

Spotlight Guide 2024 - 2025



The Summary

This stage adaptation brings four of Eric Carle's beloved stories to life through puppetry and design:

- **The Artist Who Painted a Blue Horse** celebrates creativity and the joy of thinking outside the box.
- **Mister Seahorse** explores fatherhood in the underwater world as Mr. Seahorse cares for eggs laid in his pouch.
- **The Very Lonely Firefly** follows a young firefly searching for companions by chasing sources of light.
- **The Very Hungry Caterpillar** tells the journey of a tiny caterpillar who eats his way through the week and transforms into a butterfly.

Based on the books by Eric Carle

Adapted for the Stage By Jonathan Rockefeller

Ways to Explore the Stories

The Very Hungry Caterpillar Lessons

- **Life cycle of a butterfly**
- **Metamorphosis**
- **Healthy foods**
 - This caterpillar eats and eats. Can you remember how many and which foods it eats? Why did the caterpillar feel better after eating a green leaf? Have you ever gotten a tummy ache from eating too much? What did you learn from that experience?

The Very Lonely Firefly

- **Nocturnal animals**
- **Lights in the night**
- **Loneliness and Persistence**

What animals sleep during the day and are active at night? Can people be nocturnal? Can you think of a job that you could do at nighttime?

JUMP START

Ideas for things to do, wonder about, talk about or write about before or after you see THE VERY HUNGRY CATERPILLAR SHOW

- *What animals do you see every day? What colors are they?*
- *If you could turn into an animal, what animal would you choose? Act out becoming the animal. Use sounds the animal makes, too.*
- *Fireflies use their lights to communicate with each other. Besides words, what do we use to communicate with each other? Tell a friend what you did today using only gestures and facial expressions.*

See the full study guide for expanded activities.

Florida Standards

Language Arts – B.E.S.T. Standards

- ELA.K.R.1.1 – Describe the main story elements in a literary text.
- ELA.1.C.1.3 – Write opinion pieces about a topic or text.
- ELA.2.R.1.1 – Identify plot structure and major story events.
- ELA.2.R.3.3 – Compare and contrast details across media formats.

Theater and Visual Arts

- TH.K.F.2.1: Identify jobs in and related to theater.
- TH.1.S.1.1: Describe how the arts are experienced through participation and observation.
- VA.K.S.1.1: Explore the effects of tools and media on a completed artwork.

G

Content appropriate for all audiences.

Children two years of age and younger may sit on laps. Older children must have a ticket.