THE VERY HUNGRY CATERPILLAR
by Eric Carle
For my sister Christa
In the light of the moon a little egg lay on a leaf.
One Sunday morning the warm sun came up and – pop! – out of the egg came a tiny and very hungry caterpillar.
He started to look for some food.
On Monday
he ate through
one apple.
But he was still
hungry.
He started to look for some food.
On Tuesday he ate through two pears, but he was still hungry.
He started to look for some food.
On Wednesday he ate through three plums, but he was still hungry.
He started to look for some food.
On Thursday
he ate through
four strawberries,
but he was still
hungry.
He started to look...
On Friday he ate through five oranges, but he was still hungry.
On Saturday he ate through one piece of chocolate cake, one ice-cream cone, one pickle, one slice of Swiss cheese, one slice of salami,
one lollipop, one piece of cherry pie, one sausage, one cupcake, and one slice of watermelon.

That night he had a stomachache!
The next day was Sunday again.
The caterpillar ate through
one nice green leaf,
and after that he felt
much better.
Now he wasn’t hungry any more—and he wasn’t a little caterpillar any more. He was a big, fat caterpillar.
He built a small house, called a cocoon, around himself. He stayed inside for more than two weeks. Then he nibbled a hole in the cocoon, pushed his way out and...
he was a beautiful butterfly!