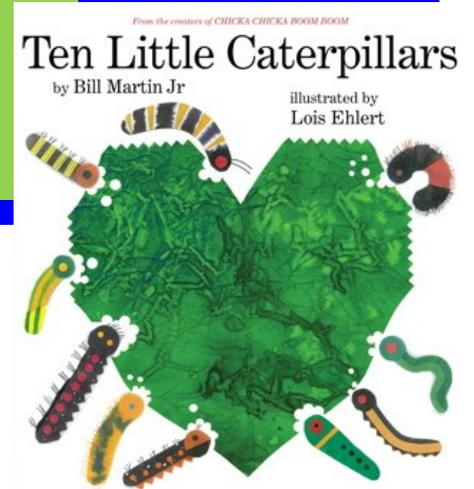


Pre-K Essential Literature

Ten Little Caterpillars

by Bill Martin Jr.



- Talk about rhyming words. Locate the rhyming words in the story.
- Talk about “ wriggle” . Act out wriggling on the floor.
- Come up with gestures of a caterpillar eating a leaf.
- Compare birds and fish and how they catch caterpillars and other bugs.
- Count the caterpillars in the book.
- Use butterflies with numbers on them and allow the children to place them in number order.
- Draw a picture of your favorite butterfly that you have seen.
- Use gestures to act like a butterfly and a caterpillar.
- List other animals that may try to eat a caterpillar. Do the same animals try and eat butterflies.
- Compare caterpillars to an inch worm.
- Describe what happens to the butterfly after he meets the wren? Is he able to get away?

Counting Caterpillars

- Using quantity to identify the amount of a number helps children in creating groups. Learning to count and identify an amount will aid children in their quest in learning how to work with numbers.
- Give each child a set of leaves with numbers on them and a set of rolled pipe cleaners in the shape of caterpillars. Make sure the each leaf is a different color with matching pipe cleaners that are the same color.
- After reading the story have the child pull a leaf from their set and lay it in front of them. Have them to look at each number on the leaf and place that many caterpillars on each leaf.

I am a Butterfly– Art

- Give each child an egg carton, eyes, pipe cleaners, and puff balls to make a caterpillar.
- Give students tissue paper and a paper clip. Allow them to make a butterfly using each item.

Caterpillar Feelings (SEL)

- Sometimes things that are bigger than us may scare or frighten us. Talk to the children about what to do if they are afraid. Make a bubble about things that can scare us.
- Talk to the children about their feelings and what to do. Discuss with the children that not all situations or people that are larger than them will cause fear.
- After reading *Ten Little Caterpillars*, discuss with the children how the caterpillars were brave when facing birds and fish.

Caterpillars Change to Butterflies

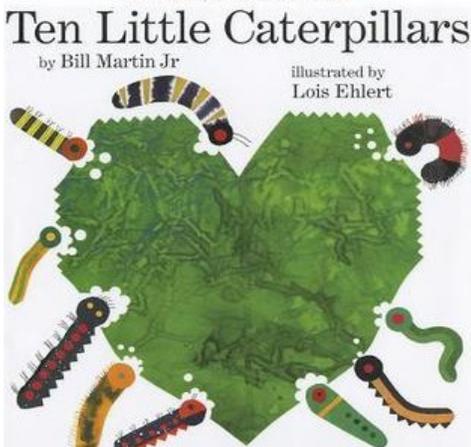
Caterpillars change into beautiful butterflies. Sequence the caterpillars change using pasta and beans to reflect each phase. Discuss what the caterpillar eats in order to change to a butterfly.

Looking beyond the cover: *Ten Little Caterpillars*

About the Author

Bill Martin, Jr. is a beloved native of Kansas. Born in 1916, Bill grew up in Hiawatha and struggled learning to reading. He could read words but could not construct meaning. Coming from a family with rich oral storytelling skills, Bill learned to love stories and understood the importance of language in conveying meaning.

One of the first positive experiences Bill had with reading and books was in fifth grade when his teacher read aloud twice a day. Bill felt that she was reading through the voice of the book, making the characters come alive. Because of this experience, as well as his own struggles, Bill became an advocate for creating books that have a strong voice. His books are full of rhyme, rhythm, and musical language. Each book is unique with dynamic word choice and image-building language. Descriptive adjectives and adverbs keep his books a rocking, prancing, and wriggling across the pages. Bill has written or co-written over 300 books. Bill says, "I don't write books, I talk them. I need to hear what I have to say."



More Interactive Read Alouds

Interactive read alouds are amazing for emerging, reluctant and non-readers. The music, call and response, repetition, simplicity and other techniques empower children to read these books even before they can really read. They are outstanding for story time.

For close reading, ask children to discuss the change from a caterpillar into a butterfly.

Here's a list of some of our favorite interactive read alouds:

Jump, Frog, Jump! By Robert Kalan

Yo! Yes? By Chris Raschka

Down by the Cool of the Pool by Tony Mitton

Go Away Big Green Monster by Ed Emberley

Press Here by Herve Tullet

Anansi and the Moss Covered Rock by Eric Kimmell

Check it out!

Like *Ten Little Caterpillars*?
Here are some other books
by author Bill Martin Jr.

*Brown Bear, Brown Bear
What Do You See?*

*Polar Bear, Polar Bear What
Do You Hear?*

*Panda Bear, Panda Bear
What Do You See?*

Chicka Chicka Boom Boom

