

Dr. Seuss

Theodor Seuss Geisel was born in Springfield, Massachusetts in a wealthy family of brew masters of German background. Before launching a career as a children's author, he was a successful advertising artist and political cartoonist.

The demand for beginner books increased in America during the post-war baby boom. Besides, as the article "Why Can't Johnny Read?" by Rudolph Flesch suggests, there was a concern with children's literacy. The conventional "Dick and Jane" readers were not appealing to children. There was a need for more lively primers and Dr Seuss was offered the challenge to illustrate and write a primer using only 220 words. His answer to this call was *The Cat in the Hat* (1957), of which he said "It is the book I'm proudest of because it had something to do with the death of the Dick and Jane primers". It was followed by *Hop on Pop* (1963), and *Green Eggs and Ham* (1960), a masterpiece of minimalism and nonsense poetry written using only 50 different words.

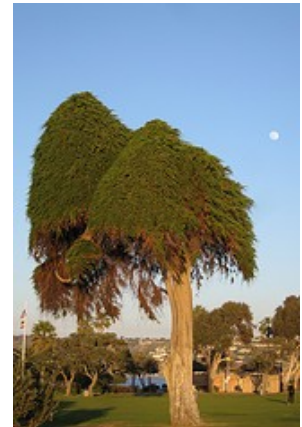


Seuss is a true artist of the picture books. He explores the tension between text and pictures, the gaps between what we read and what we see –which makes good picture books. He is a central figure in the history of nonsense literature, heir to Edward Lear. He created bizarre creatures and new words. "Nonsense wakes up the brain cells", he pointed out. His playfulness and nonsense encourages children to be creative, to ask questions of their world, it stimulates thought. His *ABC* (1965) invites children to experiment with language, to delight in its pleasures, and to increase the associations that they assign to words. The author believed that "children welcome good writers who talk, not down to them as juveniles, but clearly and honestly as equals".

Some of his books convey social messages, addressing the major issues of the time, such as Civil Rights in *The Sneetches* (1961) or environmental conservation in *The Lorax* (1971). *The Lorax* became a symbol of 'American Forests', a non-profit organization encouraging the protection of forests, and therefore was attacked by the logging industry. Responding to criticism of his book Seuss said "the Lorax doesn't say lumbering is immoral. I live in a house made of wood and write books printed on paper. It's a book about going easy on what we've got. It's anti-pollution and anti-greed". In *How the Grinch Stole Christmas* (1957), he criticizes those who exploit Christmas just for profit.

Seuss's style was initially disliked by critics in the children's literature establishment. A librarian said: "we'd rather children read something better, something more like A.A. Milne". English critics also disliked him: "compared with Lear and

Carroll he seems madly common, slick, unmemorable ... the style is overpoweringly American"; it is brash and slangy, the standard is better for children". Nowadays, he continues to be an icon of children's literature in America, where one out of every four born children receives as his first book a Dr Seuss book. He is in the top 20 of the best-selling children's books, where his closest rival is J.K. Rowling; Beatrix Potter is his closest competitor in the top 100. He is also a source of inspiration for modern writers such as Sandra Boynton in her *Pajama Time!* (2000) and *Oh My Oh My Oh Dinosaurs!* (1993). Seuss's book *One Fish Two Fish Red Fish Blue Fish* is read as a celebration of diversity and tolerance. It directly influenced Johny Valentine's *One Dad Two Dads Brown Dad Blue Dads*.



Dr. Seuss's verses are still enormously popular in the USA today, to the extent that they form part of the universal American heritage, as the construction of the *Dr. Seuss National Memorial Sculpture Garden* in his hometown Springfield, Massachusetts, indicates.

Bibliography

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THEODOR SEUSS GEISEL—aka Dr. Seuss—is one of the most beloved children’s book authors of all time. From *The Cat in the Hat* to *Oh, the Places You’ll Go!*, his iconic characters, stories, and art style have been a lasting influence on generations of children and adults. The books he wrote and illustrated under the name Dr. Seuss (and others that he wrote but did not illustrate, including some under the pseudonyms Theo. LeSieg and Rosetta Stone) have been translated into thirty languages. Of course Dr. Seuss always gets five stars. However, this particular edition deserves special mention. Not only do you get six (see list below) of some of his best books, but you get them in well-bound hardcover with high quality paper. The “Dr. Seuss” alias evolved from a pseudonym that Geisel came up with at Dartmouth College, his undergraduate alma mater. Not coincidentally, Seuss was also the maiden name of Geisel’s mother, Henrietta. In its traditional pronunciation, Seuss rhymes with voice. But as the author’s fame grew, people started mispronouncing it. Geisel’s friend, Alexander Liang, responded by writing a poem: “You’re wrong as the deuce / And you shouldn’t rejoice / If you’re calling him Seuss / He pronounces it Soice.”

5. One of Ted Geisel’s other aliases came from an unlikely source. At Dartmouth, Geisel on

Originally created by Dr. Seuss himself, Beginner Books are fun, funny, and easy to read. These unjacketed hardcover early readers encourage children to read all on their own, using simple words and illustrations. Smaller than the classic large format Seuss picture books like *The Lorax* and *Oh, the Places You'll Go!*, these portable packages are perfect for practicing readers ages 3-7, and lucky parents too! "Pretty much all the stuff you need to know is in Dr. Seuss." "President Barack Obama. Hardcover ISBN 9780394800134 | Mar 12, 1960 | 72 Pages | 3-7 years. Buy a cheap copy of *Pajama Time!* book by Sandra Boynton. Boynton is back! Joining *Barnyard Dance!* and *Birthday Monsters!*, here is *Pajama Time!* a good-night book with the irrepressible language, the inimitable... *Pajama Time! (Boynton on Board)*. by Sandra Boynton. See Customer Reviews. Select Format. Cartoonist/author Sandra Boynton infuses her books with a sense of joy, silliness, and -- well, lots of farm animals. With her fun board books, the woman famous for the adults' mantra "'Don't Let the Turkeys Get You Down'" has become a natural favorite for toddlers. I guarantee that it will get any terrible two moment out the door in seconds. When my daughter or I are in a bad mood, we reach for this book and we start to smile right away [Read Full Review](#). 1. What Kind of Book is *Oh My Oh My Oh Dinosaurs!* Themes: opposites. What Has Sandra Boynton Said About This Book. Nothing yet! You should let Sandra know that you want more details about *Oh My Oh My Oh Dinosaurs!* More Books by Sandra Boynton. *The Going-To-Bed Book*. Sandra Boynton. *Pajama Time!* Sandra Boynton. Board book. Start by marking *Oh My Oh My Oh Dinosaurs!* as [Want to Read](#): [Want to Read](#) [saving](#) [Want to Read](#). One of Neo's all-time favourite books is by Sandra Boynton. He loves board books by this author and wants to read them all. When we saw this, we had to get it. It was about opposites, using dinosaurs. Sandra Boynton does a great job of making the illustrations whimsical and fun. The book goes through many opposites such as, "Dinosaurs HAPPY. Dinosaurs SAD" and ends with "Dinosaurs looking right at YOU to say GOODBYE because we're through." It was interactive in the end in a way, with the dinosaurs saying goodbye to the reader and waving. I thought this was a fun book and I would read this to a toddler or smaller child. He loves to "read" *Oh My Oh My Oh Dinosaurs!* over and over every time he spends the night with me. I Highly recommend *Oh My Oh My Oh Dinosaurs!* and all of Sandra Boynton's Board Books! [Read more](#). J Waz. This book is a delight for young and old alike! This is important since you'll soon discover that Sandra Boynton books are your toddlers' favorite books. Plan on reading it countless times! Adventure with dinosaurs that are happy, sad, singing and crammed in an elevator. You child will be learning colors, moods and most importantly, the value of cultivating a sense of humor! A sense of humor is an early indicator of intelligence (and it's imperative).