



The Very Clumsy Caterpillar: A Parody for those with two left feet

Steve Gritton (Illustrator)

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A Parody of the much beloved book by Eric Carle, a tiny egg hatches into one clumsy caterpillar. Follow along as the caterpillar tries to eat different foods but always tumbles and fumbles his way around.

The Very Clumsy Caterpillar: A Parody for those with two left feet Details

Date : Published October 19th 2013 by SMG Books (first published October 16th 2013)

ISBN : 9780979536151

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Format : Paperback 32 pages

Genre : Childrens, Picture Books, Humor

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From Reader Review The Very Clumsy Caterpillar: A Parody for those with two left feet for online ebook

James W. Aries says

The Very Clumsy Caterpillar is story that I enjoy reading to my 2-year-old. Great pictures and cute humor keep this fantastic parody moving to its funny ending.

Lynne says

This book made me laugh! The drawings are humorous and so is the text. As someone with two left feet, I empathized with this poor caterpillar. Cute book.

Daniel says

I received this book through a Goodreads giveaway. The Very Clumsy Caterpillar is a delight to read. The story an illustrations are funny and sweet. This is a book I would gladly have read to my kids when they were little.

I must admit to having never read The Very Hungry Caterpillar, so I cannot compare this parody to the original. To me, this book stands just fine on its own.

Book Preview Review says

Book Description:

“A Parody of the much beloved book by Eric Carle, a tiny egg hatches into one clumsy caterpillar. Follow along as the caterpillar tries to eat different foods but always tumbles and fumbles his way around.”

Prior to reading this book aloud to a second grade classroom, I shared the book description with them so they had a bit of background before getting started. This description was a starting point and great introduction to the meaning of satire/parody/farce.

The children really got a kick out of the entertaining facial expressions and character verbiage towards the clumsy caterpillar. The sarcasm used by the other characters sparked an interesting and lengthy discussion with the class about words, reactions, awareness and how comments from others can make us feel. It's always rewarding to get children thinking beyond just the story and tying lessons learned into making connections to their own lives.

Definitely not an ending the children saw coming or were expecting!

Sarah Crawley says

I received this book for free from the Goodreads First Reads Giveaway. Perfect for all ages especially fans of Eric Carle's The Very Hungry Caterpillar! I read this book with my 6 year old daughter and we enjoyed the similarity to the Very Hungry Caterpillar and laughed at the new parts which were about everything that made this book different with the Caterpillar in this story being clumsy. A great fun read that children will surely enjoy!

Julie says

This was a Goodreads First Reads win for me. I must preface this by saying I have not read The Very Hungry Caterpillar. My daughter is almost a year old, and we read a lot of books, but haven't read that one yet. Still, I thought this parody would be a good book for her--if not now, in the future.

So, I sat down with her to read this book when it arrived. The pictures were very colorful and similar to what I recall pictures in an Eric Carle book looking like. But, something about the story disturbed me. I think the book Nurture Shock talks about how young kids learn relational aggression from educational TV shows meant to show how to resolve conflict (but they spend most of the time establishing the conflict and very little time resolving it, and kids seem to learn from the aggressive behaviors shown). In a similar vein, I can understand the intention of this book, but each time the caterpillar bumps into something or trips, there are other insects there making fun of him. They are full of sarcasm, and I don't want my child to think that that is okay. (Don't worry, I realize that my child will hear sarcasm somewhere.) I guess I could use this book as a teaching tool to then discuss what sarcasm is, why it is not okay to talk to people like the other bugs talked to the caterpillar, etc. But, it's not one I would just read to her over and over without discussion. Clearly, she needs to be a bit older for this to happen.

I won't give away the end, but I was grateful that the author did not turn the caterpillar into a butterfly and then have all the other bugs like him because he was beautiful. That was refreshing.
