

# THE GROUCHY LADYBUG

BY ERIC CARLE

## ABOUT THE BOOK

As children follow the Grouchy Ladybug on her journey, they will learn the important concepts of time, size, and shape, as well as the benefits of friendship and good manners.

For generations, *The Grouchy Ladybug* has delighted readers of all ages with the story of a bad-tempered bug who won't say "please" or "thank you," won't share, and thinks she is bigger and better than anyone else. Readers will love how this testy ladybug introduces them to many new animals and learns that maybe being grouchy isn't always the best option.

## STORYTIME ACTIVITIES

- **WHAT TIME IS IT?:** The Grouchy Ladybug approaches a different animal at each hour of the day. Use a demonstration clock to model each of the times shown in the book as you read. After you finish the book, discuss how an analog clock shows time to the hour. Provide the children with a paper plate, a fastener, and two pre-cut hands to create their own clock to practice modelling times to the hour.

- **LET'S READ TOGETHER:** Divide the children into two groups. Explain that they will be reading the story together, but that one group will read the Grouchy Ladybug's statements while the other group reads all of the other animals' responses. Encourage the children to read with fluency and expression. For young children who are pre-readers, you can whisper the lines for them to repeat aloud. Remind the children to listen to each other and

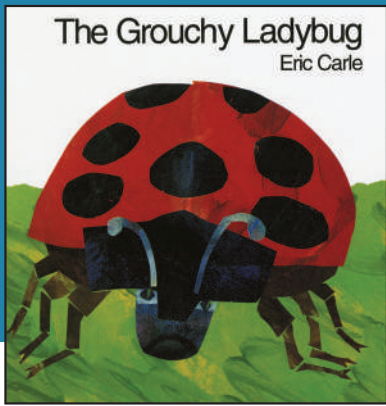
respond appropriately, so that the dialogue sounds natural and fluent.

- **LIST AND LEARN:** After reading the story aloud, make a list with the children of all the animals included in the story. Then have the children work with a partner to research one of these animals. Ask them to describe the animals.

- **UNDER THE SUN:** Ask the children what they notice about the sun on each page. Ask them why they think the illustrator painted the sun in different places. Discuss the rotation and orbit of the earth and what the sun looks like at different times of day. Have them draw pictures with the sun in different places and then ask them questions about the sun—(e.g., When is the sun lowest in the sky?).

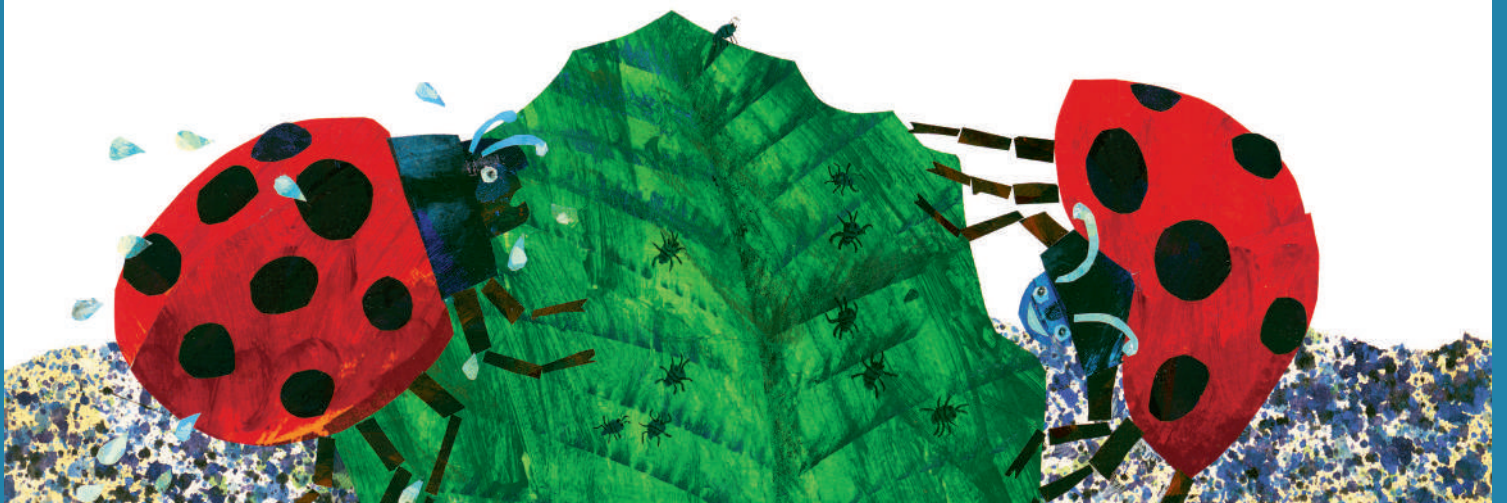
- **PATTERN ON:** Ask the children to identify the many patterns included in this story. They should recognize that each animal the Grouchy Ladybug confronts is larger than the previous one; that both the size of the text and the size of the page increase as the animals get larger; that each time the Grouchy Ladybug challenges a creature to fight, it responds the same way; and that each time the Grouchy Ladybug replies by claiming that the animal is not big enough to fight. Finally, discuss how the Grouchy Ladybug ends up back where it had started.





# DRAW THE LADYBUG

Have you seen a ladybug before?  
Ladybugs are usually black and red, but you can draw and  
color your own ladybug in the box below.

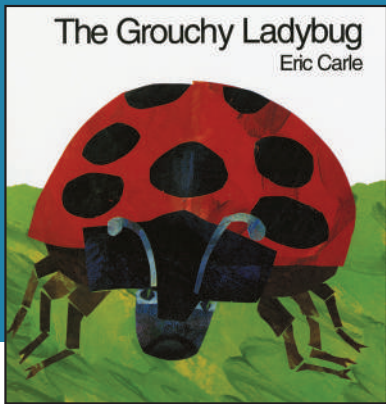


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# WHAT TIME IS IT?

The Grouchy Ladybug approaches a different animal at each hour of the day. Look at the clock below and think about an activity you do every day, for example, when you wake up in the morning, eat lunch, go to bed, or read a book. Pick one and draw the hands on the clock to show what time you usually do that activity.

## MY ACTIVITY:

