

# Caterpillars only crawl

<https://riverofsong.uk/>

*Learn about the life cycle of the butterfly with this droll favourite from children's TV. Children of the 1970s 80s would be familiar with this song by Sue Charlton as it was regularly played on BBCTV's Playschool.*

***Wriggle fingers like caterpillars and cross hands at wrists to flutter like butterflies.***



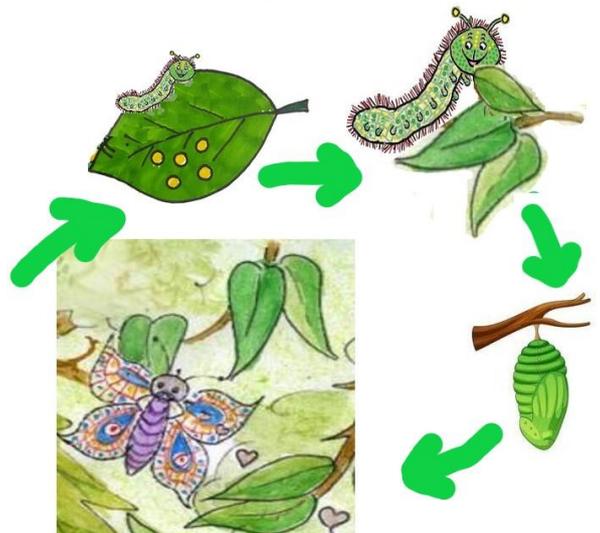
A butterfly was flying by a garden in July,  
He landed on a cabbage leaf and heard a mournful sigh,  
A big fat hairy caterpillar, nibbling at a leaf,  
Said, "If I could fly like you, that would be a relief... but

Caterpillars only crawl!  
Caterpillars only crawl!  
Crawling here, nibbling there,  
Crawling and nibbling everywhere.  
Caterpillars only crawl,  
And though I'd like to reach the garden wall,  
But on this leaf I'll stay, nibbling all day,  
Never getting anywhere at all!"



"But look here," said the butterfly "not very long ago,  
I sat and nibbled leaves like you and crawled around so slow,  
But soon you'll be a butterfly and through the leaves you'll flutter by,  
And you will be so happy that you nevermore will say,

Caterpillars only crawl!  
Caterpillars only crawl!  
Crawling here, nibbling there,  
Crawling, nibbling, everywhere.  
Caterpillars only crawl  
And I'd just crawl and nibble that's all,  
But one fine day, you'll fly away,  
And flutter by the garden wall."





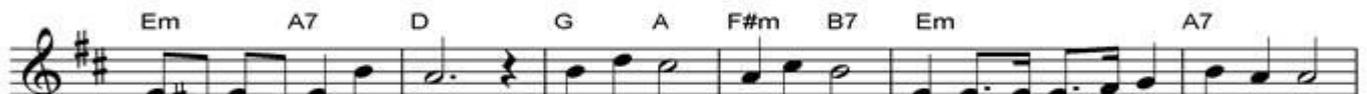
A but - ter - fly was fly - ing by a gar - den in Ju - ly, He land - ed on a cab - bage leaf and



heard a mourn - ful sigh, A big fat hair - y cat - er - pil - lar nib - bling at a leaf,



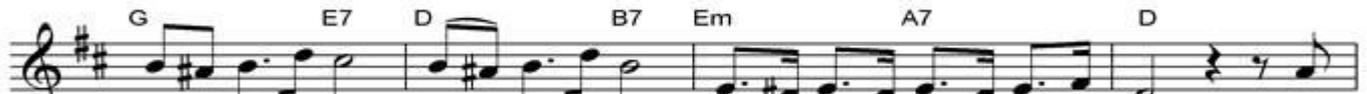
said, "If I could fly like you, that would be a re - lief..." But Cat - er - pil - lars on - ly crawl!



Cat - er - pil - lars on - ly crawl! Crawl - ing here, nib - bling there, Crawl - ing and nib - bling ev - 'ry - where,



Cat - er - pil - lars on - ly crawl, And though I'd like to reach the gar - den wall, But



on this leaf I'll stay, nib - bling all day, nev - er get - ting an - y - where at all." "Now



look here," said the but - ter - fly "not ver - ry long a - go, I sat and nib - bled leaves like you and



crawled a - round so slow, But soon you'll be a but - ter - fly and



through the leaves you'll flut - ter by and you will be so hap - py that you nev - er more will say,