

Theodore Geisel, "Dr. Seuss"



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Theodor Seuss Geisel, better known by his pen name Dr. Seuss, was born on March 2, 1904, in Springfield, Massachusetts. While at college, he began using the penname, Dr. Seuss.

Geisel illustrated articles in *LIFE* and *Vanity Fair*, *The Saturday Evening Post*, and in advertisements for Standard Oil. During World War II, he drew cartoons for a liberal political magazine, and made posters promoting the war effort. While his cartoons criticized unfair treatments of Jewish Americans and African Americans, they showed mistrustful views of Japanese Americans as the USA was at war with Japan.

He began writing and illustrating children’s books, eventually publishing over 60 between 1930s-1990s. His books received notice because of their whimsical characters, dream-like illustrations, and silly rhymes. The simple style of his writing led his books to become favorites for early readers developing their skills.

Geisel died on September 24, 1991, at the age of 87, in La Jolla, California. Six of his books stopped being published in 2021 because Dr. Seuss had used the ethnic stereotypes popular at the time to depict different groups of people. He also drew criticism for his support of unfair treatment of Japanese Americans during World War II. After visiting Japan in 1953, Geisel had come to regret these early choices. As a means of atonement, he dedicated his book, Horton Hears a Who!, a political allegory about treating others equally, to a Japanese friend in 1954. He also went on to publish *The Sneetches* in 1961, which is an allegory for racism.

Life Lessons



Theodore Seuss Geisel supported bad decisions about how Japanese-Americans were treated during World War II. The people he agreed with on other issues made these decisions, so he went along with them. Just because you agree with someone on many things, does that mean you have to support everything they do? _____

Just because some people from a group are your enemies, does that mean everyone from that group of people is your enemy? _____

Can you think of a friend who is different from you in many ways?

Exaggerated cartoons of ethnic minorities were popular and accepted when Theodore Geisel began his career. He used many of these stereotypes in his early works.

Just because something is popular and accepted, does that make it right? _____

What can you do to stand up for what is right? _____

How did the choices he made when he was young impact Geisel's life later on? _____

How did they impact his legacy after he died? _____

What did Geisel do to try and make up for his earlier choices?

Do you think he did enough? _____

What would you have done? _____

Have you ever offended someone? _____

How can you try to make amends to them? _____

Dr. Seuss Word Search



Q	W	T	T	E	O	R	T	Y	P	U	I	O	P	L
X	Z	H	H	A	N	S	D	F	L	G	H	J	S	K
G	R	E	E	N	E	G	G	S	A	N	D	H	A	M
C	I	C	S	O	F	Z	A	F	C	G	H	J	M	F
B	U	A	N	P	I	X	S	D	E	P	L	K	T	O
V	Y	T	E	L	S	C	Q	A	S	O	I	U	S	X
N	T	I	E	K	H	V	W	E	Y	R	T	Y	I	I
M	R	N	C	J	T	H	E	L	O	R	A	X	R	N
L	E	T	H	H	W	B	N	M	U	L	K	J	H	S
K	W	H	E	G	O	A	S	D	L	F	G	H	C	O
J	Q	E	S	F	F	Q	W	E	L	R	T	Y	U	C
H	A	H	A	D	I	C	V	B	G	K	M	L	P	K
G	S	A	Z	S	S	H	O	P	O	N	P	O	P	S
F	D	T	X	T	H	E	G	R	I	N	C	H	I	U
H	O	R	T	O	N	H	E	A	R	S	A	W	H	O

ONE FISH TWO FISH

THE CAT IN THE HAT

HORTON HEARS A WHO

THE LORAX

THE GRINCH

CHRISTMAS

GREEN EGGS AND HAM

THE SNEECHES

HOP ON POP

FOX IN SOCKS

PLACES YOU'LL GO

Dr. Seuss Word Jumble



Lorax, Truffula, Yertle, Whoville, Sneetches, Horton,
Thidwicke, Bartholomew, Wocket

fturlauf

roonth

esethescn

tcekwo

wolhilev

roxla

ihikwdetc

arwholmobet

Name: _____

Which of these Dr. Seuss books have you read?

Rank the ones you have read, with 1 as your favorite.

Read it	My Ranking	Title
		The Cat in the Hat
		The Cat in the Hat Comes Back
		The Lorax
		How the Grinch Stole Christmas
		The Sneetches
		One Fish, Two Fish, Red Fish, Blue Fish
		Horton Hears a Who
		Fox in Socks
		Hop on Pop
		Oh, the Places You'll Go
		Green Eggs and Ham
		The Foot Book
		You're Only Old Once
		Mr. Brown Can Moo, Can You?
		Yertle the Turtle
		Bartholomew and the Oobleck
		There's a Wocket in My Pocket
		Oh, the Thinks You Can Think
		Thidwick, the Big-Hearted Moose
		Happy Birthday to You!

Name: _____



Imagine Thing 1 and Thing 2 are your pets. What is it like to live with them? How do you take care of them? What do you feed them?

Name: _____



Pretend you are the mayor of Whoville. What would you say to the Grinch?

Name: _____



What is your favorite Dr. Seuss book? Why?

Name: _____



What is your favorite Dr. Seuss character? Why?

Name: _____



Dr Seuss invented many imaginary animals for his books. If you were to invent a new animal, what would it look like? What other animals would it be similar to? (You can combine more than one.)

Name: _____



In *Green Eggs and Ham*, Sam suggests many ways to make the new food more acceptable. What food do you not like? Imagine someone is trying to convince you to eat it. What situations might they suggest?

Name: _____



Imagine you were Horton trying to save Whoville. Write a speech you might give to convince others to care about the Whos.

Name: _____



The Lorax speaks up for the trees. Whom or what might you like to speak up for? What would you tell others to do and how would you convince them?

Name: _____



In *The Cat in the Hat*, Sally and Dick are worried about what Mother will say. If you were their mother what would you say if you came home before the mess got cleaned up?

Name: _____



What advice would you give to Yertle the Turtle to help him be a better king? What caused him to fall?

Name: _____



Dr. Seuss invented many new and funny-sounding words in his books. Make up your own new word. What does it mean?
