

Book Ideas for *The Very Hungry Caterpillar Show*

Created by Jonathan Rockefeller

Based on Eric Carle's books

Eric Carle's iconic stories and illustrations come to life on stage! From The Very Hungry Caterpillar who undergoes a magical transformation, to The Very Lonely Butterfly who learns to shine his light by finding friends, you won't want to miss this fantastical puppet experience.

□ **BIG IDEA:** Play

Links are to [goodreads](#)

All book on the list are appropriate for children in grades PreK-3.



[Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See?](#) (1967)

By Bill Martin, Jr. illustrated by Eric Carle

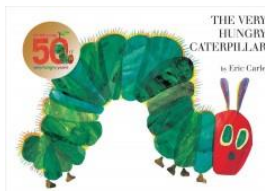
Children see a variety of animals, each one a different color, and a mother looking at them.



[Mister Seahorse](#) (2004)

By Eric Carle

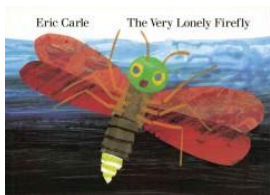
After Mrs. Seahorse lays her eggs on Mr. Seahorse's belly, he drifts through the water, greeting other fish fathers who are taking care of their eggs.



[The Very Hungry Caterpillar](#) (1969)

by Eric Carle

Follows the progress of a hungry little caterpillar as he eats his way through a varied and very large quantity of food until, full at last, he forms a cocoon around himself and goes to sleep. Die-cut pages illustrate what the caterpillar ate on successive days.



[The Very Lonely Firefly](#) (1995)

By Eric Carle

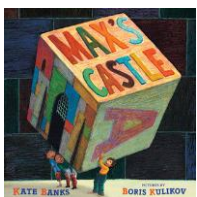
A lonely firefly goes out into the night searching for other fireflies.



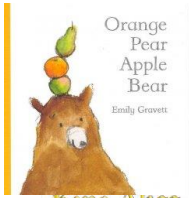
[On a Magical Do-Nothing Day](#) (2017)

By Beatrice Alemagna

Sent outside on a rainy day by a mom who tries to pry him away from his video games, a little boy is dismayed when his handheld game falls into the pond before encounters with giant snails, wet mushrooms and other elements awaken him to the sensory aspects of nature.

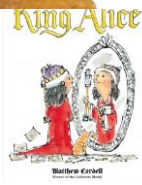


[Max's Castle](#) (2011)



By Kate Banks

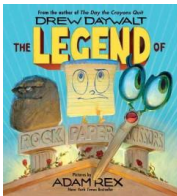
When Max finds a box of long-forgotten toys, he builds a kingdom filled with adventures for himself and his two brothers.



[King Alice](#) (2018)

By Matthew Cordell

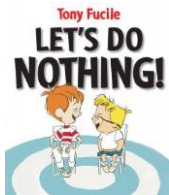
A young girl wakes her father by informing him that she is Queen Alice, then draws him and other family members into her imaginative activities, from writing a book to a sleepover with fairies.



[The Legend of Rock Paper Scissors](#) (2017)

By Drew Daywalt

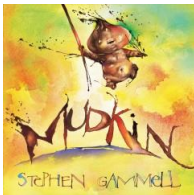
This laugh-out-loud hilarious picture book is about the fictional warriors who invented a classic childhood game.



[Let's Do Nothing](#) (2009)

By Tony Fucile

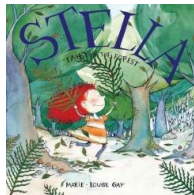
Believing they have done all there is to do, two bored boys come up with a strange new activity to keep them occupied and discover an entirely new way to pass the time by doing—nothing.



[Mudkin](#) (2011)

By Stephen Gammell

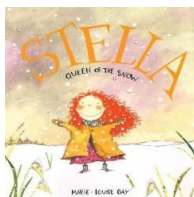
While playing outside on a rainy day, a little girl peers into a puddle and sees Mudkin, who invites her to become his queen.



[Stella, Fairy of the Forest](#) (2002)

By Marie-Louise Gay

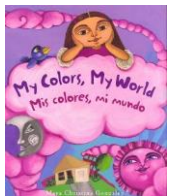
Stella and her brother Sam venture across the meadow into the forest, searching for fairies while enjoying a perfect day in the woods.



[Stella, Queen of the Snow](#) (2000)

By Marie-Louise Gay

Stella introduces Sam to the fun of playing in the snow.



[My Colors, My World / Mis Colores, Mi Mundo](#) (2007)

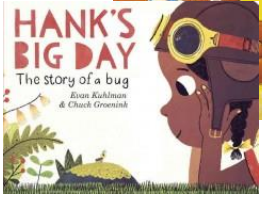
By Maya Christina Gonzalez

Maya, who lives in the dusty desert, opens her eyes wide to find the colors in her world, from Papi's black hair and Mami's orange and purple flowers to Maya's red swing set and the fiery pink sunset.

[Orange Pear Apple Bear](#) (2006)

By Emily Gravett

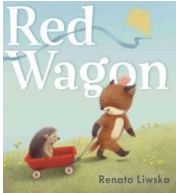
Explores concepts of color, shape, and food using only five simple words, as a bear juggles and plays.



[Hank's Big Day: The Story of a Bug](#) (2016)

By Evan Kuhlman

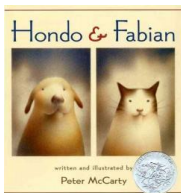
Hank is a pill bug whose daily routine involves nibbling a dead leaf, climbing up a long stick, avoiding a skateboarder, and playing pretend with his best friend, a human girl named Amelia.



[The Red Wagon](#) (2011)

By Renata Liwska

When Lucy gets a new red wagon she wants to play with it immediately, but first she must use it to bring vegetables home from the market for her mother.



[Hondo & Fabian](#) (2002)

By Peter McCarty

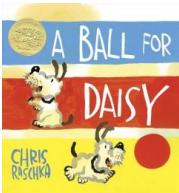
Hondo the dog gets to go to the beach and play with his friend Fred, while Fabian the cat spends the day at home.



[3, 2, 1, Go!](#) (2015)

By Emily Arnold McCully

Told she cannot step over the line to play school with the older girls, Min builds a catapult and flies over it, instead.



[A Ball for Daisy](#) (2011)

By Christopher Raschka

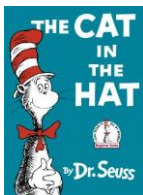
A wordless picture book about all the fun a dog can have with her ball.



[Mud is Cake](#) (2002)

By Pam Muñoz Ryan

A brother and sister find that when they use their imagination mud can become cake and they themselves can become almost anything.



[The Cat in the Hat](#) (1957)

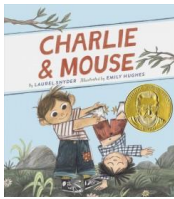
By Dr. Seuss

Two children sitting at home on a rainy day are visited by the Cat in the Hat who shows them some tricks and games.

[Good Boy, Fergus!](#) (2006)

By David Shannon

Except for his bath, Fergus experiences the perfect doggy day, from chasing cats and motorcycles to being scratched on his favorite tickle spot.



[Charlie & Mouse](#) (2017)

By Laurel Snyder

Charlie and Mouse, two young brothers, enjoy a day out together, attending an imaginary party and collecting rocks.



[Rules of Summer](#) (2014)

By Shaun Tan

Two boys explain the occasionally mysterious "rules" they learned over the summer, like never eat the last olive at a party, never ruin a perfect plan, and never give your keys to a stranger.



[The Almost Terrible Playdate](#) (2016)

By Rich Torrey

A young boy and girl, with very different ideas about what they want to play, face off during a play date



[Can I Play Too?](#) An Elephant and Piggie Book (2010)

By Mo Willems

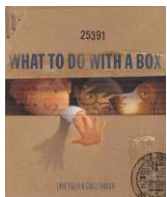
Elephant and Piggie learn to play catch with their new friend Snake



[Hooray for Today!](#) (2016)

By Brian Won

Owl wakes up and is ready to play, but all his friends are sleeping.



[What to Do With a Box](#) (2016)

By Jane Yolen

Nothing sparks a child's imagination quite like a cardboard box. This book enumerates a variety of possibilities for this deceptively mundane container.