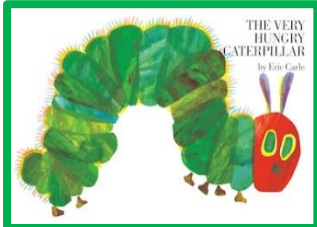


Ten Favourite Eric Carle Picture Books

... and some teaching suggestions.

The Very Hungry Caterpillar



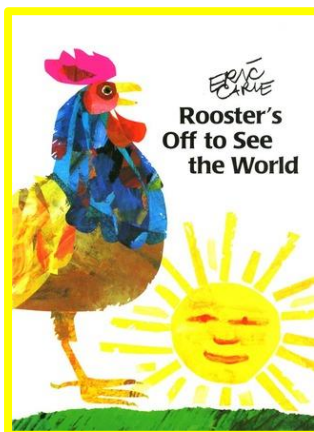
The simple rhythmic language and bright captivating illustrations appeal to children. The repetitive and cumulative text draws them in as they anticipate upcoming events and use the structure of the language to memorise and predict the story in words. The book is often one of the first that many children 'read' for themselves.

You can use the story in the classroom as a springboard for teaching concepts such as:

- counting
- days of the week
- names of fruit and vegetables
- healthy eating
- story retelling in sequence
- writing by innovating on the structure.

You can also use it to teach critical thinking. Find lesson suggestions [here](#).

Rooster's Off to See the World



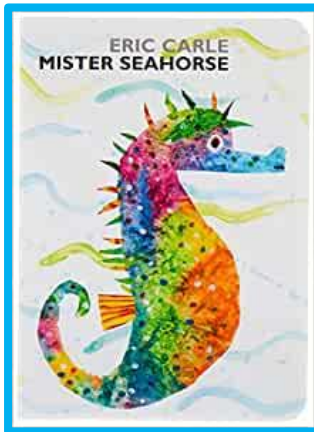
Rooster's Off to See the World is a fun story about a rooster who decides to travel. Along the way he meets an increasing number of animals whom he invites to join him. When night falls, the other animals decide they can no longer travel and head for home. Rooster decides home is the best place for him as well.

The number of animals Rooster meets increases by one on each page, so children can enjoy the story and count the animals to five, the number of fish — the last animals to join the troupe. On each page, all the animals met so far are pictured, so the total number can also be counted, up to a total of 15 with the fish.

The number of animals increases on each page in a growing pattern, so the book can also be used when teaching and discussing growing patterns.

Growing patterns can also be found in my own story [Bullfrog's Billabong](#).

Mr Seahorse

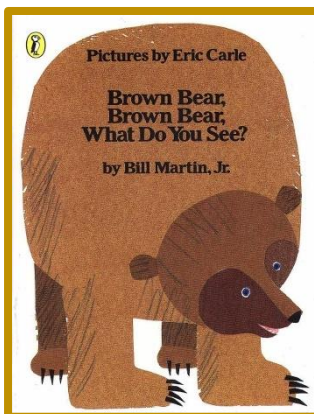


Traditionally, mothers are considered the primary carers for young in the animal kingdom. However, it is not so for all animals. Most people are aware that in some animal species, such as seahorses and emus, the father takes care of the young. In other species such as penguins, parents share the care.

In *Mr Seahorse*, Carle introduces us to a variety of fish species, starting with the seahorse, in which the father takes care of the young. This book provides an opportunity for discussion of different human family configurations as well as explorations of the animal kingdom.

After conducting the critical thinking lessons, mentioned above, for *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* with my class, the children were curious to know if the information about the fish in this book was correct. We were delighted to discover from our research that information about all of the fish fathers mentioned in the book was correct.

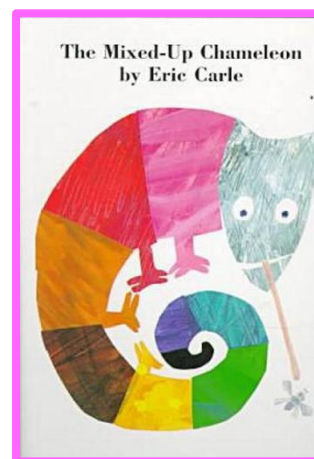
Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See?



Brown Bear, Brown Bear was not written by Eric Carle but was illustrated by him. It was written by one of my literacy heroes, [Bill Martin Jr.](#) It was actually the first picture book illustrated by Carle and the one that got him started on his picture book career — another reason to be grateful to Bill Martin Jr.

Brown Bear, Brown Bear is a great book to use with children beginning their journey into literacy, both as a text for independent reading and for innovating for writing. The repetitive text, clearly and beautifully illustrated by Carle, invites young children to join in, predicting and confirming the text.

The Mixed-Up Chameleon

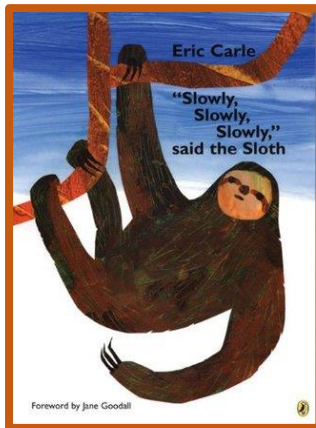


The chameleon is bored with life. One day he sees a zoo and wishes he could be like the animals he finds there. As he makes each wish, a small part of him takes on a feature of the animal. He becomes very mixed up, and very hungry. Unfortunately, he is so mixed up, that when a fly flies by, he can't catch it — until he wishes his old self back.

This is a great story for discussing individual differences and for accepting who you are and liking yourself.

It's also a great stimulus for children to create their own crazy mixed-up animals. They may also like to write about the animal they would like to be.

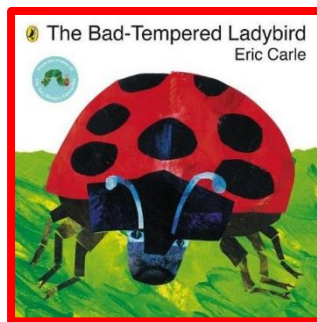
'Slowly, Slowly, Slowly,' said the Sloth



With an introduction by Jan Goodall, this book introduces children to animals of the sloth's rainforest home. The animals wonder why the sloth is so slow and boring. The sloth agrees that he is slow and uses over ten adjectives to describe those aspects of himself. He also declares that he is happy to be who he is, stating, 'That's just how I am.'

This book is a great way to introduce **adjectives** to children and to encourage them to use words other than 'nice' in their writing. It is also great for introducing children to the diversity of nature and the importance of protecting it and caring for the **environment**.

The Bad-Tempered Ladybird



The bad-tempered ladybird is not keen on sharing aphids with another ladybird but doesn't want to fight for them.

The ladybird heads off to find someone bigger to fight. Each adversary becomes increasingly bigger, and though she asks if they wish to fight, she declares they are not big enough. Eventually, the ladybird comes across a whale.

Time is important to the story with events occurring at one hourly intervals, until the ladybird meets the whale and it increases to 15-minute increments. A clock is shown on each page, so the book is great to read when teaching children about time.

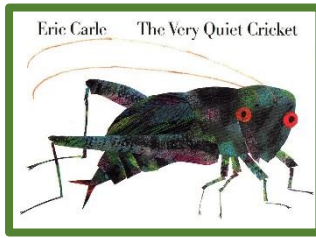
At the end of the story, the ladybird decides it's better to be friendly.

The book is great to use when discussing the importance of **sharing** and when teaching **friendship skills**.

Here at readilearn, we have a free [paper plate clock face](#) children can make to assist their learning about time.

We also have a range of [ladybird-themed resources](#) and resources for teaching [friendship skills](#).

The Very Quiet Cricket



When the little cricket is born, he goes off into the big world where he meets many other animals who greet him. He tries to return the greeting by rubbing his wings together, but nothing happens. It isn't until he meets another cricket that he is able to make a most beautiful sound by rubbing his wings together.

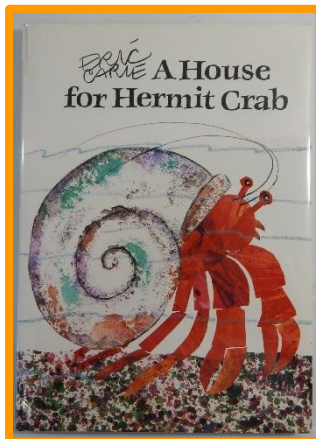
This book can be used as a stimulus for discussions about:

- friendship
- believing in yourself
- being happy with who you are.

And for teaching about insects and other minibeasts.

See readlearn resources for teaching about minibeasts in the [science biology collection](#).

A House for Hermit Crab



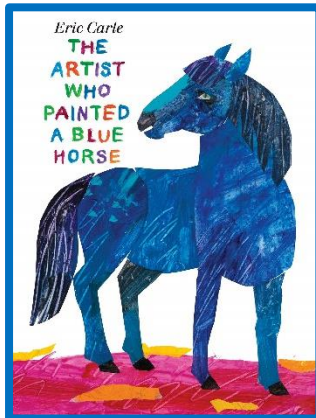
Hermit crab grows too big for his shell. He has to leave it and find another shell. When he finds another shell, he considers it too plain. Each month he invites a different sea creature to live on his shell and help to decorate it.

At the end of the year, he has a beautiful shell, but then it is too small as he has grown throughout the year. When a smaller hermit crab comes along looking for a new home, hermit crab leaves his shell to find an even bigger one. Initially, it too is a bit plain. But not for long.

This book can be used as a springboard for teaching about:

- sea animals
- size
- growth
- friendship
- kindness
- months of the year (each event takes place in a different month)
- plain and beautiful

The Artist Who Painted a Blue Horse



In this book, the artist tells what he paints, a large illustration of a colourful animal on each page supporting the simple, predictable text. At the end, the artist confidently claims, as we would want all children too, that he is a good artist.

As well as being an easy book for beginners to read, it can be used for helping them:

- *identify animals by name*
- *identify colours*
- *discuss artistic representations of animals*
- *discuss their own worth as an artist*

Encourage young artists

Carle's illustrations with their bright, bold colours and large brush strokes are perfect as models for children's own artworks.