

How To Use: FOR THE LOVE OF LETTUCE

Discussion Prompts

Here are some ideas for things to talk about while sharing the book - you could ask a few different questions each time you read it.

Look at the endpapers together. Do you like eating lettuce? Do you prefer any other vegetables? How would you describe the feeling of biting into a lettuce leaf?

Two caterpillars are waiting for us on the title page. What do you know about caterpillars? Have you seen any in real life?

Look at their expressions and what they're doing - what do you think their personalities are like? What would you name them? We'll soon find out what Courtney Dicmas chose to call them!

The eggs are hatching - can you match the caterpillar to their egg?

There are three clocks on the page about Zip - can you read all of the times?

Do you know the name of the flower that Parsley is jumping off? What noise do you think he's making as he bounces and falls?

Zip likes to plan but his friend Parsley prefers to dive in; which character is most like you? Do you have a friend who is very different to you?

Those 'little fluffy things' look familiar - do you know what they're called?

Can you 'bawk' like a chicken?

How do you think Zip feels on the opposite page? Does Parsley feel the same way?

The caterpillars have a disagreement. You could use this as an opportunity to talk about the benefits and downsides of arguments - feelings can get hurt, but sometimes they help you to see things from someone else's point of view. What would you say to help the caterpillars make up? For example, would you ask Parsley to try to be a more considerate friend? Could they take it in turns to have fun, while the other one does the work? Would you ask Zip to take a deep breath and count to five when he feels like he's about to shout at Parsley?

When Zip tries tickling and shouting at the chrysalis - you could help him by using your finger to tickle the illustration and by shouting 'Wake up, Parsley!' into the book.

Did you notice that Courtney Dicmas often uses weather and light to show time passing? On the 'Maybe we'll just sit here for a bit.' page it starts to rain, but the next scene takes place much later and the sun has finally come out!

Zip enjoys himself after he starts to think like Parsley. Have you ever tried thinking about things from someone else's perspective?

If Parsley had been the one that was left alone, what do you think would have happened? Do you think he would have learned the importance of planning and listening to others?

There's a lot of action over the next few pages, so you might want to hold off on asking questions and just immerse yourself in the excitement! (Or you could pause right on a cliffhanger to talk about what might happen next!)

Do you know why Parsley has changed? What's the biggest difference?

If you'd like to learn more about butterflies, you could read 'Butterfly' (Metamorphoses) (9781846430138) afterwards! 'Rosa Explores Life Cycles' (9781786286307) is also a good way to learn about how certain creatures transform.

Activities

Beautiful Butterflies!

Fold a piece of paper in half, unfold it, and then draw a '3' shaped wing on one side. Use thick paint to fill the shape with a pattern. While it's still wet, carefully fold the paper again. Press down on it to print the pattern onto the other half of the paper. Draw the other wing, a body and some antennae!



For the Love of Lettuce: The Musical!

Read the book aloud and use instruments to represent the characters and scenes in the book. Here are some ideas to help you get started:

- Use bouncy, energetic instruments and rhythms for Parsley and careful, steady beats for Zip.
 - When it rains in the book, shake a DIY rain stick.
- If you're not lucky enough to have an instrument that sounds like a squawking chicken, just use your voice!
- Courtney manages to make the chickens look scary; how can you do that with instruments? How about a scare chord, like in a horror movie?
 - What tune will you play for the surprise on the final spread?

Role Play Area

Here are some ideas for a FOR THE LOVE OF LETTUCE-themed role-play area.

You could adapt some of the ideas to fit into a sensory tray instead:

- Make lettuce heads out of green crepe paper and recreate the vegetable garden.
 - Add some toy chickens and pipe cleaner caterpillars.
- If you're feeling ambitious, play with scale and try to make the garden scene from a caterpillar's point of view!
- Display posters showing the life cycle of a butterfly or hide diagrams around the 'garden' and encourage children to search for each developmental stage.