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Jump to ratings and reviewsIntroduce your little one to the colourful world of Eric Carle with this charming collection of mini board books. The four books all feature some of Eric's much-loved illustrations, including The Very Hungry Caterpillar, and are great for children aged 1 and over to learn simple concepts - numbers, animal sounds, words and colours. A delightful way to learn! Titles in this collection Numbers Animal Sounds Words ColoursGenresPicture BooksChildrensFictionAnimalsClassicsFoodCounting 3195 people are currently reading196937 people want to readEric Carle was an American author, designer and illustrator of children's books. His picture book The Very Hungry Caterpillar, first published in 1969, has been translated into more than 66 languages and sold more than 50 million copies. Carle's career as an illustrator and children's book author accelerated after he collaborated on Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See?. Carle illustrated more than 70 books, most of which he also wrote, and more than 145 million copies of his books have been sold around the world.In 2003, the American Library Association awarded Carle the biennial Laura Ingalls Wilder Medal (now called the Children's Literature Legacy Award), a prize for writers or illustrators of children's books published in the U.S. who have made lasting contributions to the field. Carle was also a U.S. nominee for the biennial, international Hans Christian Andersen Award in 2010.Displaying 1 - 30 of 11,310 reviewsDecember 12, 2008I actually gave this book 5 stars, but the very hungry caterpillar ate one of them.Also, did anyone else get a defective book? My version has a bunch of holes in it. December 29, 2024RIP Eric Carle who died today aged 92.Fomer president George W. Bush named this his favorite book from childhood (it came out when he was 23 ... but perhaps he meant his kids' childhood). In any event it's one of my favorites from my childhood, and from reading to my own kids. Was it the first to put holes through its pages? Probably not, but it worked very well. Kids like sticking their fingers in things - genius!Anyhow - this is one HUNGRY caterpillar! He puts a hole through everything be it a slice of watermelon (or wacca menon as my daughter first said it), ice cream cone, or sausage. It is in fact one of the bestselling books in the history of literature! what does this epic teach us?1/ Everything in moderation. Our caterpillar just sticks a single hole in each food item - he ain't that sort of greedy, he'll leave some for others.2/ Try new things. Our caterpillar ain't picky, he'll try anything once, even gherkin! 3/ Eat healthy to avoid stomach ache. A nice green leaf will sort you out.4/ Change is good. Straighten up and fly right and you too could become a beautiful butterfly and... um ... fly, right! Join my Patreon Join my 3-emails-a-year newsletter #prizes...April 11, 2025I somehow picture myself reading it to my grandkids with this disclaimer:The moral of the story is that while caterpillars can eat themselves into a food coma and come out the other end as a butterfly, humans who do that will come out the other end with type 2 diabetes. You're welcome, kids.May 18, 2024Fun fact for today? A famous picture book, described as one of the greatest childhood classics of all time was actually inspired by a simple hole punch!Yes, incredibly, its true. The author remembers:One day I was punching holes with a hole puncher into a stack of paper, and I thought of a bookworm and so I created a story called A Week with Will the Worm.But his editor suggested that readers may not like a green worm very much, and suggested a caterpillar instead. The idea appealed to Eric Carle, and The Very Hungry Caterpillar is the result. I said 'Butterfly! Thats how it began. But did it begin there, or did it end? Its rather like the chicken and the egg ...The story starts on a moonlit night, with a tiny egg on a leaf. On the next morning, which is Sunday, a tiny red-faced caterpillar pops out of the egg. Hes very hungry, so he begins to look for some food. Over the next five days we see him eating through more and more fruit. Theres an apple on Monday, two pears on Tuesday, three plums on Wednesday, four strawberries on Thursday, and five oranges on Friday and then, on Saturday, he gobbles down an enormous feast of all sorts of silly food: On Saturday, he ate through one piece of chocolate cake, one ice-cream cone, one pickle, one slice of Swiss cheese, one slice of salami, one lollipop, one piece of cherry pie, one sausage, one cupcake, and one slice of watermelon.Of course by the end of the day, he feels very ill indeed, with a stomach ache. The next day though, another Sunday, he goes back to his more sensible diet, and eats through a large green leaf. Hes now a very big fat caterpillar! He spins a little house round himself called a cocoon and stays in there for a whole fortnight. And after that is the magic, which will entrance all young children, as of course the illustration shows the caterpillar emerging, transformed into a beautiful butterfly with large, glorious, multi-coloured wings.This is a wonderful book for very young children. It introduces sound educational themes such as counting, the days of the week, foods, (although Saturdays feast is a bit of a fantasy!) and the life cycle and transformation of a caterpillar into a butterfly. It is simple but accurate, and has been endorsed by the Royal Entomological Society.It has to be said though, that its charm and novelty is its greatest asset. The pages are differently shaped, and have holes punched through to represent the caterpillars trail as he eats through all the various foods. Although The Very Hungry Caterpillar was first published in 1969, apparently it has sold the equivalent of a copy per minute ever since (30 mil even copies worldwide). It has won many awards for children's literature, and also a major graphic design award. Eric Carle not only wrote it, but also designed and illustrated the book.Quite an achievement, then, for a book which was inspired by a simple hole punch!animals children-s-1960s children-s-and-ya November 30, 2011 Besides the promotion of drug use (look at that thing's eyes... and he obviously has the munchies!) I dislike that the author couldn't come up with some differing foodstuffs... come on... salami AND sausage? Chocolate cake AND a cupcake? And the line that says "Now he wasn't hungry any more - and he wasn't a little caterpillar anymore" drives me INSANE! Where is the parallelism? I always want to read it as: Now he wasn't hungry any more - and he wasn't little anymore. (In fact, sometimes I DO read it wrong on purpose!) It also just leaves me a little empty at the end. I keep waiting for his metamorphosis to propel him into some new situation. Is he still hungry? (and in his state as a caterpillar, the author mentions he is VERY hungry. Is he MORE hungry than other caterpillars? What factors created this ultra-state wherein he persists?) I really feel like the author left us questioning so many factors, that I didn't really ever feel a connection with the protagonist.March 16, 2024Hungry is as hungry does.Eric Carle's vision of metamorphosis is more hand-painted collage and less existential nightmare compared to that of Franz Kafka.Our hero of the story, the caterpillar, is indeed hungry. Very hungry. He even eats his way through the pages of the book itself.All this eating for a purpose, leading to his beautiful metamorphosis, which is finally revealed on the last page. (Spoiler alert!) I have so many fond memories of Eric Carle's books, especially "The Very Hungry Caterpillar." This is the book that spurred my own interest in entomology as a child. Every year I would find monarch caterpillars, feed them milkweed, and observe their seemingly magical transformation into beautiful butterflies. Each time a butterfly emerges from its chrysalis, spreads its wings, and takes its first flight is like a small miracle before your very eyes.Eric Carle's artistic style is inimitable and immediately recognizable. You don't even need to read the name of the author on the cover of an Eric Carle book to know who wrote it. He is also a gifted storyteller and knows exactly how to capture children's imagination and inspire them to discover the world around them.April 24, 2020Eh. I've seen hungrier caterpillars. November 11, 2019Eric Carle's books have a special place in my heart. The way he creates his illustrations makes them so colorful and appealing to all. The Very Hungry Caterpillar is one of our favorite books by him, but we enjoy them all equally. Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See?, The Grouchy Ladybug, The Very Busy Spider, The Very Quiet Cricket, and Dream Snow are just a few of our most cherished Eric Carle books. When you witness a toddler who can't read, recite all the words to these stories, you know just how much they love them too! 5\*\*\*\*October 20, 2018There are some books Im just not smart enough to read but, damn, I challenged myself and I finally made it through The Very Hungry Caterpillar (after several false starts!) Im not gonna flatter myself that I understood the depth of the ideas, themes and junk in it, but I liked the colours and pitchers and stuff Ooooh man - lookit this lil guy! He eats an apple, two pears, three plums - hes a beast! Does he stop there? Nuh to the uh! Four strawberries and then FIVE - count it, FIVE - oranges. This unstoppable motherfucker. And then shit gets really fucked up - all bets are off! Cake, ice cream, cherry pie, a lollipop - he is. Off. The. Chain! Weve all been there after a trying week - no judgements lil dude! I wonder if this book is inadvertently responsible for the health at any size/fat acceptance movement with its message of eat like a pig and become beautiful!Im not gonna spoil the ending of course but its worth the journey. It seems predictable because hes a caterpillar but it leaves things wide open for a sequel. I mean, this guy is now more mobile than ever - what else is he gonna eat next? A pizza?! Two pizzas?? THRE - youre right, thats too much You know what made me really laugh? My edition had a SUMMARY at the start! The summary was this large paragraph that was as long as the books lines put together! Who needs a fucking summary for The Very Hungry Caterpillar? Who cant read this in no seconds flat and get the jist of it?! Which parent is looking at this wondering if its suitable for their braindeed sprong to dribble on?! Anyways, this story is still the greatest book about greedy caterpillars out there and rightly deserves its legendary status. Just don read it when youre dieting hawmahahshahwasam February 18, 2009I know you're supposed to love this book, but I just don't see what's so great about it. The character of the caterpillar is never properly developed, and he comes across as a one-dimensional parody of a larval form. The plot is dull and predictable, as is the language. I'm not thrilled by the artwork. If it weren't for the fact that George W. Bush praised Caterpillar so highly, I'd unhesitatingly call it vacuous, uninspired rubbish. I must be missing something, but what? April 23, 2019 Book Review 3+ of 5 stars to The Very Hungry Caterpillar, a children's picture book published in 1969 and written by Eric Carle. I am sure someone read this book to me as a very small child, but I know for certain that I had it on my shelf and looked through it around 10-years old. It's a delight for all ages with the cute illustrations, the physical design of the book and the quirky personality of the caterpillar.It's a useful tool to teach young children how a caterpillar grows up, eats all the food around to get his/her nutrients, builds a cocoon and emerges as a butterfly. A wonderful science exhibit and activity to grown your own butterflies, it can be a hands-on teaching experience too. Lovely memories and great things come from it.It gained in popularity again when George Bush mentioned it in a speech or interview. It's also got a few readers torn up in knots. You see, the caterpillar eats too much and gets ill and overweight, but emerges as a beautiful butterfly. People read into it, thinking kids will eat so much and become obese and sickly.I'll probably be hated for my next comment, but seriously? Relax. I don't think reading this book as a child will lead to such dire consequences. Wanna know why? Because if you're a parent or guardian, read it to your kid and explain the whole story... talk about the process of nature and metamorphosis. Discuss eating habits. Explain what real beauty is. Talk about what foods are good and what foods are bad. Show how when you eat too much, you can get sick. Teach balance. But don't hate on a book because it seems to say "eat what you want and you'll be beautiful even when you're sick." Oh, and read it with a child. Don't just put it in his/her hands and shove them out of the way. Make it an interactive experience so the right goals of the book come to life and accomplished.Yikes, my reviews are getting more "animated" without even using GIFs. Off to get some lunch. Perhaps a box of cookies... I think I just learned the lesson reading some reviews on Goodreads about this book. Yum!FYI - Wrote this review -2017 from memory as I want to have a review for everything I remember reading. If I messed it up, let me know! LOL. :) About Me For those new to me or my reviews... here's the scoop: I read A LOT. And now I blog A LOT. And now I blog A LOT. First the book review goes on Goodreads, and then I send it on over to my WordPress blog at , where you'll also find TV & Film reviews, the revealing and introspective 365 Daily Challenge and lots of blogging about places I've visited all over the world. And you can find all my social media profiles to get the details on the who/what/when/where and my pictures. Leave a comment and let me know what you think. Vote in the poll and ratings. Thanks for stopping by. Note: All written content is my original creation and copyrighted to me, but the graphics and images were linked from other sites and belong to them. Many thanks to their original creators.[polladdy poll=9729544][polladdy poll=9719251]January 30, 2019The first time my baby ever laughed was while we were looking at the butterfly on the last page and I was talking to him about butterflies. Instant fave.June 26, 2008A deeply touching saga of the hardship of a young catapillar's life. The main character has to overcome his ravenous appetite on his journey to become a butterfly. There were were in my eyes and laughter too as I journeyed with the catapillar in the greatest epic ever told. We had much to learn from the noble catapillar.May 9, 2021There are a lot of children's books that feel as if they are really written for the parents. The sort that kids tolerate but adults "ooh and aah" over feeling they're doing their parental duty by reading these fascinating works of children's literature and enriching their lives, where the child really just wants to know how much Dragons Love Tacos. Almost all of Eric Carle's work feels that way to me. I remember hating him as a kid, yet adults love to read him. Hell, go into any large book store and they practically set up a shrine to the man for consumers to pay homage before offering their tithe.This book is the one exception to that list. It's the one I liked as a kid and the only one I've bothered to buy for my daughter (for the record, I read The Grouchy Ladybug to her just to see if maybe I was the weird one as a kid who hated them, and she showed zero interest in it). This one works with its creative design, the humorous word choices and the amazing day where it eats a random assortment of food. This is the one Carle book that actually seems fun for young readers rather than being just "a work of art". Maybe I'm coming off overly critical of him. Maybe I just don't "get it" but hey, at least there's one exception right? 4/5 starsmy-daughter-s-books reviewedMarch 8, 2008I believe this book is THE MAJOR CAUSE of the childhood obesity epidemic currently sweeping the nation. Still, nice illustrations.December 22, 2019A favourite of both my children. My daughter had a board book version of this that she absolutely loved from about 6 months on. She loved the holes in each page and every single time we read it she had to pretend her little finger was the caterpillar and make eating noises at every hole, and when the butterfly emerges we had to make the book flap into the air. It's not a realistic representation of a butterfly and obviously the butterfly isn't eating usual butterfly food but this was a well loved book in our house for years.board-books male-author-or-illustratorOctober 30, 2024 ( ) . . . //1400 children-teenagers fictionMay 27, 2021Well this book brings tears to my eyes. I read this to my children nearly every day when they were little. They would point to the food and put their little fingers in the holes. I would have my hand on the other side of the page and tickle the pads of their finger. They would giggle and giggle. Thank you for this wonderful story, Eric, and rest in peace.adorable adventure favouritesDecember 8, 2023A children's book classic. I recently gave our old family copy back to my sister so that she could entertain my nephew with this thrilling tale but I soon started to miss the book in my own collection. Therefore, I opted to re-buy a miniature version, which is perfect for multiple reasons: it doesn't take up nearly as much space as the big picture book version which is targeted at kids but I still get to enjoy the story and look at the pictures.Rereading this book literally takes 5 minutes but it actually made me wonder what the purpose of this story (if there is any) is. I mean we get to follow a very hungry caterpillar that eats and eats throughout the week, then sleeps in a cocoon and wakes up as a beautiful butterfly. Is this supposed to be a metaphor for children growing into adults? I literally have no clue. One thing that's very evident are the patterns that come up in this book, especially those referencing days of the week and numbers. I can see how that's useful as an early teaching tool for pre-school kiddos. Apart from that, the story seems quite nonsensical to me which is fine, and honestly a breath of fresh air. Not every book aimed at children needs to be this huge morality tale. Anyways, the gimmick that I always enjoyed the most about this book (as a kid and as an adult!) is that some of its pages have holes in them to illustrate how the caterpillar eats its way through the food. It's so fun and clever. And little ol' 21st-century me is always fascinated when stuff like this is incorporated into books from literally 60-70 years ago. It's good to know the kids were always having fun!September 28, 2021One of the joys of becoming a parent is being able to revisit your own childhood favourites, this classic tale of the metamorphosis of a caterpillar to a butterfly is one of the earliest books I can remember as a kid and was the perfect place to start.So simple and clever as it not only teaches children to count but also explains a part of the animal kingdom around them.July 22, 2024"The Very Hungry Caterpillar" by Eric Carle is an engaging story that promotes curiosity about nature and the life cycle of a butterfly. It encourages exploration of growth and transformation, making it a solid choice for young readers interested in biology.animals biology childrens September 29, 2017Mr. H, my grandson, loves this book so much he turned it into a play. Great show! The critics (that would be me and his aunt) raved about it! January 6, 2023Displaying 1 - 30 of 11,310 reviewsGet help and learn more about the design.Last updated4 May 20172 weeks of planning linked to 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar.' Includes Literacy and Numeracy activities for Early years and plans for the other areas of the classroom. There is also some worksheets and some are included in the free resources section e.g pictures to match retelling the story and counting worksheets.Tes paid licenceHow can I reuse this?Select overall rating(no rating>Your rating is required to reflect your happiness.Write a reviewUpdate existing reviewIt's good to leave some feedback.Something went wrong, please try again later.I cant open the files only the planning parts, can you send them to me in a word format please Empty reply does not make any sense for the end userPlease could you save the flipchart files as PDFs as I can view them? My school does not currently have ActivInspire. Thank you! Empty reply does not make any sense for the end userWhilst it's got some good ideas in there, it really isn't a unit of work as I'd thought. It's got Maths for some days and Literacy for others but we're a school that deliver Maths and Literacy every day. It may be a good starting point.Empty reply does not make any sense for the end userReport this resource to let us know if it violates our terms and conditions. Our customer service team will review your report and will be in touch. The California Young Reader Medal (CYRM) program encourages recreational reading of popular literature among the young people of our state. Since its The California Young Reader Medal (CYRM) program encourages recreational reading of popular literature among the young people of our state. Since its inception in 1974, millions of California children have nominated, read, and voted for the winners of the California Young Reader Medal.Primary (Grades K-2)Intermediate (Grades 3-5)Middle School/Junior High (Grades 6-8)Young Adult (Grades 9-12)Picture Books for Older Readers (Grades 4 and up)website: ... ..more I Must Betray You by 4.40 avg rating 89,273 ratings California Young Readers Medal for Young Adult (2025) The Blackbird Girls by 4.42 avg rating 8,802 ratings California Young Readers Medal for Middle School/Junior High (2025) New from Here by 4.29 avg rating 4,434 ratings California Young Readers Medal for Intermediate (2025) The Gardener of Alcatraz: A True Story by 4.40 avg rating 381 ratings California Young Readers Medal for Picture Books for Older Readers (2025) Are You a Cheeseburger? by 4.13 avg rating 1,003 ratings California Young Readers Medal for Primary (2025) Chez Bob (Chez Bob, 1) by 4.27 avg rating 1,694 ratings California Young Readers Medal for Primary (2024) The Elephants Come Home: A True Story of Seven Elephants, Two People, and One Extraordinary Friendship by 4.59 avg rating 463 ratings California Young Readers Medal for Picture Books for Older Readers (2024) Across the Desert by 4.23 avg rating 3,291 ratings California Young Readers Medal for Intermediate (2024) Alone by 4.14 avg rating 17,837 ratings California Young Readers Medal for Middle School/Junior High (2024) I'm Not Dying with You Tonight by 3.68 avg rating 21,648 ratings California Young Readers Medal for Young Adult (2024) We Don't Eat Our Classmates (Penelope Rex, #1) by 4.51 avg rating 11,301 ratings California Young Readers Medal for Primary (2023) This Way, Charlie by 4.48 avg rating 932 ratings California Young Readers Medal for Picture Books for Older Readers (2023) The Lion of Mars by 4.07 avg rating 5,743 ratings California Young Readers Medal for Intermediate (2023) Winterhouse (Winterhouse, #1) by 3.94 avg rating 12,070 ratings California Young Readers Medal for Middle School/Junior High (2023) With the Fire on High by 4.17 avg rating 88,310 ratings California Young Readers Medal for Young Adult (2023) Drawn Together by 4.42 avg rating 6,102 ratings California Young Readers Medal for Primary (2022) The Remarkable Journey of Coyote Sunrise (Coyote Sunrise #1) by 4.45 avg rating 30,305 ratings California Young Readers Medal for Intermediate (2022) The Jigsaw Jungle by 3.71 avg rating 753 ratings California Young Readers Medal for Middle School/Junior High (2022) The Fountains of Silence by 4.31 avg rating 77,672 ratings California Young Readers Medal for Young Adult (2022) The Skydiving Beavers: A True Tale: A True Tale by 4.15 avg rating 151 ratings California Young Readers Medal for Picture Books for Older Readers (2022) Poor Louie by 4.33 avg rating 702 ratings California Young Readers Medal for Primary (2021) Restart by 4.18 avg rating 46,725 ratings California Young Readers Medal for Intermediate (2021) Lily and Dunkin by 4.21 avg rating 8,280 ratings California Young Readers Medal for Middle School/Junior High (2021) All We Have Left by 4.31 avg rating 4,763 ratings California Young Readers Medal for Young Adult (2021) Sergeant Reckless: The True Story of the Little Horse Who Became a Hero by 4.45 avg rating 986 ratings California Young Readers Medal for Picture Books for Older Readers (2021) The Legend of Rock Paper Scissors by 4.33 avg rating 7,830 ratings California Young Readers Medal for Primary (2020) Her Right Foot by 4.30 avg rating 3,867 ratings California Young Readers Medal for Picture Books for Older Readers (2020) The War I Finally Won (The War That Saved My Life, #2) by 4.48 avg rating 44,868 ratings California Young Readers Medal for Intermediate (2020) Refugee by 4.37 avg rating 77,393 ratings California Young Readers Medal for Middle School/Junior High (2020) Scythe (Arc of a Scythe, #1) by 4.32 avg rating 380,865 ratings California Young Readers Medal for Young Adult (2020) previous 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 24 25 next Share copy and redistribute the material in any medium or format for any purpose, even commercially. 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For example, other rights such as publicity, privacy, or moral rights may limit how you use the material. Image not available forColor: To view this video download Flash Player When a little click beetle falls onto his back, he This simple caterpillar counting activity is great for your preschooler and kindergartner to practice counting and fine motor skills. We did this activity two different ways to accommodate my childrens skill level. Since spring is upon us we tied it into a Very Hungry Caterpillar theme along with some of our other favorite Eric Carle Activities. Do your kids eat fruit pouches? (If not dont worry because if you dont have them you could try using buttons or try our second activity that is fruit pouch lid free). Ever since my kids started eating them I have been collecting the lids because I love free supplies (well, technically I know they are not free, but since we are re-purposing them then I consider them free). I feel like we have a thousand of them now. We used them as tires on a Cardboard Tube Car that turned out adorable. Suggested Books & Extension Activities:Thank you for visiting. This post may contain affiliate links to recommended products at no extra cost to you. Read our Disclosures and Terms of Use. Don't miss out again, become a Reader here