



Eric Carle was born in New York on June 25, 1929. When he was still a young child, his family moved to Stuttgart, Germany. At an early age, Eric discovered a love for drawing and eventually went to the State Academy of Fine Arts in Stuttgart. After graduating, he moved back to America in 1952 and became a graphic designer.

Eric worked for the *New York Times* and was the director of an advertising agency. One of his advertisements of a lobster caught the eye of author Bill Martin, Jr. Bill asked Eric to illustrate his book *Brown Bear, Brown Bear What Do You See?* and Eric agreed.

This book jumpstarted Eric's career as an illustrator, and he would go on to write and illustrate more than 70 books. His most popular book, *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*, has been translated into 66 languages and sold more than 50 million copies. Together with his wife, Barabara, he opened the Eric Carle Museum of Picture Book Art in Massachusetts. Eric died in 2021, but he left behind a legacy of colorful, collaged characters that bring joy to children all over the world.



Illustration from *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*



Illustration from *Draw Me a Star*