

# WISCONSIN BOOKWORMS

## Activity Sheet



### Pete the Cat and the Cool Caterpillar

By James Dean

Pete goes out with his friends to look for bugs. Pete finds a caterpillar and waits to learn what happens as the caterpillar seems to have disappeared.

**Before you read this book:** Learning about bugs is a lot of fun for children. It can be done by looking at pictures of bugs, reading books about bugs, or looking for bugs outside in the spring, summer, and fall. In this book, Pete the Cat and his friends have fun going for a walk and discovering lots of bugs. Pete keeps a caterpillar and gives it a home in a jar. The caterpillar changes into a pupa and then into a beautiful butterfly.

#### **After you read this book:**

- Ask, “Do you think a caterpillar would make a cool pet?”
- Try a “Doing the butterfly” activity. Have children act out the following four stages of a caterpillar changing to a butterfly:
  - Stage 1 – “Caterpillars start as an egg.” Become the egg by squatting down in a small ball. Tuck your head down and wrap your arms around your legs.
  - Stage 2 – Hatch out of the egg as a caterpillar by standing up and keeping your arms tight against your body. Wiggle around like a caterpillar would. Open and close your mouth to “eat” until you get enough food and then “shed” your skin. Repeat eating.
  - Stage 3 – After the caterpillar has its last meal, put your arms down to a chrysalis for your sides and spin in a circle to become a pupa. Stand very, very still and quiet for a minute or so.
  - Stage 4 – Emerge from the pupa as an adult butterfly. Start moving your arms, gently fluttering and extending them up and outward. Be careful not to hit neighboring butterflies!
- Talk about where butterflies find food (flowers). They use a proboscis, like a tongue, to suck up the nectar (make a sucking noise). Now all children are full and happy butterflies!
- Talk about how the caterpillar got around (by crawling) and how the butterfly moved around (by flying).

#### **Try this at home:**

- Go out on a nature walk to look for bugs. How many bugs can you find? Work together to list the bugs. Describe what you notice about each bug such as shape and color.
- Get a jar or similar container. Poke holes in the cover, then see if you can find a caterpillar or other bug to put into the jar. Notice what changes happen each day.

#### **Additional resources:**

Are You a Ladybug? by Judy Allen

The Very Hungry Caterpillar by Eric Carle

Penn State Extension: Exploring a Bug’s Life: Morphing with Bugs!