

BOOK REVIEW**The Very Hungry Caterpillar***Priyanka Koch***Hitesh Sharma***

Illustrations are beautiful because they open a whole new world to the little children where every creativity finds expressions. It is like that by giving them books we are providing them a space for the open expressions of their thoughts. Use of illustrations in the early years is crucial. The scribble marks of children are never to be ignored. The books provided to children in the Foundational years need to be simple and should have the ability to illuminate young minds. Everything that the child sees in his immediate environment attracts his/her attention. They imitate a cartoon character in the T.V and also starts humming to the sounds that they hear around. This happens in the foundational years because children are involved in the process of observation. The contextualisation is also very much relevant when it comes to using the books in the foundational years. It is also one of the best ways through which children can be connected to nature and also for making them effective communicators.

The kind of books that we as parents and teachers can use to promote reading habits among young children often comes with so many challenges. Many a times we find it very difficult like when it comes to selection of the best books for our young minds. The best books that can inculcate the habit of reading among young children need to be colorful and full of illustrations. Often a single picture has an entire story hidden in it. This is the beauty of illustrated books. The NIPUN BHARAT document as part of a National Mission to promote Foundational Literacy and Numeracy among children

in India has mentioned about promoting reading habits among young children. This necessitates organising certain activities that promotes reading habits by developing inclination towards reading coming in terms to the words being used in the books to depict characters. Knowing how to read is very essential. Also it has been mentioned in the NIPUN BHARAT document that mere reading is not sufficient, children need to be able to comprehend the text as well. Then only the whole idea behind promoting reading habits and developing inclination towards reading gets accomplished.

One such book that can be used to promote reading habits among children in the Foundational years is *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*. It is one of the most widely read book loved by children across the world. Let's understand the story of *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*. So nicely has Eric Carle written it. It is the story of a caterpillar which soon flutters to become a beautiful butterfly. Why *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* should be given to small children to read? This is because it would help them to increase their creativity, develop imagination and also for letting them have free flow of words and expressions which is an integral part of developing communication skills. The book is best suited for children as it has lovely illustrations which describes the caterpillar as it embarks its journey one day. As the days pass it eats different types of food and grows bigger and bigger. As a researcher working in the field of Foundational Learning this book is highly

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recommended for every teacher dealing with kids in the Foundational years as the illustrations like pears, moon, etc., can be used to explain several concepts of shapes and language to children along with numbers which definitely fulfills the demand of Foundational learning like helping children come in terms to the basic concepts of Literacy and Numeracy. The story line is kept very simple and beautiful. Also, it can be used to organise different classroom-based activities for children like making small groups and letting children perform different roles. This helps to develop healthy social habits and promotes team work. Values can also be developed among young children like helping them handle different situations in life where they face hurdles and lose patience and find it extremely difficult to get over those challenges. Towards the end of the story it

has been shown that the caterpillar breaks free its cocoon to become a butterfly which is where the story ends. Children are so much attracted to colors and thus the book *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* is one of the best book that serves the purpose well by letting children have interest towards reading and is to be kept in the book corners of every school and used by teachers in the Foundational years. The parents can also tell the story to children as bed time story to lull them to sleep. Thus it would undoubtedly be a wonderful read.

AUTHOR DESCRIPTION

Eric Carle is an author who has written some of the most wonderful books. Illustrations define the books written by the author that are meant for children. *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* is one of his most widely

