

# Dr. Seuss

Makes Reading  
FUN!

## DID YOU KNOW..?

- Dr. Seuss is the world's best-selling children's author, having sold over 650 million books worldwide.
- Dr. Seuss wasn't really a doctor. His real name was Theodor Seuss Geisel. As a magazine cartoonist, he began signing his work under the mock-scholarly title of "Dr. Theophrastus Seuss" in 1927. He shortened that to "Dr. Seuss" in 1928.
- In 1954, Life Magazine published an article on illiteracy in school children, concluding that children weren't learning to read because their books were boring. In response, Dr. Seuss' editor challenged him to write a book using 250 of the words children use most. So was born *The Cat in the Hat*, which actually only uses 236!
- His next challenge was to use only 50 words – the resulting book was *Green Eggs and Ham*.
- He coined the term NERD, which first appeared in his book *If I Ran The Zoo*.
- He won three Academy Awards, one for an animated short and two for documentary features.
- 1 in 4 American children receive Dr. Seuss as their first book.
- Dr. Seuss' first book, *And to Think That I Saw It on Mulberry Street*, was rejected by publishers 27 times.
- When Dr. Seuss suffered from writer's block, he would go to a secret closet filled with hats and wear them until he found inspiration
- Dr. Seuss went to Oxford University but never completed his degree.
- One of the trademarks of his artwork is 'no straight lines'.
- The correct pronunciation of Seuss rhymes with 'Voice' – Soice – but readers naturally read it as Soose, and so it was changed.
- Dr. Seuss drove a car with a GRINCH licence plate.

