1.OA, NBT The Very Hungry Caterpillar

Task

Materials

- *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* by Eric Carle

The students work individually or in pairs. Each student or pair needs:

- Three ten-frames for each student or pair of students (see PDF for black line master)
- 30 counters or unifix cubes per pair of students
- One small dry-erase board and dry-erase maker per pair of students

Actions

The teacher reads the book to the class and asks, “How many things do you think the caterpillar ate in this story?” The students take a minute to share their estimate with a partner. Next, the teacher reads *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* again. After each page, the teacher pauses so that the students can add counters or unifix cubes to the ten-frame to represent the number of things the caterpillar ate, and then write an equation on the dry-erase board connecting addition to the number of counters used. After each
ten-frame is filled in the students move to the next one. If the students are working in pairs, one student can add the counters/unifix cubes to the ten-frame while the other student writes the equation. By the end of the story, there should be a total of 25 food items eaten and 1 leaf eaten. (The students can decide as a class whether to count the leaf as a food). There will be two ten-frames completed with 5 or 6 counters/unifix cubes on the third ten-frame. If students come up with different, but correct, equations, then discuss the different equations and ask students, "Can all of these be correct?"