

Photo Courtesy of Dr. Seuss Enterprises, L.P.

All About Dr. Seuss

“A person’s a person, no matter how small,” Theodor Seuss Geisel (a.k.a. Dr. Seuss) said. “Children want the same things we want. To laugh, to be challenged, to be entertained and delighted.”

Brilliant, playful, and always respectful of children, Dr. Seuss charmed his way into the consciousness of four generations of youngsters and parents. In the process, he helped millions of kids learn to read.

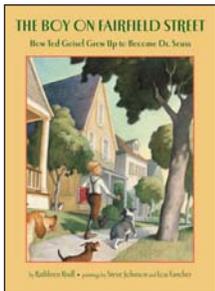
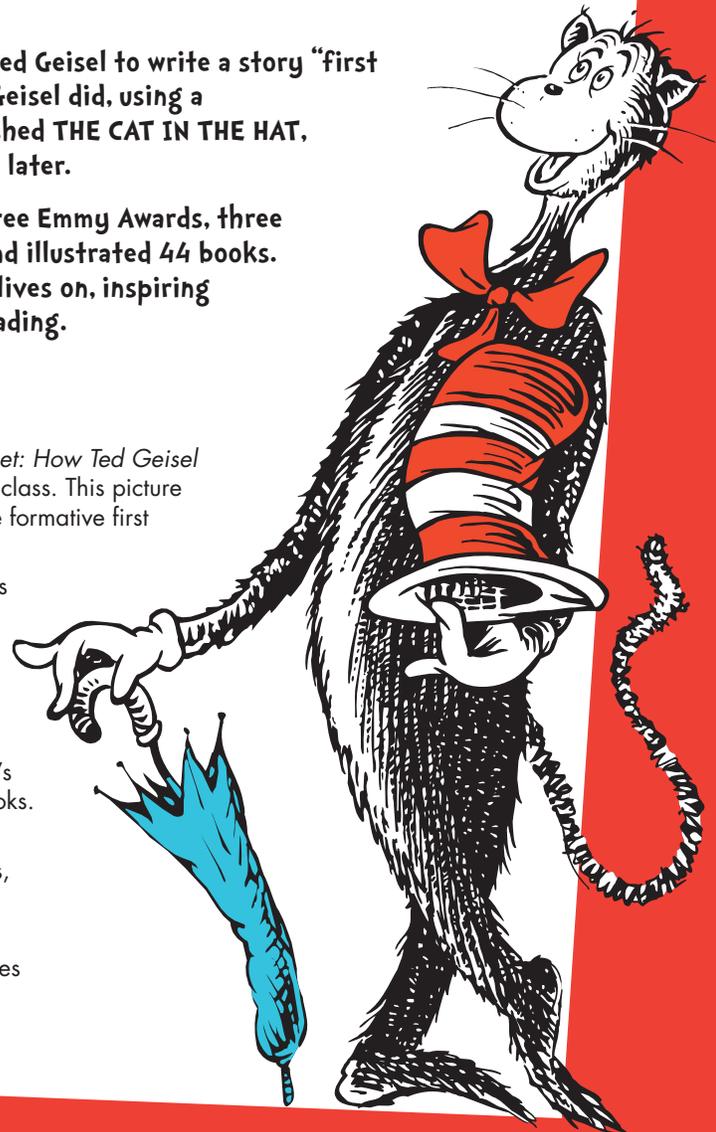
Dr. Seuss was born Theodor Geisel in Springfield, Massachusetts, on March 2, 1904. After graduating from Dartmouth College in 1925, he went to Oxford University, intending to acquire a doctorate in literature. At Oxford, Geisel met Helen Palmer, whom he wed in 1927. Upon his return to America later that year, Geisel published cartoons and humorous articles for JUDGE, the leading humor

magazine in America at that time. His cartoons also appeared in major magazines such as LIFE, VANITY FAIR, and LIBERTY. Geisel gained national exposure when he won an advertising contract for an insecticide called Flit. He coined the phrase, “Quick, Henry, the Flit!” which became a popular expression.

Geisel published his first children’s book, AND TO THINK THAT I SAW IT ON MULBERRY STREET, in 1937, after 27 publishers rejected it.

In 1954, Pulitzer Prize-winning author John Hersey challenged Geisel to write a story “first graders wouldn’t be able to put down.” And that’s just what Geisel did, using a vocabulary of only 236 words. In 1957, Random House published THE CAT IN THE HAT, a book that continues to charm children more than 50 years later.

Winner of the Pulitzer Prize in 1984, an Academy Award, three Emmy Awards, three Grammy Awards, and three Caldecott Honors, Geisel wrote and illustrated 44 books. While Theodor Geisel died on September 24, 1991, Dr. Seuss lives on, inspiring generations of children of all ages to explore the joys of reading.



The Boy on Fairfield Street: How Ted Geisel Grew Up to Become Dr. Seuss

HC: 978-0-375-82298-8
GLB: 978-0-375-92298-5

A SEUSSIAN STUDY

- Start off by reading *The Boy on Fairfield Street: How Ted Geisel Grew Up to Become Dr. Seuss* aloud to your class. This picture book biography of Dr. Seuss zeroes in on the formative first 22 years of his life.
- Surround students with the genius of Dr. Seuss by having as many of his books on hand as you can. Give the class free time each day to read Seuss books on their own or with a friend and to play interactive games at www.seussville.com
- Create a time line of key events in the author’s life, including the publication dates of his books.

- Post a United States map and have students mark locations that were important in Dr. Seuss’s life, such as Springfield, Massachusetts, and La Jolla, California.
- Have young readers dress up as their favorite Seuss character and introduce themselves to the class. Challenge them to invent new stories for these characters.