

**GRANT BIBLER (8<sup>th</sup> Grade: Granville, Granville Middle School)**

**Level II Semifinalist**

***Letter to Eric Carle concerning his book, *The Very Hungry Caterpillar****

Dear Eric Carle:

People argue change is good, but they don't really mean it, because they are too afraid to see change themselves. But in my story, I saw change for the better and can vouch that it truly is a good thing. Your book, *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*, helped my young mind establish a proper diet and made me realize the importance of good nutrition.

Before reading your book, I never ate my vegetables when it was dinner time. My mother would always force feed me various vegetables from broccoli to spinach, every shape and size, hoping she would find one I liked. Then, when she read your book to me at story time, I instantly fell in love with the very hungry caterpillar. He became sort of a role model to me. I recall right after she finished the story, I leaped out of my bed and ran down the stairs. I found the biggest leaf that I could find in the refrigerator, and happily ate it, to the amusement of my mother. From then on she would ask me if I "wanted to grow big and strong just like the little caterpillar." I would nod my head and dig into my plate, whether it be the most repulsive thing on the menu, so something that didn't seem to be that bad after all.

The situation at our home was the same with me as it was for my brother. He hardly ate anything other than what you would expect a boy to eat—candy and anything with sugar. When my mother saw the remarkable change your book had on me, she read it to my brother. It didn't have the same effect on him. But when he saw me pleasing our mother at dinner every time there were vegetables on the table, his reaction was what you could imagine from a toddler. Jealousy. He wanted to please our parents just as much as I did, and we always seem to have a rivalry going on in whatever we do, so he began to eat vegetables the same as me.

Thank you for writing the book *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*. Your book gave me the motivation and the courage to try new things. You are affecting the lives of children everywhere, without realizing it, and I thought you should know all of your work has not gone unnoticed or unappreciated.

Sincerely,

**Grant Bibler**