

THE VERY IMPATIENT CATERPILLAR



Ross Burach

THE VERY IMPATIENT CATERPILLAR BOOKS

by Ross Burach

A companion to THE VERY IMPATIENT CATERPILLAR

THE LITTLE BUTTERFLY THAT COULD

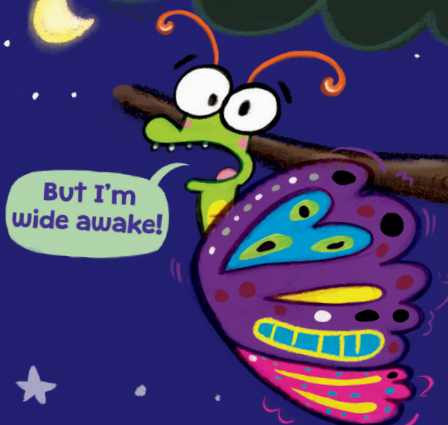


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Explore STEM, visual literacy,
SEL, and characterization in this
discussion guide for ages 4–8

A companion to THE VERY IMPATIENT CATERPILLAR

GOODNIGHT, BUTTERFLY



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Do You Feel Like They Do?

With a partner or small group, look for examples of characters exhibiting patience, impatience, worry, and fear in the three stories. Have you ever felt like the characters in the book? Complete the sentence starters with words to describe a time when you felt impatient, patient, worried, and afraid. Create an illustration to go with each sentence.



I felt like the very impatient caterpillar when I

I felt patient like the transforming caterpillars when I

When I feel worried like the migrating butterfly, I

When I feel scared like the butterfly at nighttime, I

Analyzing Movement

Although they are both part of a single life cycle, a caterpillar and a butterfly move differently. Investigate the differences by building a model of each creature. After observing how the models move, record your findings in the chart below.

BUILD A CATERPILLAR

SUPPLIES NEEDED: One 8.5 x 11-inch piece of paper, a ruler, scissors, a paper straw, and a pencil or marker





1. With the paper oriented horizontally, measure 1.5 inches from the edge along the top and bottom of the paper and cut a 1.5 x 8.5-inch strip.
2. Fold your strip in half so that it measures 1.5 x 4.25 inches. Crease it and then unfold.
3. Fold the bottom 1.5-inch edge up to the crease at the center of the strip and score it. Fold the new bottom edge to the center of the strip and score again. Keep folded.
4. Repeat with the top of the strip (fold to the center, and then fold again).
5. Fold the two halves together and press to make sure everything is good and creased. You should have one multi-folded rectangle that is 1.5 x 1 inch.
6. Trim all four corners with your scissors so that they are all now curved.
7. Unfold your strip to reveal a segmented caterpillar with a head and tail resting flat on the table. Draw a face on the head of your caterpillar. Draw any shape (circle, square, heart, etc.) on the third segment up from the tail end.
8. Your caterpillar is ready to move! Stand your caterpillar on the table and blow through the straw pointed at the drawn shape to help it crawl!

BUILD A BUTTERFLY

SUPPLIES NEEDED: Thin cardboard, tissue paper, construction paper, a balloon, a glue stick, scissors, and a pencil



1. Measure and cut a 2 x 2-inch square of cardboard.
2. Draw a pair of connected butterfly wings on the tissue paper and carefully cut them out.
3. From the construction paper, cut a butterfly body that will fit your butterfly wings. Glue the body in place on top of the tissue paper wings, and then glue the bottom of your butterfly to the square of construction paper.
4. Blow up the balloon and tie the end securely to close it.
5. Rub the balloon on your sweater or your hair to create static electricity. Hold the balloon over your butterfly and observe how the static electricity reacts with the tissue paper to make it fly!

	Words to describe how it moves	Advantages of this type of movement in this stage of the life cycle
 Caterpillar		
 Butterfly		

Home, Sweet Home



Investigate how shelter differs for diurnal and nocturnal animals. In *Goodnight, Butterfly*, the porcupine is nocturnal (awake during the night and asleep in the day) and the butterfly is diurnal (asleep at night and awake in the day). Using recyclable materials, design a shelter for each character based on the time of day it is resting. What things do you have to consider when creating a shelter for an animal that sleeps at night and another that sleeps during the day?

PLANNING

What type of shelter would a **NOCTURNAL** animal need and why? _____

What type of shelter would a **DIURNAL** animal need and why? _____

CONSTRUCTION

Build models of a shelter for a **DIURNAL** animal and a shelter for a **NOCTURNAL** animal using recyclable materials. Create diagrams of each model you constructed. Use labels to identify the different features of your two shelters.

SHELTER FOR A DIURNAL ANIMAL

SHELTER FOR A NOCTURNAL ANIMAL

A large, empty rectangular box with a green border, intended for drawing a shelter for a diurnal animal.A large, empty rectangular box with a green border, intended for drawing a shelter for a nocturnal animal.

Take A Closer Look

Ross Burach's stories are told not only with words but with illustrations, too. Readers get a lot of information about the story and the characters from the pictures. Take a closer look at the illustrations by going on a scavenger hunt through the three books. Check each box when you find examples of the following:

- ☐ Text written in all capital letters
- ☐ Illustrations that make you smile or laugh

Illustrations that show a character who is:

- ☐ Frustrated ☐ Sad ☐ Impatient ☐ Annoyed
- ☐ Excited ☐ Happy ☐ Patient ☐ Worried
- ☐ Illustrations where the character is looking at the reader
- ☐ Illustrations where the characters are looking at each other



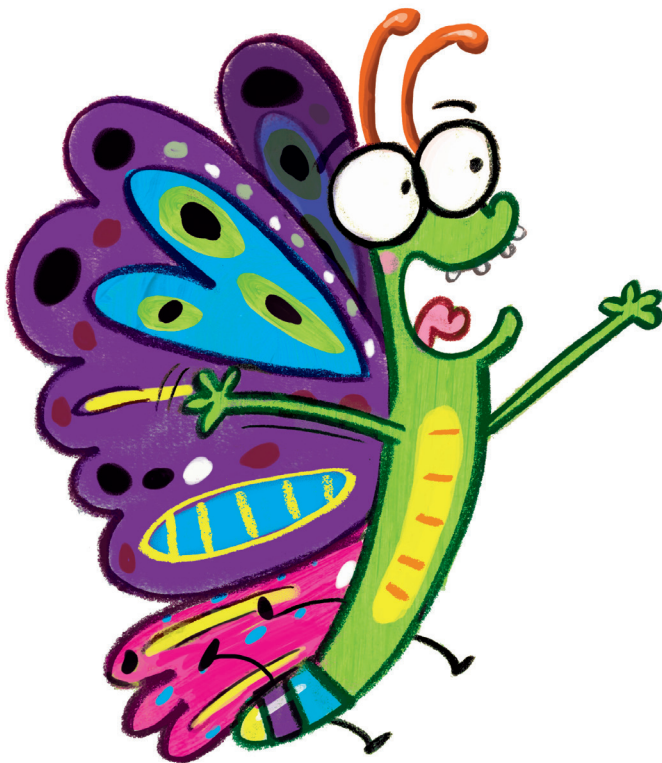
Each book ends by posing one more question. Choose one of the endings and create one additional page that could be added to the end of the book. Use at least three ideas from the scavenger hunt to create a colorful illustration with text.



A Character Study

Using what you've learned about the very impatient caterpillar-turned-butterfly from the text and illustrations in all three stories, what words and phrases would you use to describe this character's inner and outer traits and behaviors?

LOOKS



FEELS

BEHAVES

Expressing Emotion

What word would you use to describe the emotion depicted in each illustration?











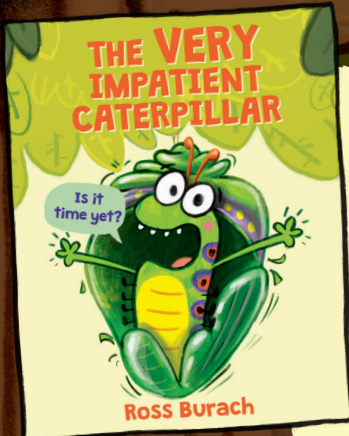


Draw the butterfly exhibiting the following emotions:

ANGRY

CONFUSED

The Very Impatient Caterpillar Books by Ross Burach



The Very Impatient Caterpillar

Ages 4–8, Grades P–3

Hardcover: 9781338289411 • \$17.99

Ebook: 9781338328738 • \$10.99

La oruga muy impaciente (SPANISH EDITION)

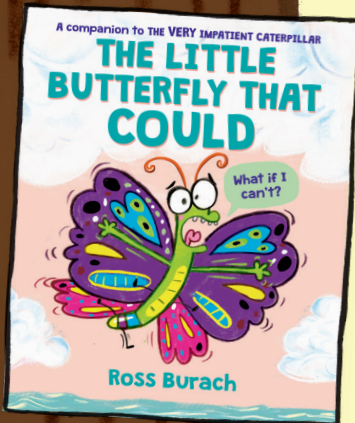
Paperback: 9781338601138 • \$5.99

Ebook: 9781338601527 • \$2.99

This clever send-up of every child's biggest challenge—patience—is a STEM-friendly, laugh-out-loud comedy about metamorphosis with real facts about how caterpillars transform into butterflies.

★ “Chunky characters, livid green and thickly outlined for easy group sharing, and speech-bubble dialogue make this a good choice for read aloud[s] with a histrionic bent. . . There's definitely some science lurking here among the laughs, and preschool and primary classrooms can jumpstart the life cycle units with this super-charged title.”

—*The Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books*, starred review



The Little Butterfly That Could

Ages 4–8, grades P–3

Hardcover: 9781338615005 • \$17.99

Ebook: 9781338762150 • \$17.99

La pequeña mariposa que sí pudo (SPANISH EDITION)

Paperback: 9781338745993 • \$5.99

Ebook: 9781338747904 • \$6.99

This comical companion to *The Very Impatient Caterpillar* pays loving homage to every child's struggle to persist through challenges while also delivering a lighthearted lesson on butterfly migration.

“Will elicit plenty of giggles, and sly pictorial details will keep a broad range of readers happy during rereads.”

—*Kirkus Reviews*



Goodnight, Butterfly

Ages 4–8, grades P–3

Hardcover: 9781338615012 • \$17.99

In this newest book in *The Very Impatient Caterpillar* series, readers will laugh themselves silly as they learn to find their inner calm so they can sleep, and also discover the difference between nocturnal and diurnal animals.

ROSS BURACH is the creator of a growing and riotously funny picture book series that includes *The Very Impatient Caterpillar*; *The Little Butterfly That Could*; *Goodnight, Butterfly*; and a forthcoming *Butterfly* title in 2023. All the books combine curriculum-friendly science topics with relatable social-emotional themes. Ross's other acclaimed books include the picture book *Truck Full of Ducks*, the board books *I Love My Tutu Too!*, *Potty All-Star*, *Hi-Five Farm!*, and *Hi-Five Animals!*, named the best board book of the year by *Parents* magazine, and the Acorn early reader series *Bumble and Bee*. Ross lives with his family in Brooklyn, New York. Visit him online at rossburach.com.

JOSHUA KEAY

