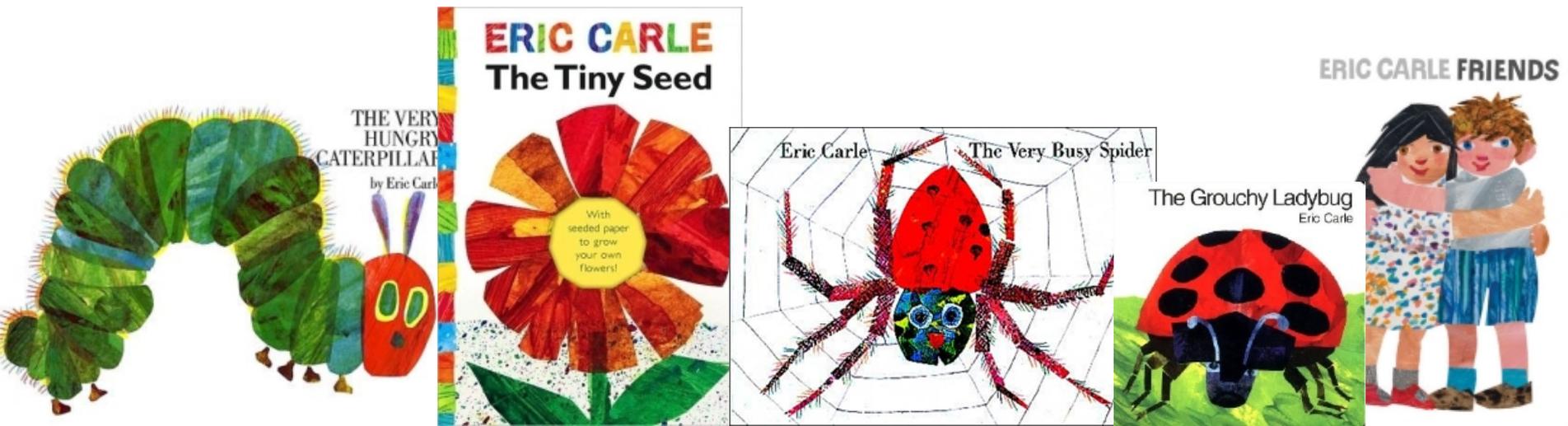


# PLEASURE AND ENLIGHTENMENT IN ERIC CARLE'S FIVE PICTURE BOOKS

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# PLEASURE IN CHILDREN'S LITERATURE

- Children's literature is almost ALWAYS associated with moral and moral teaching.
- The burden of moral may cause "DESTRUCTION" or FAILURE of the essence of children empowerment.
- The keyword in children's literature is NOT moral but PLEASURE and DELIGHT.
- Nodelman's PLEASURE is in broader sense, including the pleasure in understanding or being enlightened, in discovering, in making the journey, in conquering problems.

# ENLIGHTENMENT

## IN CHILDREN'S LITERATURE

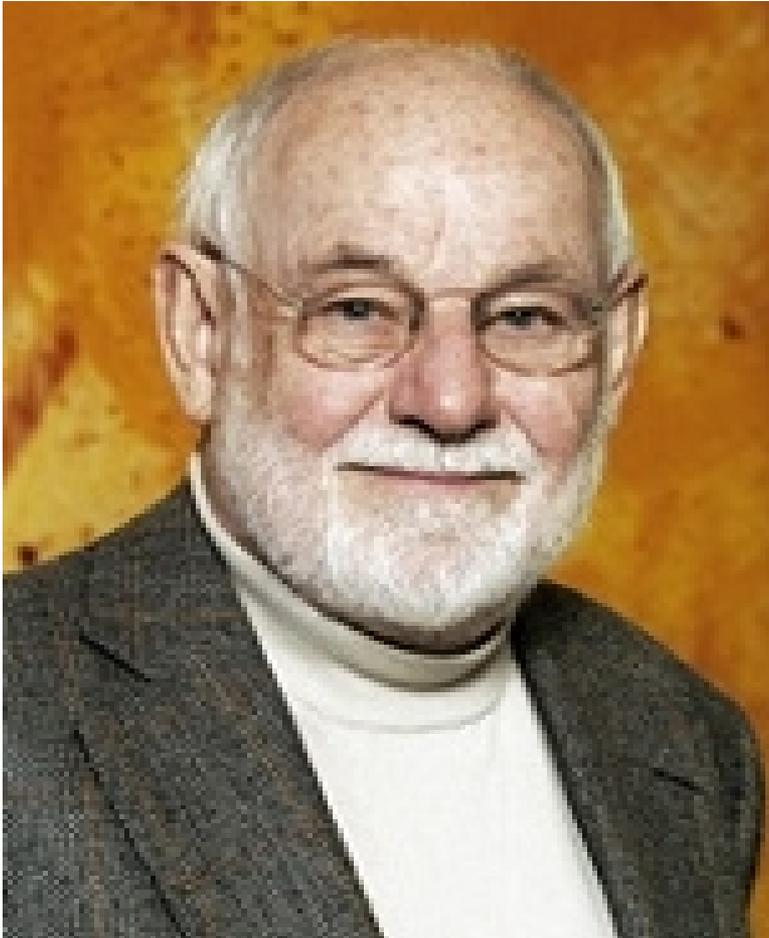
- Enlightenment means achieving clarity of perception, reason and knowledge
- One of the purpose of children's literature is to provide clarity of perception, reason and knowledge about everything in LIFE which in the eyes of children might be confusing → TO ENLIGHTEN
- To enlighten is DIFFERENT from to instruct. There must be a sense of inspiration which is capable TO MOVE THE HEART.

# PICTURE BOOK FOR CHILDREN

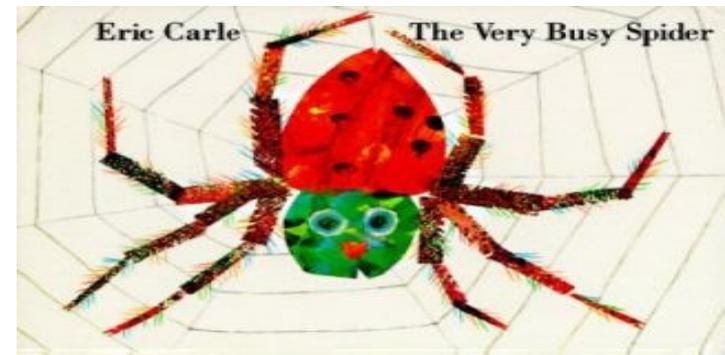
- READING and LITERACY are keywords in education
- FAILURE in making children READ and being LITERATE will impact the FUTURE of our young generation
- Every nation MUST INVEST and STRIVE HARD to make every child read and be literate
- Children's literature is the most INFLUENTIAL "tool" to invite children to read and therefore literate
- The enjoyment of picture books is a precursor to not only learning to read but also wanting to read.  
(Jalongo: 2004).

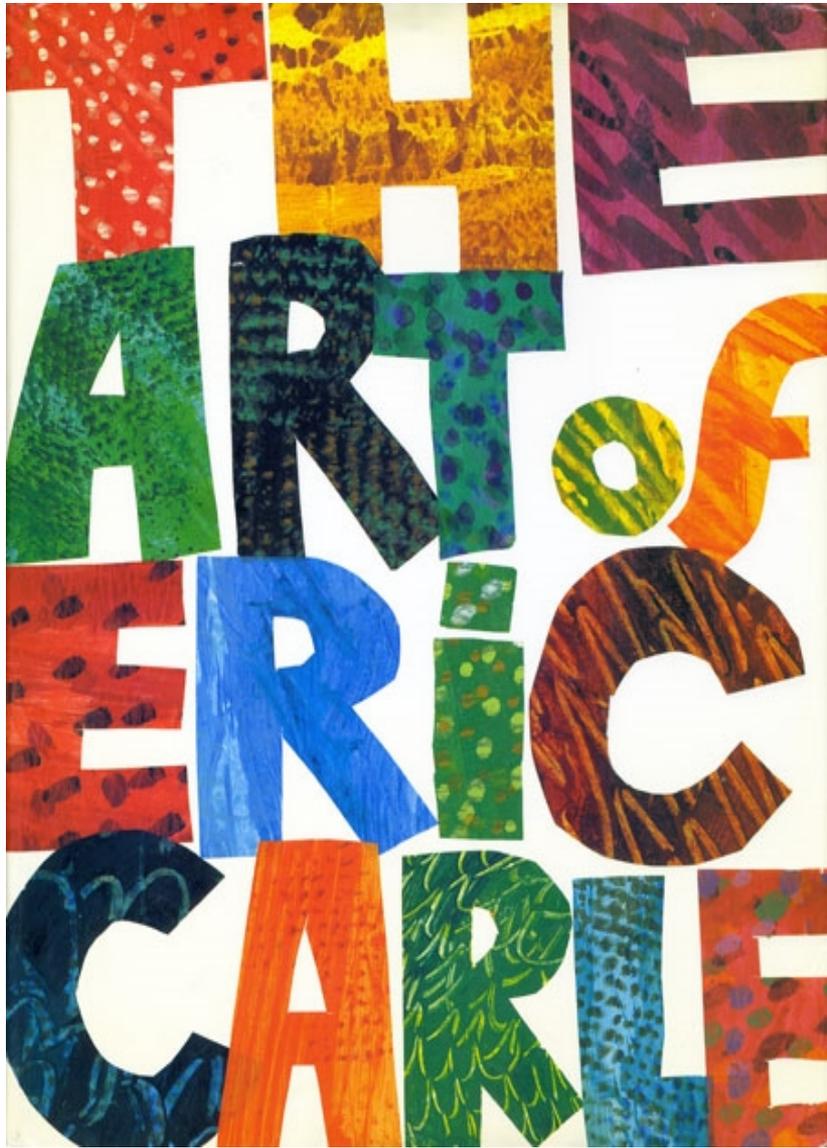
- Especially in the early age when words and sentences are not yet familiar, picture books is a great alternative.
- Yet the keywords of a great picture book is not on the picture OR on the words but on the MARRIAGE (intertwin/interplay) of the pictures and the text (Mitchell: 2003, Barone : 2011)
- Picture storybooks can help children TO FEEL NURTURED AND LOVED, to understand and accept themselves, and to realize that having emotions such as fear is part of human beings (Mitchell: 2003)
- Picture book is a medium to INTRODUCE ARTS to children

# ERIC CARLE'S COLLAGE



- Eric Carle has created and illustrated more than 70 picture books and sold over 33,000,000 copies, translated into over 50 languages.
- He has been using collage in most of his picture books.





- Collage is a technique of creating pictures using newspaper clippings, cloth/fabric, ribbons, bits of colored or handmade papers, portions of other artwork or texts, photographs and other objects. The clippings or bits of objects are glued to a paper or canvas to form a picture.
- Through great collage arts, Carle creates not only impressive but also enlightening messages.

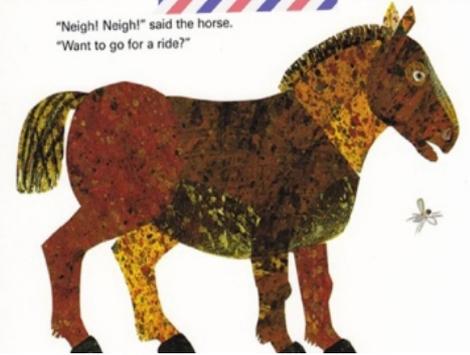
# THE POWER OF CARLE'S PICTURES

- Carle uses lots of bright, strong colors; just a little dark colors; and a good combination of both. The colors show optimism and hopes that children need.
- He paints the paper artistically for the cuts, so he produces interesting portrayal.
- His cuts are smart even when he “draws” tiny body parts.
- His gluing is neat so the pictures are close to realistic painting, without erasing the facts that they are unique collage.

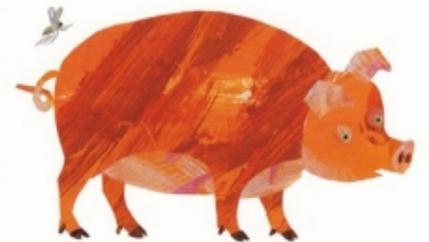




"Neigh! Neigh!" said the horse.  
"Want to go for a ride?"



"Oink! Oink!" grunted the pig. "Want to roll in the mud?"



# THE RISK OF BEING GREEDY AND SELFISH

- Gluttony, greediness and self indulgence are traits that most children cannot easily control.
- Boasting and feeling superior among children can easily exist when the tense of competition is high.
- Eric Carle's *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* explains to child readers the risk of excess hunger and greed. After greedily eat out the fruits and then chocolate cake, ice cream, cheese, salami, sausage...the caterpillar had a bad stomachache.
- In *The Grouchy Ladybug* the bad tempered, selfish and boasting Ladybug are "punished". She is slapped back to where it started from, being tired, hungry and lose almost all the of the aphids she once planned to have for herself.



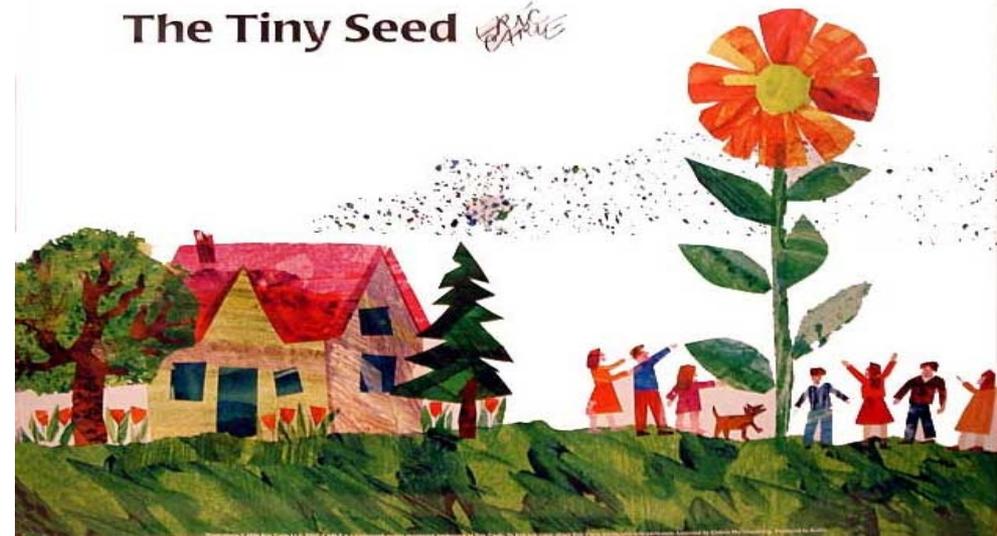
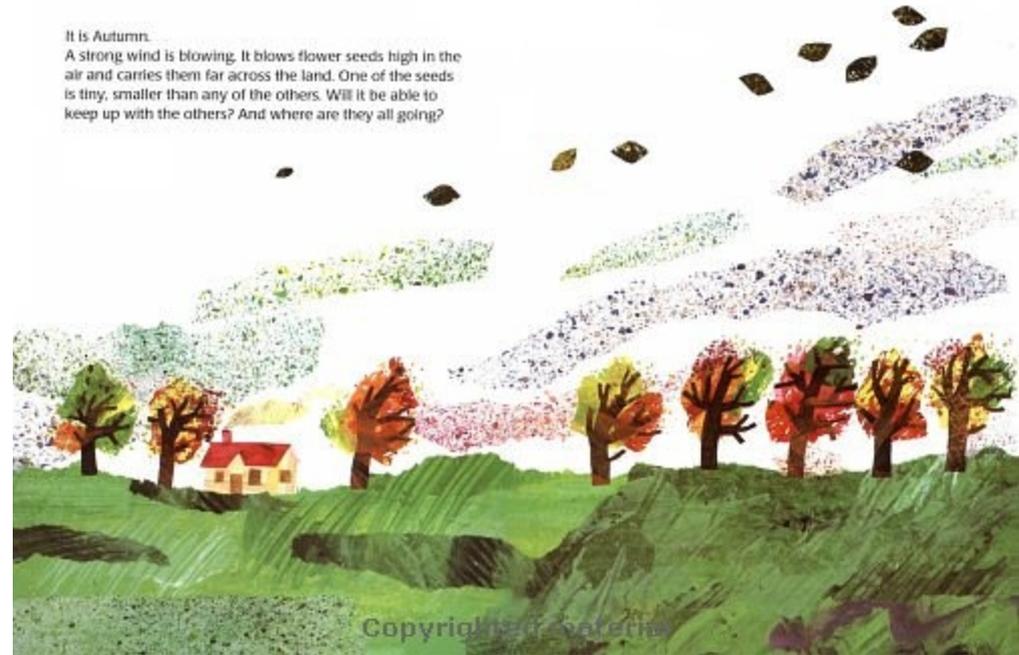
# LIFE CHANGE AND TRANSFORMATION

- Some children are WORRIED OR FEAR OF CHANGE in life. Death of pets, friends or parents; divorce; or parents bankruptcy could be a real nightmare.
- *Eric Carle Friends* is about a change in a child's life. It's a sad story about losing a best friend. Carle explains life change as the way nature change: dark night, sunny afternoon, two sides of a mountain, the splash of rain, the float of clouds, dark deep forest and bright flower gardens. Life change is just as "normal" as changes that happen in nature. Carle turns the dark jungle (pessimism) into bright flower garden (optimism).

- Children need to know that transformation does happen in life. *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* talks about transformation. After the food exploration the small caterpillar transform into a cocoon, then into a beautiful butterfly.



- In *The Tiny Seeds* life cycle and TRANSFORMATION is also explained: a tiny seed could transform into a tiny plant then into a giant tree with huge flower, and from this flower come out plenty of seeds to sail far away on the wind.



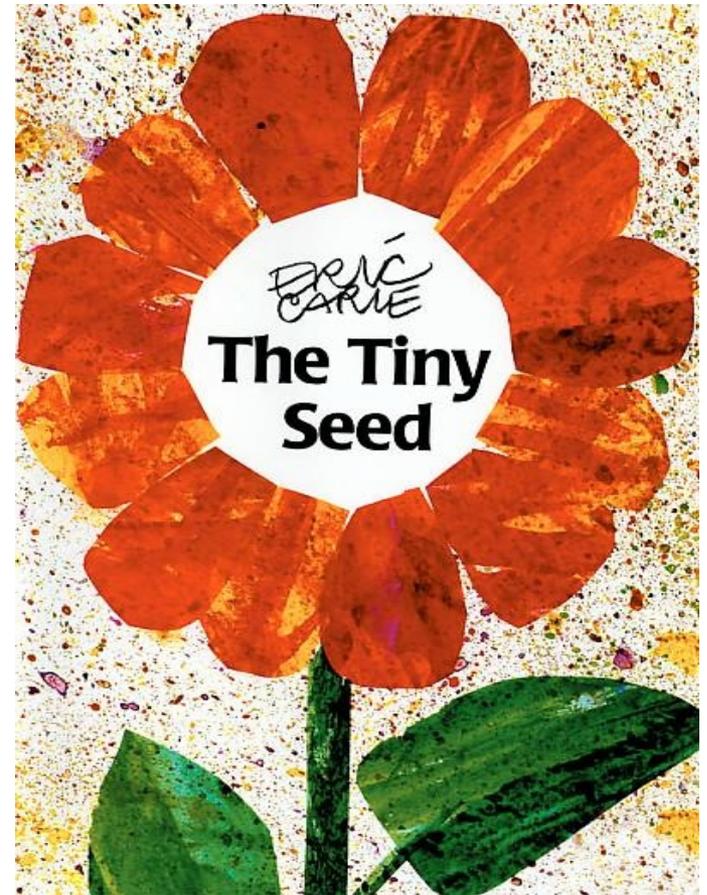
# HARDWORK AND ENDURANCE

- Children need to know that to get a success everybody needs to work hard, and that the lure to get lazy is always around.
- *The Very Busy Spider* shows how focus the spider is in spinning her web. Although her friends keep asking her to play and have a good time, she doesn't care. She is persistent to work hard until her web is complete.
- At the end, her hard works is paid off with the ease in catching a fly.  
“Just like that!”



# OPTIMISM

- Children in unlucky condition may feel inferior, worried, fear and pessimistic, yet there must be a way to make them happy and optimistic.
- Eric Carle's *The Tiny Seeds* depicts the journey of a tiny seed which is always left behind her friends. Being tiny, she is vulnerable. Her journey across the lands, through sturdy winds, is not easy, because she is not as strong as other seeds. Being persistent and optimistic in spite of her size she is capable of becoming a giant tree, giant flowers potential to preserve the future.



# CONCLUSION

- Eric Carle's 5 picture books offer young kids happiness, enjoyment, hope, optimism in life full of risks, changes and challenges.
- The skills he employs offers beauty, brilliance needed for them to appreciate ARTS.
- The pictures in picture books if taken seriously could be effective to make them understand the power of books.

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