



# Eric Carle

## Picture Writer

*“One should have an open mind and listen to one’s intuition: the unexplainable, the coincidental, even the quirky. Look at the crack in the ceiling and see it take on a shape and a voice.”*

Eric Carle has a deep concern, respect and love for children and their feelings and experiences. His stories come from all of the experiences in his life, the thoughts in his head, and the feelings in his heart!

**Born:** 1929

**Country:** USA

**Art Style:** Collage

**Best Known For:** Children’s Picture Stories

Eric Carle was born in America to German born parents. When he was in kindergarten, his teacher noticed his talent for art and advised his mother that she should nurture this in her child. He learned about the joy of discovery and nature from long walks with his father who would show him bugs, and birds and habits of animals in nature. When Eric was six years old, his parents moved back to Germany, where he spent much time with his German grandparents and uncles and aunts.

In 1945 when World War II ended, Eric enrolled in an art school where he developed skills in advertising, illustration and poster art. In 1952, Eric came back to America and landed a job in advertising; after a time in the army, he returned to advertising, and in 1967 illustrated his first book, *“Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See?”* Everyone liked his work so much, they invited him to do more. And more he did, writing and illustrating over 50 books, including *“1, 2, 3 to the Zoo”* (1968), *“The Very Hungry Caterpillar,”* (1969), *“Draw Me A Star”* (1992) *“The Very Lonely Firefly”* (1995) and more.

Characteristic of Eric’s work are bold and bright colors and instantly recognizable images and symbols. The first book he illustrated didn’t have any words in it at all! They all have some theme of discovery, nature and a message. They invite the reader to go on a journey and to become involved with the feelings and ideas of the story. Eric creates his pictures by first painting lots of tissue paper, and then, using these papers, he cuts out shapes to make objects, people and animals. These are glued in place to become the pictures for his stories.