

Diary of a Worm

Written by Doreen Cronin and illustrated by Harry Bliss

The daily activities of a complex and lovable worm are humorously captured in this one-of-a-kind diary.

★ Literacy ★

Is this diary-keeping worm all that different from a child? Most likely, students will laugh at the comparison, but they'll be curious too! Engage the class in retelling the tale from the point of view of a child. To begin, read the entry for March 20 and ask students whether they think there are three things a human mom wants her child to always remember. For the next entry ask, "Have you ever tried to teach a friend how to do something he's never done before? How well did it go?" Continue the retelling. By the end of the story, students will be ready to draw their own conclusions about the similarities between the diary keeper and themselves!

★ Science ★

By the end of this delightful story, students will be chuckling over and cheering for worms! Reread the story, this time asking students to listen carefully for factual information about worms. Ask students to share the facts they learn and help them investigate information about which they are uncertain. Lead students to conclude that worms have an important place in our environment.

★ Story Discussion ★

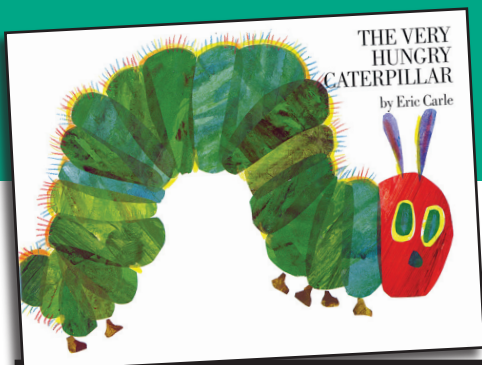
- What is the purpose of a diary? Would you like to keep a diary? Why or why not?
- Why do you think the author uses a diary format to tell the story?
- Do you think the author has a sense of humor? Explain.

★ Writing Prompt ★

Write a diary entry that describes something you did yesterday. Try to weave some humor into your entry.

The Very Hungry Caterpillar

By Eric Carle



Each day for a week, a growing caterpillar eats increasingly larger amounts of food. He then retreats into a cocoon to rest (and to recover from a very full belly) before he emerges as a beautiful butterfly!

★ Literacy ★

The daily sequence of the caterpillar's story provides the perfect structure for retelling practice. Give each child a copy of page 79 to complete. When she finishes, the caterpillar's daily diet will be pictured. Then have her practice retelling the story with a partner, using her paper to guide her.

★ Science ★

The caterpillar's weeklong eating spree invites a review of the five food groups. Recall that on Monday through Friday the hungry caterpillar munches only on fruit. Then ask the youngsters to name foods the caterpillar could eat if he ate only from one of the other food groups (milk and dairy; grains; vegetables; meat, beans, fish, and nuts). Next, give each child a card on which to draw and label one of the foods mentioned. With your students' help, read a milk and dairy version of the story, a grains version of the story, and so on. Perhaps a "well-balanced" story version is in order too!

★ Story Discussion ★

- Why do you think the caterpillar gets a stomachache?
- What parts of the story could really happen?
- What parts of the story could not really happen?
- What do you think the butterfly will do first? Why?

★ Writing Prompt ★

Make a grocery list of the foods from the story that you like to eat.