

June, 2021

Eric Carle, left this world at 91 years of age (1929-2021) after writing and illustrating over 70 beloved classic children's books such as *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*, *Does a Kangaroo have a Mother*, and *Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do you See?*

In 1969, when Eric Carle wrote and illustrated his first book, *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*, he wasn't sure it was going to be a hit but, it was and continues to be a favorite today. Carle shared at the 50th anniversary of the story of *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*, that this book is one of hope. In the story, a small, perhaps considered insignificant, caterpillar becomes a beautiful butterfly. This butterfly flies away sharing its beauty with others.

During this past year, we may have lost loved ones, experienced, and perhaps continue to experience, other losses or challenges that have impacted our lives. Even during this year of change and loss, we live our lives and make decisions that have an impact on ourselves and those around us. As Dick Cory shared in a Letter to the Editor, we each leave a footprint from our lives. We decide each day what this footprint or impact will be.

As Eric Carle shared, children need hope, and we need hope. You have an impact on the children, families, colleagues, and staff you work with each day. While it may still be a difficult time for you and/or your family or program; strive to find hope, motivation, direction for yourself and others. You are doing GREAT work - you are helping children fly. Eric Carle left his footprint, what will your footprint be?

The Eric Carle Museum Website: <https://www.carlemuseum.org>

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Warm regards
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