

WISCONSIN BOOKWORMS™

Activity Sheet



A House for Hermit Crab

By Eric Carle

Hermit Crab's problem is that he keeps outgrowing things. When he outgrows his first shell-house, he's a bit scared. The next one he finds is big enough—but depressingly bare. To his happy surprise, all sorts of beautiful and useful undersea neighbors come to his aid and decorate and protect his home. Finally, the new house is perfect but now it, too, has become too small! Once again, Hermit Crab must move on.

Before you read this book, gather some pictures of the sea creatures we meet in the book. Look in the back of the book for more information. Tell your child(ren) that this story is based on the true habits of a hermit crab. Ask "have you ever seen a hermit crab?"

Talk with your child(ren) about how he or she has grown over the past year. Can they think of clothes that no longer fit? Toys no longer played with?

While you read this book, use a flannel board to make Hermit Crab's house, adding his new friends as you read.

After you read this book, play a game by taking turns naming all the places that people can live. Examples could include an apartment, house, igloo, tent, castle or trailer.

Make a hermit crab. You will need paper, crayons, glue and a piece of pasta shaped like a shell. Have your child(ren) draw and color a picture of hermit crab. Glue the pasta shell to the paper over the hermit crab.

Eric Carle has written and illustrated lots of great books about nature.

Check out these other books by Eric Carle...

The Very Quiet Cricket

Rooster's Off to See the World

The Mixed-up Chameleon

Watch for the Reading Rainbow episode about this book.

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