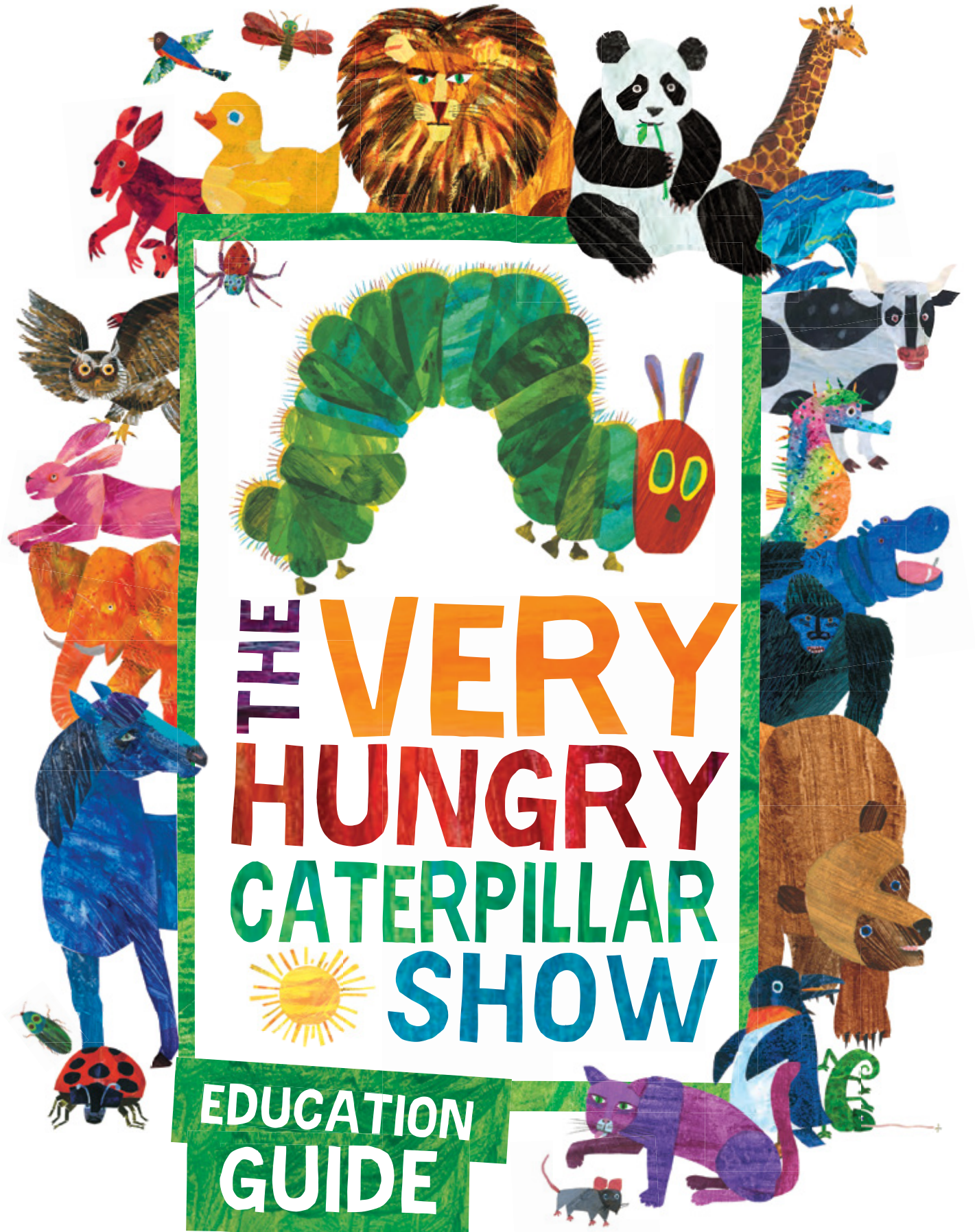




THE VERY HUNGRY CATERPILLAR SHOW

EDUCATION
GUIDE



ERIC CARLE

THE VERY WONDERFUL ARTIST



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 50 languages and sold over 33 million copies. 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. *Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See?* was the result of their collaboration. 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 artwork 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. 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.

"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? 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."

- Eric Carle



JONATHAN ROCKEFELLER

What made you create *The Very Hungry Caterpillar Show*?

I have a great fondness for picture books. When they're done well, they distill very complex ideas down to their simplest visual form. Great stories told well at the right age instill a love of reading for life, and for me *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* was the first book I remember reading. I still actually have my copy, albeit it's very dog-eared right now.

Look at *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*. A lot of readers will think it's about a caterpillar getting fat, but the book encapsulates the days of the week, counting, nutrition, metamorphosis—all with very simple repetition and striking illustrations. I loved the challenge of bringing four of Eric Carle's stories to life with all their complexity.

What was the journey or process into creating a show?

There were a lot of sketches and illustrations: we began with storyboards to communicate with Eric Carle what we wanted to do, then sketches of every puppet interpreting Eric's illustrations into three-dimensions. These sketches were used so the puppet builders could interpret and work out mechanisms to make the puppets move.

There are 75 puppets in the show and each one has different abilities—some of our birds have wings that "flap," others have beaks that open and close, and others have a "gliding" motion. From an artistic perspective we worked out the primary function that the animal needs to have in the story and designed the puppet around that.

The most critical thing was assembling the right team of creatives to go on this journey: composers, set designer, lighting director and puppet builders, all of whom were able to use their own abilities to push the show even further. The puppeteers are amazing too—they really bring to life all the characters.

Were there any difficulties constructing a stage production such as this one?

Our biggest challenge was to ensure what we created was faithful to the books. Eric Carle's illustrations are iconic, and children are relentlessly unforgiving when you meddle with something they love! Our role was to take two-dimensional



characters and find what they look like outside of the pages of the book. For the hungry caterpillar, we had to create what he looks like from the front and the back—perspectives that are never seen in the book. And Brown Bear is drawn in a very "Picasso-esque" fashion which meant we could see many perspectives at once, so we had to round out the image to make it a believable puppet. Our other challenge was geographic: the show debuted in Australia, Eric Carle lives in Massachusetts and the puppets were built in New York.

How did you decide on the order of the stories in the show?

The Hungry Caterpillar is our grand finale—the show's namesake and the perfect finish to the show as the magnificent butterfly. The beginning of *Hungry Caterpillar* starts with "In the light of the moon..." so it was a perfect transition from the night scene in *The Very Lonely Firefly*. I thought *Brown Bear* was an excellent beginning to the show as it introduces each animal one at a time—a fun story where everyone knows the words. That left the more traditional story of *10 Little Rubber Ducks* to take the second place.

What do you hope audiences will get out of seeing The Very Hungry Caterpillar Show?

For so many people, this is their very first chance to go to the theater EVER, just as *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* was their first book. I believe each audience member will see that theater is a great way of telling stories. I also think everyone will love the other three stories presented: *Brown Bear*, *10 Little Rubber Ducks* and *The Very Lonely Firefly* and I hope the show will foster a love of theater and a love of books. We place great emphasis on being faithful to the books and want to further everyone's appreciation for storytelling.



WAYS TO EXPLORE

BROWN BEAR, BROWN BEAR

Animals

Colors

Setting (Where you would find the animal?)

Reality vs. Fantasy (yellow duck vs. blue horse)

What are your favorite colors? Are there animals in real life that are those colors? Would you really see a blue horse? Black sheep? If you could have a purple cat, would you want one? What would be a good name for the purple cat?



ACTIVITY

Make/paint animal masks or simple cutouts and act out the story.

Sinks/Floats

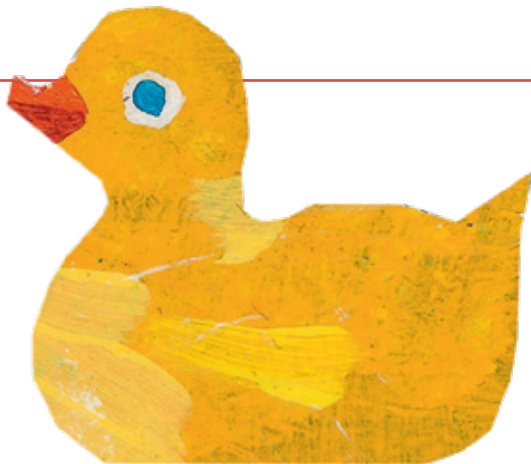
Counting/Sequencing Numbers

Directionality Words

Storms (wind, hurricanes, tornado)

What kinds of animals can you find in the ocean? North Pole? South Pole? Eastern U.S.A.? Western U.S.A.? In the north? South?

10 LITTLE RUBBER DUCKS



ACTIVITY

In plastic containers filled with water, float some rubber ducks (or other floatable plastic toys.) Give your child a straw. At one end of the container of water, instruct the child to blow through the straw at the duck to help it move down the "river." Got two children? Make it a race!



WAYS TO EXPLORE

THE VERY LONELY FIREFLY

Nocturnal animals
Lights in the night
Loneliness
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?

ACTIVITY

With an adult's help, cut open a glow stick and shake the contents into a jar. Add silver glitter. Seal the jar with a lid. Shake. Take it outside at night or into a dark room—what do you see?



Life cycle of a butterfly
Metamorphosis
We grow!
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 HUNGRY CATERPILLAR

ACTIVITY

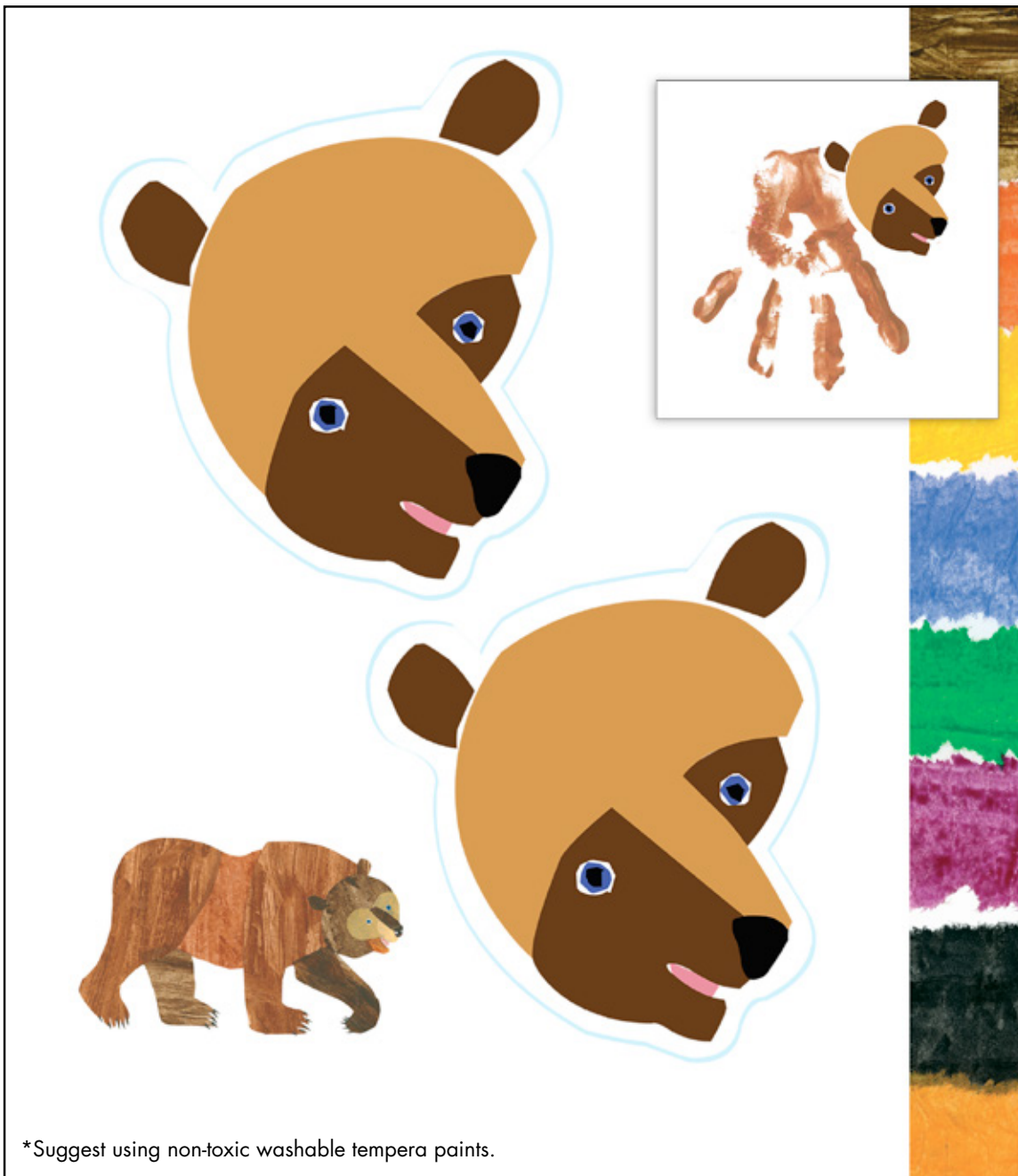
Get parent's permission! Dip a marshmallow into some red paint. Stamp the marshmallow onto a piece of paper. Then, dip a new marshmallow into some green paint. Stamp the green onto the paper, behind the red, to make a caterpillar body! Count how many green segments you add as you stamp. Make different sizes and label the number of segments.



BROWN BEAR, BROWN BEAR, WHAT DID YOU SEE?

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Carefully cut out the bear artwork along the blue line.
2. Paint* your child's hand, press firmly onto a piece of paper or onto a paper plate.
3. Quickly go wash hands and remove paint!
4. Once the paint is dry on the paper, use a glue stick to place the bear's head over the handprint. Your little one's handprinted fingers will look like the bear's legs and the palm area will look like the bear's body!
5. Allow it to dry.
6. Date your craft so you and your little one will always remember it!



*Suggest using non-toxic washable tempera paints.

WORDS AND IDEAS

in **BROWN
BEAR,
BROWN
BEAR**

Animals and Colors

red bird yellow duck
blue horse green frog
purple cat white dog
black sheep goldfish

in **10 LITTLE
RUBBER
DUCKS**



VOCABULARY

packed: placed something in a container, especially for transportation or storage

cargo ship: any kind of ship that carries goods and materials from one port to another

countries: nations with their own government

overboard: going from a ship into the water

bobs: makes a quick, short movement up and down

drifts: carried slowly by a current or air or water

screeches: a loud, harsh, piercing cry

floating: resting or remaining on the surface of water or liquid

DIRECTIONS

west
east
north
south
left

right
up
down
this way
that way

ORDINAL NUMBERS

1st - 10th

ACTIONS IN THE STORY

storm **churns** the water

wind **whistles**

wave **lifts**

ducks **bob, drift, float**

dolphin **jumps**

seal **barks**

polar bear **growls**

flamingo **stares**

pelican **chatters**

turtle **glides** past

octopus **blinks**

seagull **screeches**

whale **sings**

mother duck and ducklings
swim

WORDS AND IDEAS

VOCABULARY

in **THE VERY LONELY FIREFLY**

lonely: being sad because one has no friends or company

stretched: straightened or extended one's body or a part of one's body to its full length

flashlight: a small, portable light that has a battery

lantern: a portable lamp with a protective, "see-through" case protecting the light from wind or rain

reflecting: to "throw back" light from a surface or body

fireworks: devices containing gunpowder and other chemicals that causes a spectacular explosive display in the sky

THINGS THAT LIGHT UP AND WORDS DESCRIBING THE LIGHT

lightbulb **lighting**

candle **flickering**

flashlight **shining**

lantern **glowing**

car's headlights **flooding**

fireflies **flashing**

dog's, cat's, owl's eyes

reflecting

fireworks **sparkling** and **glittering** and **shimmering**

in **THE VERY HUNGRY CATERPILLAR**

WHEN AND WHAT THE CATERPILLAR ATE

DAY	AMOUNT	THING
Monday	1 - ONE	Apple
Tuesday	2- TWO	Pears
Wednesday	3- THREE	Plums
Thursday	4-FOUR	Strawberries
Friday	5-FIVE	Oranges
Saturday	1-ONE	piece of chocolate cake, ice cream cone, pickle, slice of Swiss cheese, slice of salami, lollipop, piece of cherry pie, sausage, cupcake, slice of watermelon

VOCABULARY

egg: the first stage of life for many young animals and insects, where early development takes place within a shell or other protective outer covering

caterpillar: a small, worm-like animal that feeds on plants and eventually develops into a butterfly or moth

cocoon: a covering of silky threads spun by an insect that serves as a protective covering. Butterfly caterpillars do not spin cocoons. They shed their skins exposing the chrysalis underneath which hardens into a protective shell from which they emerge as butterflies.

butterfly: a flying insect with a small body and two pairs of large, often colorful wings

metamorphosis: the process of transformation from an immature form to an adult form in two or more distinctive stages for insects or amphibians



WRITING AND DRAWING ACTIVITY

Dear Hungry Caterpillar Show Cast,

My favorite part of the show was _____

This is a picture of my favorite part of the show!

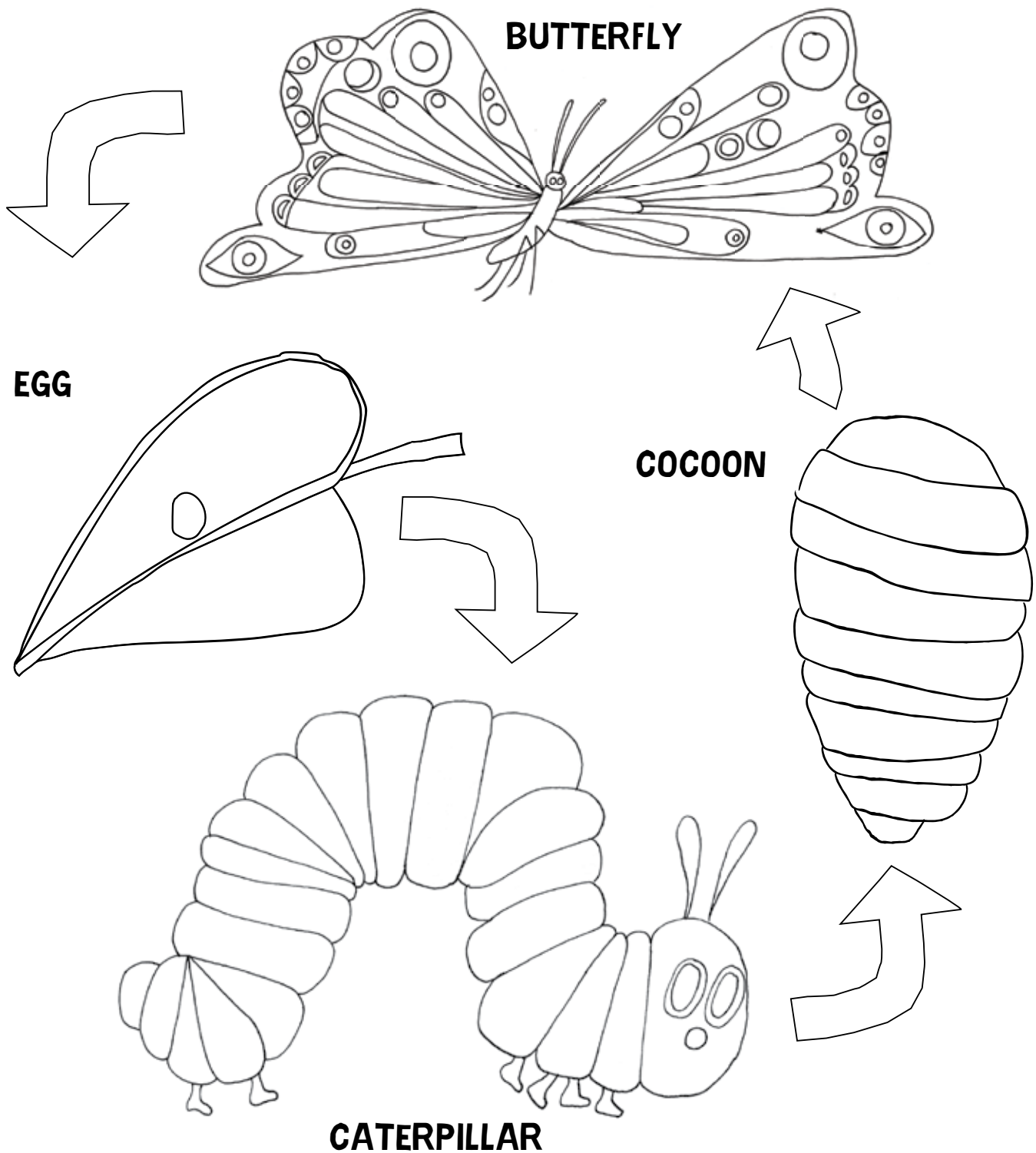
When I left the show I was _____

If I were in the show i would want to play the part of _____
because _____

Sincerely,
Name: _____ Grade: _____ School: _____



BUTTERFLY LIFE CYCLE

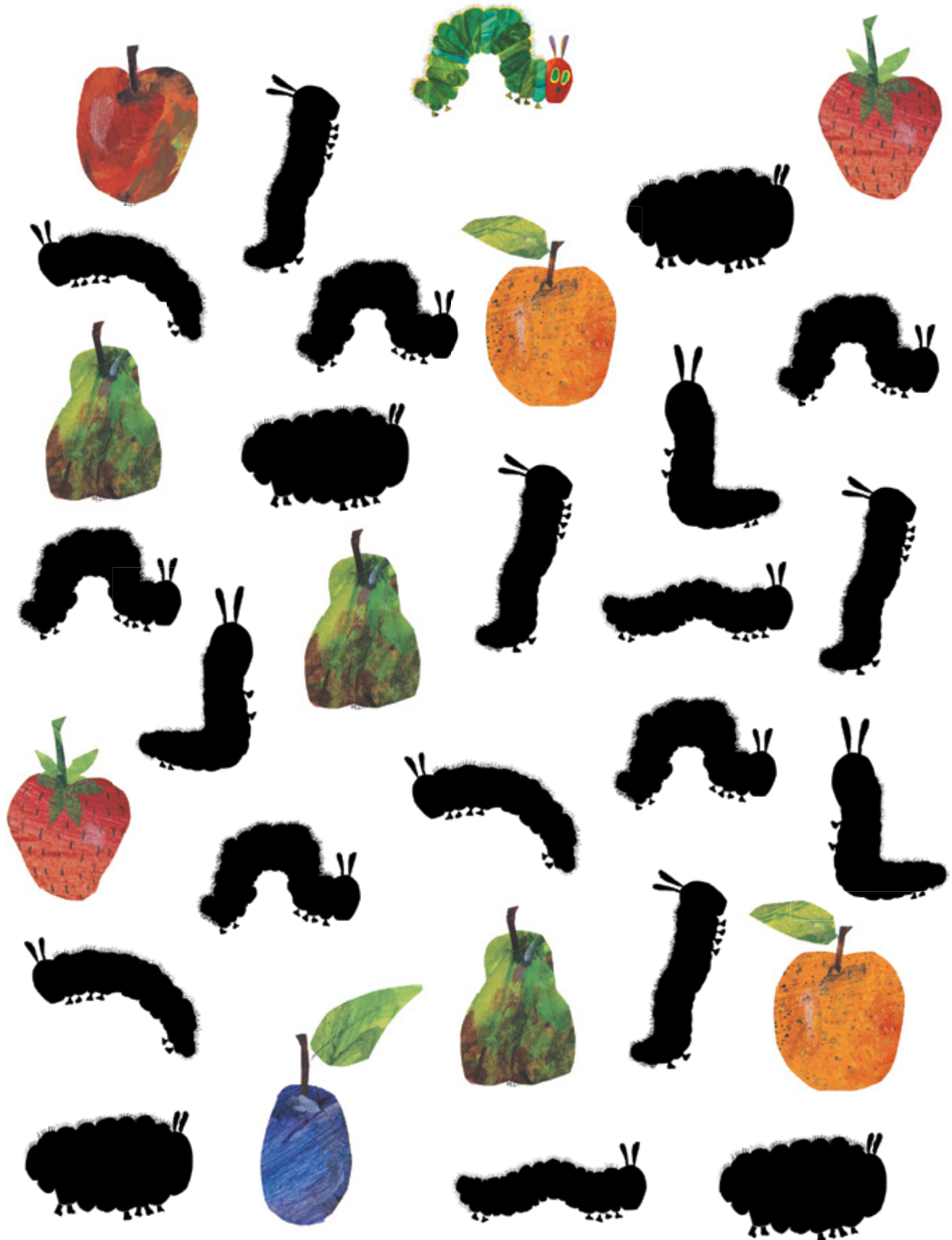


HOW DID THE VERY HUNGRY CATERPILLAR BECOME A BEAUTIFUL BUTTERFLY?

Can you put these images in order. Write "1" under what happened first, "2" under what happened next, and so on.



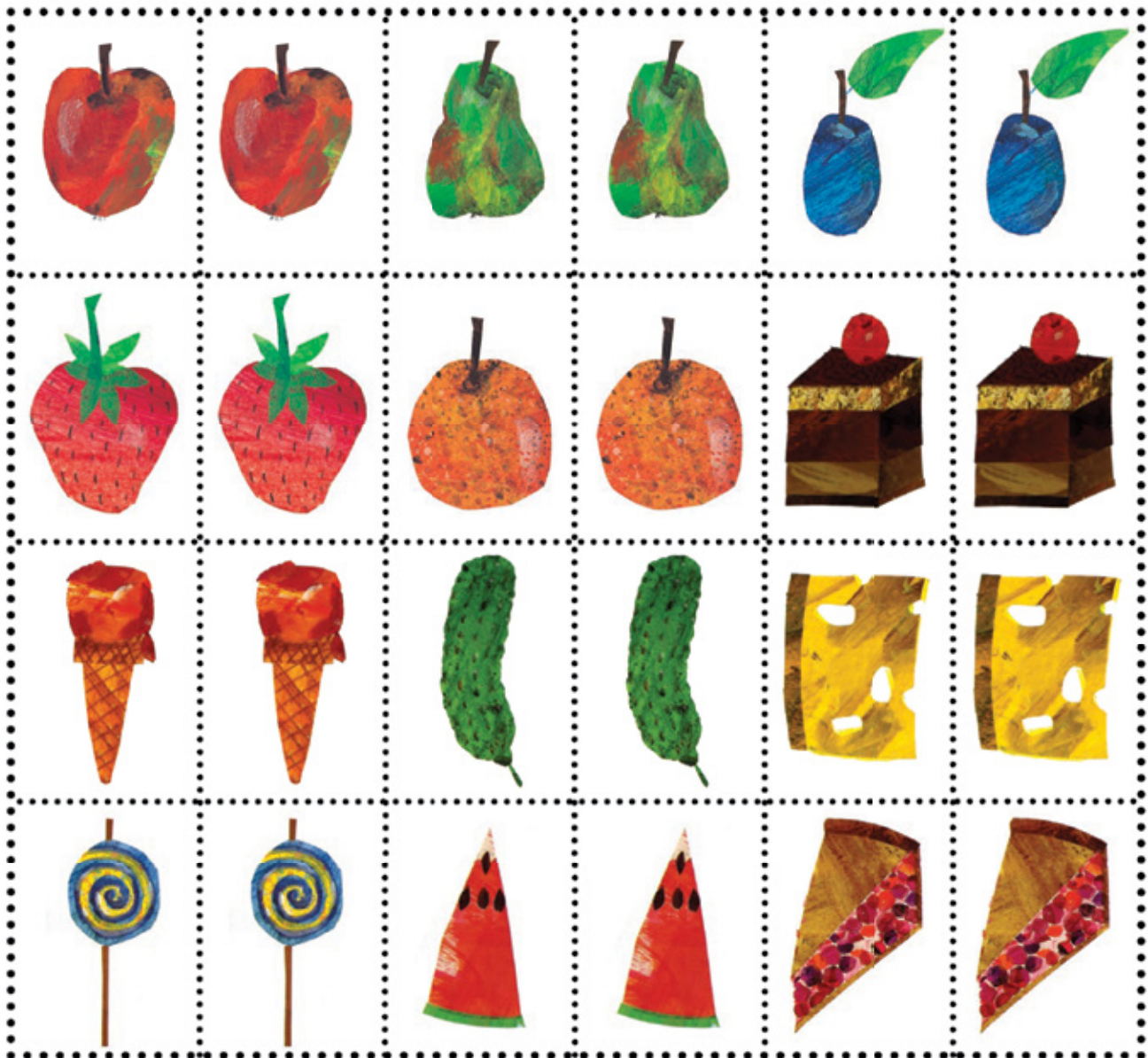
SILHOUETTES



THE VERY HUNGRY CATERPILLAR MEMORY GAME

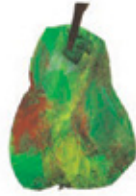
How to Play (2 to 4) players: Ask a grown-up to help you cut along the dotted lines to separate the cards. Lay cards in rows, caterpillar-side up. Player 1 flips one card over, then chooses another card to flip.

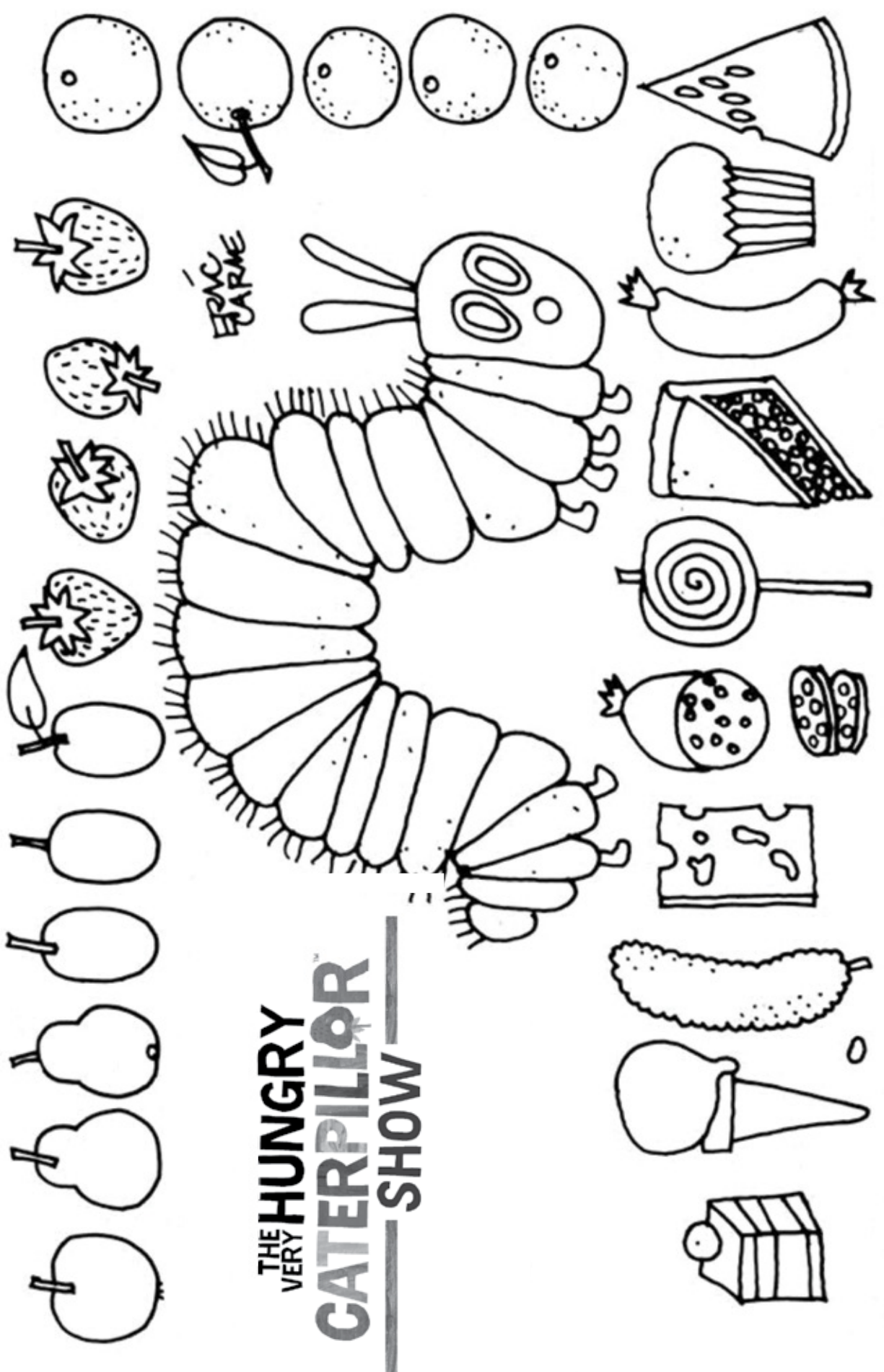
If the pictures match, both cards go into Player 1's pile. If the cards don't match, they are turned back over. The next player does the same, until all the cards have been matched and added to players' piles. The winner is the player with the most matches.



SO MANY KINDS OF TREATS TO EAT

The Very Hungry Caterpillar ate many different types of food.
Can you find and circle all of the fruit? Do you see your favorite food?
Draw your favorite shape around it!





THE HUNGRY
VERY CATERPILLAR
SHOW

ERIC
CARLE

