

Ms. Gullo – K2



In K-2 we chose **Eric Carle** as our hero. Born to German immigrant parents in Syracuse, N.Y., Carle and his family returned to Germany — Nazi Germany — when he was 6. According to Eric Carle, "Hitler dictated not only politics, but he also dictated art." Modern and abstract art was banned in school at this time. Eric had a very difficult time adjusting to school in Germany. The students were forbidden for being creative and punished harshly by their teachers. Eric struggled in school and was very unhappy.

He became a famous children's author and illustrator who encouraged children to become creative and to believe in themselves. We read his book "The Artist Who Painted A Blue Horse". The book is about a child who paints the animal characters unconventional colors and begins the story with the character declaring "I am an artist" and ending with the child saying "I am a good artist". We used these quotes to have a discussion on how we are all talented and can be creative. The children created a horse puppet which they colored and decorated in many creative ways. The class used the puppet to help retell what they learned from our study of Eric Carle.