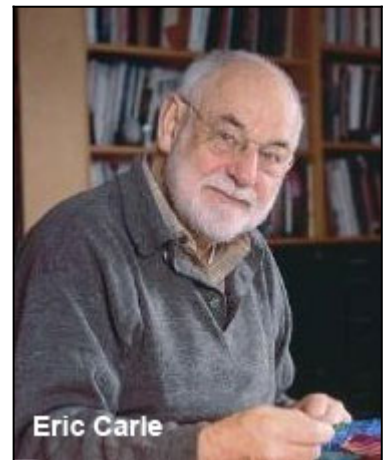
"In the light of the moon a little egg lay on a leaf." So begins Eric Carle's modern classic, *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*. More than 12 million copies of this book have been sold in its original, full-sized edition, and the beloved tale of science and gluttony has been translated into 20 languages. This five-by-four-inch miniature edition is truly tiny, with tiny type, but it is a nice size for small hands to hold and flip through the pictures. Despite its diminished state, the book is complete in every detail, following the ravenous caterpillar's path as he eats his way through one apple (and the pages of the book itself) on Monday, two pears on Tuesday, three plums on Wednesday, and so on, through cherry pie and sausage--until he is really fat and has a stomachache. And no doubt you know what happens next! Kids love butterfly metamorphosis stories, and this popular favorite teaches counting and the days of the week, too. A fun gift package for caterpillar fans. (Baby to preschool) --Karin Snelson

Eric Carle and Tomie dePaola: Author One-on-One

Eric Carle is the creator, author, and illustrator of *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* and many other children's books. **Tomie dePaola** is the author and illustrator of *Strega Nona: Her Story* and countless other books. They recently had a conversation about their careers as picture book authors.

Tomie dePaola: When I was only four years old, I announced to my family in particular and to the world in general that I was going to become an artist, and write stories and draw pictures for books. I never swayed from that early declaration. I've always been curious to know, what inspired you to become a creator and illustrator of picture books?

Eric Carle: My career began as a graphic designer and for a number of years I worked as an art director for an advertising agency in New York. In the mid 1960's Bill Martin, Jr. saw an ad of a red lobster that I had designed and asked me to illustrate his *Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See?* Well, I was set on fire! I was so inspired by this book, and the opportunity to illustrate it changed my life. After that, I started to create my own books, both words and pictures, and really it was then that I had found my true course in life.

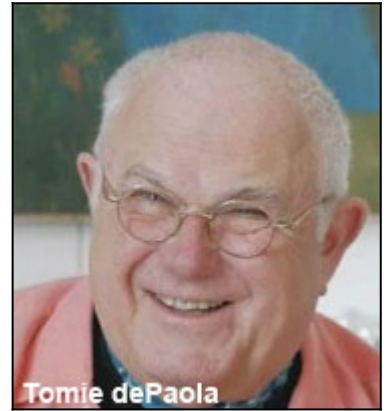


Now, I have a question for you, Tomie. How would you describe your artistic style, and has it changed over time?

Tomie dePaola: My illustration style is heavily influenced by folk art--strong simple shapes, bold lines, color, color, color and a deceptive simplicity. My style began to develop early in art school, and through the years, it hasn't changed very much, but it has refined itself. How would you describe yours?

Eric Carle: My aim with my work is to simplify and refine, be logical and harmonious. I like to use simple shapes, bright colors and a lot of white space. I write for the child inside of me. That is always where I begin.

Tomie dePaola: I do, as well. The only audience I keep in mind is that four-year-old in me. People sometimes ask me what advice I would give to young artists. I always think of the wonderful advice I received from my twin cousins when they were in art school in the late '30s. They told me, "Practice, practice, practice and don't copy."



Eric Carle: I often tell people about the four magic letters: DO IT. I want to be encouraging but I can only offer the example of my own experience, which is just one approach. There are many wonderful artists to learn about, which is important. But you must use your own imagination. You have to just do it.

Tomie dePaola: How do you feel knowing that a copy of *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* is sold every 30 seconds, somewhere in the world?

Eric Carle: It is hard for me, maybe for others too, to grasp this concept. But I am truly honored that my story is enjoyed by so many and that it is now being shared by a generation of parents who grew up with my book. How about your *Strega Nona*. She is one of your most popular characters. Can you share how she came to be?

Tomie dePaola: In the '70s when I was teaching at a college, we were required to attend faculty meetings. I always sat in the back with a yellow legal pad. Everyone thought I was taking notes. At one meeting a doodle appeared of a little lady with a big nose and a big chin. I named her Strega Nona, and the rest is history. Speaking of history, how will you be celebrating the third annual *Very Hungry Caterpillar* Day this year?

Eric Carle: On *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* Day, March 20th, I will probably be at home with my wife, Bobbie (I am a bit of a hermit, actually). But I will be saying a little toast to the caterpillar for whom I have a special place in my heart. And speaking of holidays, isn't your favorite holiday Christmas. Do you have a special Christmas memory?

Tomie dePaola: Christmas is my favorite holiday. My favorite Christmas was the one when I received tons and tons of art supplies: everything from an easel to paints, pads and pads of paper, and "how to draw" books.

A Look Inside *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* (Board Book)
(Click on Images to Enlarge)





From the Inside Flap

One sunny Sunday, the caterpillar was hatched out of a tiny egg. He was very hungry. On Monday, he ate through one apple; on Tuesday, he ate through three plums--and *still* he was hungry. Strikingly bold, colorful pictures and a simple text in large, clear type tell the story of a hungry little caterpillar's progress through an amazing variety and quantity of foods. Full at last, he made a cocoon around himself and went to sleep, to wake up a few weeks later wonderfully transformed into a butterfly!

Brilliantly innovative designer and artist Eric Carle has dramatized the story of one of Nature's commonest yet loveliest marvels, the metamorphosis of the butterfly, in a picture book to delight as well as instruct the very youngest reader or listener. Cleverly die-cut pages show what the caterpillar ate on successive days, graphically introducing sets of up to 10 objects and also the names of the days of the week in rotation, as well as telling the central story of the transformation of the caterpillar. The final, double-page picture of the butterfly is a joyous explosion of color, a vibrant affirmation of the wonder and beauty of Nature.

About the Author

Eric Carle is acclaimed and beloved as the creator of brilliantly illustrated and innovatively designed picture books for very young children. His best-known work, **The Very Hungry Caterpillar**, has eaten its way into the hearts of literally millions of children all over the world and has been translated into more than 25 languages and sold over twelve million copies. Since the **Caterpillar** was published in 1969, Eric Carle has illustrated more than sixty books, many best sellers, most of which he also wrote.

Born in Syracuse, New York, in 1929, Eric Carle moved with his parents to Germany when he was six years old; he was educated there, and graduated from the prestigious art school, the Akademie der bildenden Künste, in Stuttgart. But his dream was always to return to America, the land of his happiest childhood memories. So, in 1952, with a fine portfolio in hand and forty dollars in his pocket, he arrived in New York. Soon he found a job as a graphic designer in the promotion department of *The New York Times*. Later, he was the art director of an advertising agency for many years.

One day, respected educator and author, Bill Martin Jr, called to ask Carle to illustrate a story he had written. Martin's eye had been caught by a striking picture of a red lobster that Carle had created for an advertisement. **Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See?** was the result of their collaboration. It is still a favorite with children everywhere. This was the beginning of Eric Carle's true career. Soon Carle was writing his own stories, too. His first wholly original book was **1,2,3 to the Zoo**, followed soon afterward by the celebrated classic, **The Very Hungry Caterpillar**.

Eric Carle's art is distinctive and instantly recognizable. His art work is created in collage technique, using hand-painted papers, which he cuts and layers to form bright and cheerful images. Many of his books have

an added dimension - die-cut pages, twinkling lights as in **The Very Lonely Firefly**, even the lifelike sound of a cricket's song as in **The Very Quiet Cricket** - giving them a playful quality: a toy that can be read, a book that can be touched. Children also enjoy working in collage and many send him pictures they have made themselves, inspired by his illustrations. He receives hundreds of letters each week from his young admirers. The secret of Eric Carle's books' appeal lies in his intuitive understanding of and respect for children, who sense in him instinctively someone who shares their most cherished thoughts and emotions.

The themes of his stories are usually drawn from his extensive knowledge and love of nature - an interest shared by most small children. Besides being beautiful and entertaining, his books always offer the child the opportunity to learn something about the world around them. It is his concern for children, for their feelings and their inquisitiveness, for their creativity and their intellectual growth that, in addition to his beautiful artwork, makes the reading of his books such a stimulating and lasting experience.

Carle says: "With many of my books I attempt to bridge the gap between the home and school. To me home represents, or should represent; warmth, security, toys, holding hands, being held. School is a strange and new place for a child. Will it be a happy place? There are new people, a teacher, classmates - will they be friendly? I believe the passage from home to school is the second biggest trauma of childhood; the first is, of course, being born. Indeed, in both cases we leave a place of warmth and protection for one that is unknown. The unknown often brings fear with it. In my books I try to counteract this fear, to replace it with a positive message. I believe that children are naturally creative and eager to learn. I want to show them that learning is really both fascinating and fun."

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Users Review

From reader reviews:

Luke Shaffer:

Do you among people who can't read pleasurable if the sentence chained inside the straightway, hold on guys that aren't like that. This The Very Hungry Caterpillar book is readable through you who hate those perfect word style. You will find the information here are arrange for enjoyable reading through experience without leaving actually decrease the knowledge that want to deliver to you. The writer regarding The Very Hungry Caterpillar content conveys the idea easily to understand by a lot of people. The printed and e-book are not different in the information but it just different by means of it. So , do you continue to thinking The Very Hungry Caterpillar is not loveable to be your top list reading book?

Richard Puccio:

People live in this new morning of lifestyle always try to and must have the extra time or they will get lots of stress from both daily life and work. So , whenever we ask do people have spare time, we will say absolutely of course. People is human not really a robot. Then we request again, what kind of activity are you experiencing when the spare time coming to an individual of course your answer will certainly unlimited right. Then do you ever try this one, reading books. It can be your alternative within spending your spare time, often the book you have read is usually The Very Hungry Caterpillar.

Andrew Joy:

Do you really one of the book lovers? If so, do you ever feeling doubt when you are in the book store? Try and pick one book that you never know the inside because don't determine book by its include may doesn't work at this point is difficult job because you are scared that the inside maybe not as fantastic as in the outside appear likes. Maybe you answer is usually The Very Hungry Caterpillar why because the excellent cover that make you consider in regards to the content will not disappoint you actually. The inside or content is definitely fantastic as the outside or maybe cover. Your reading 6th sense will directly assist you to pick up this book.

Todd Porter:

That e-book can make you to feel relax. This kind of book The Very Hungry Caterpillar was colourful and of course has pictures on there. As we know that book The Very Hungry Caterpillar has many kinds or variety. Start from kids until young adults. For example Naruto or Detective Conan you can read and think that you are the character on there. Therefore , not at all of book tend to be make you bored, any it offers up you feel happy, fun and chill out. Try to choose the best book for yourself and try to like reading which.

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