



"I've got a new pet," Loretta told her mother.

"No," said her mother. "Who knows what will hatch out of that egg? It's staying outside."

Loretta grabbed the roll of sticky tape from the kitchen counter, and took it with her to the milkweed patch.



She taped the leaf back onto a plant.



A few days later, when Loretta checked Carthamus' egg, it had cracked open. As she watched, a tiny translucent green caterpillar wiggled out.



More caterpillars hatched on other leaves. Soon the milkweed field was crawling with caterpillars. The first thing Carthamus did was eat his egg shell.

A robin hopped nearby. Loretta liked robins. But she wasn't going to let this robin eat Carthamus. "Shoo, shoo!" she shouted.