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 then 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.
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*