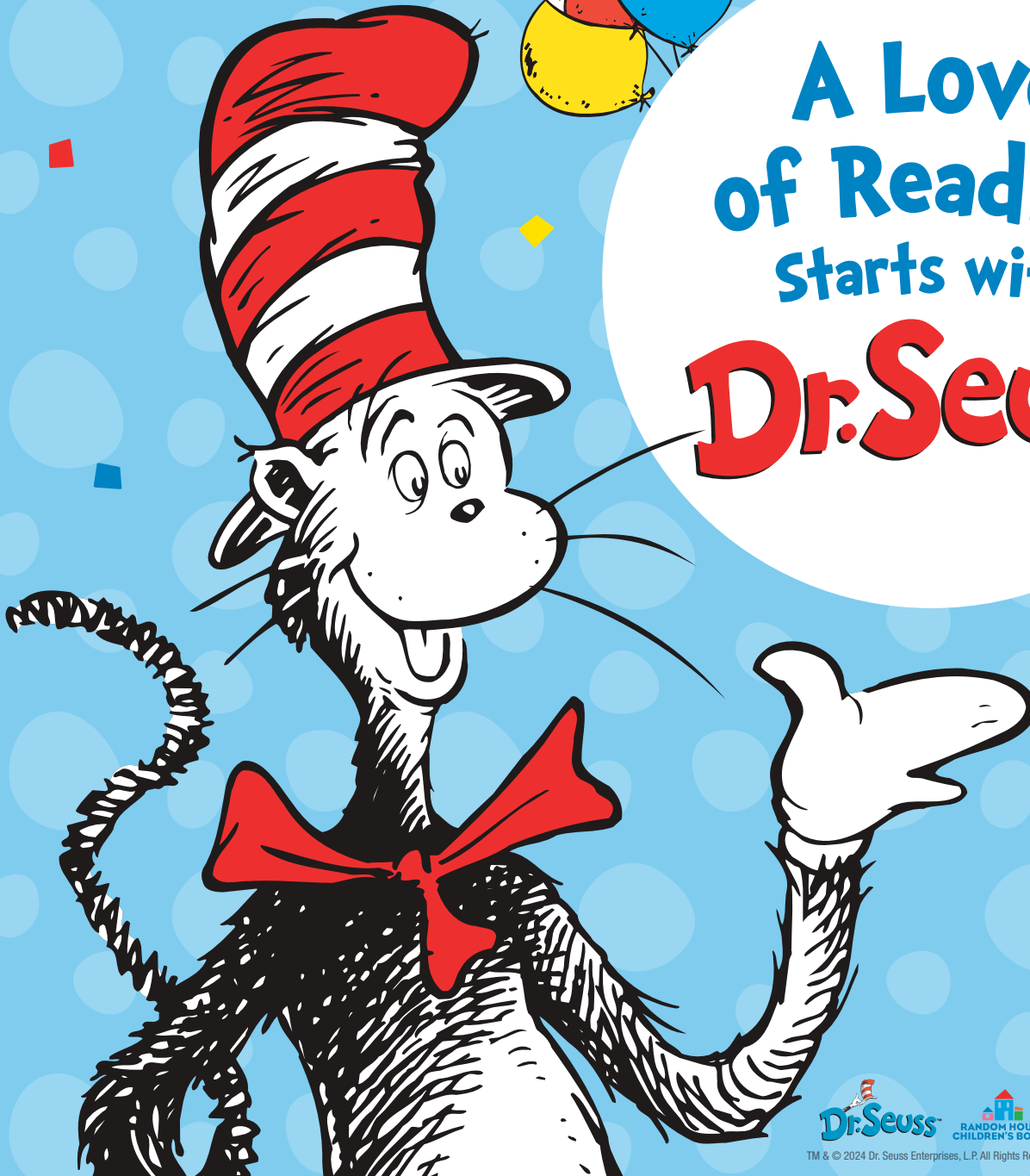


A READING  
CELEBRATION

Dr. Seuss's  
Birthday



A Love  
of Reading  
Starts with  
**Dr. Seuss**<sup>TM</sup>



Dr. Seuss  
RANDOM HOUSE  
CHILDREN'S BOOKS

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Grades  
K-3

A Week-Long Educators' Guide  
to Celebrating Dr. Seuss's Birthday

# A Letter to Educators

Dear Educators,

As a second grade teacher who loves teaching kids to read using books by Dr. Seuss, I'm honored to have partnered with Random House Children's Books and Dr. Seuss Enterprises to bring you lesson ideas for how to celebrate Dr. Seuss's 120th Birthday in 2024!

Dr. Seuss's unique way of combining silliness and fun with learning to read makes his books a staple in my classroom all year. Every year we love celebrating Dr. Seuss's Birthday on March 2, and since this year March 2 falls on a Saturday, we are planning to celebrate the following week, March 4–7, to kick off National Reading Month. I hope that you will consider doing the same!

One of the best parts of working with young students is getting to rediscover the imaginative adventures waiting within the pages of classic children's books. Reading ***The Cat in the Hat*** or ***Green Eggs and Ham*** with a child for the first time is a joyous, magical experience that will stay with them forever. Books like ***One Fish Two Fish Red Fish Blue Fish*** and ***Wacky Wednesday*** are entry ways into imaginary worlds that give educators the opportunity to help **build and strengthen children's foundational literacy skills** and **intrinsic motivation to become lifelong successful readers**.

As you flip through the pages of this guide and activities and prepare to revisit the works of Dr. Seuss, I hope you'll remember which Dr. Seuss books and characters you loved most growing up, and that you'll share those impactful moments with your students who look to you for guidance and inspiration. Whenever I reread ***Wacky Wednesday***, I'm delighted by the Sutherland sisters—something about their polished outfits and a floating head always puts a smile on my face, and I love sharing that with my students.

This guide offers ideas for a week-long celebration of reading with Dr. Seuss books! We've suggested themes for each day, and you can pick one or all of them—whatever works best for your students.

Each day includes ideas and activities that will engage student's imagination, help develop writing and storytelling skills, and encourage them to embrace physical movement.

- DAY 1 —Imagination Station
- DAY 2 —Rhyme Time Tuesday
- DAY 3 —Wacky Wednesday
- DAY 4 —Reading Celebration

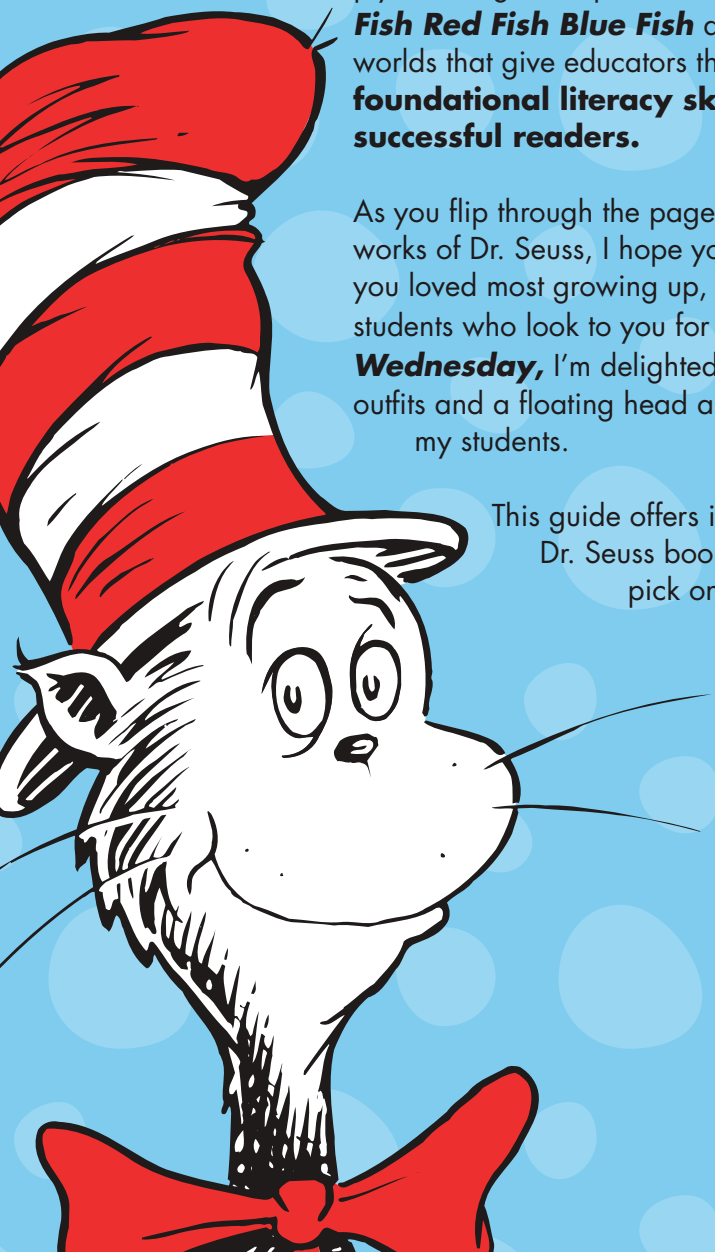
Happy Celebrating!

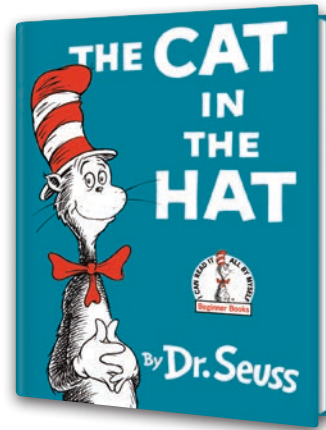
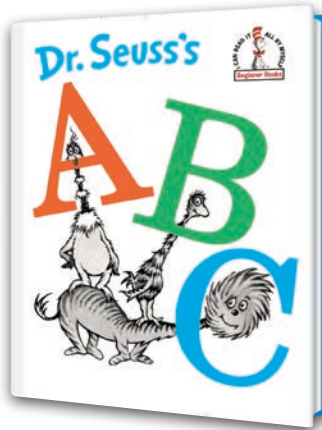
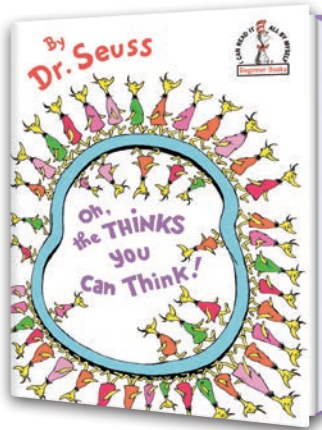
Courtney Griffin  
Grade 2 Teacher  
Boston Public Schools

Scan this QR Code for more teacher resources and kid-friendly downloadable printables!



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## DAY 1: Imagination Station

### ACTIVITY 1: Imaginary Imagery

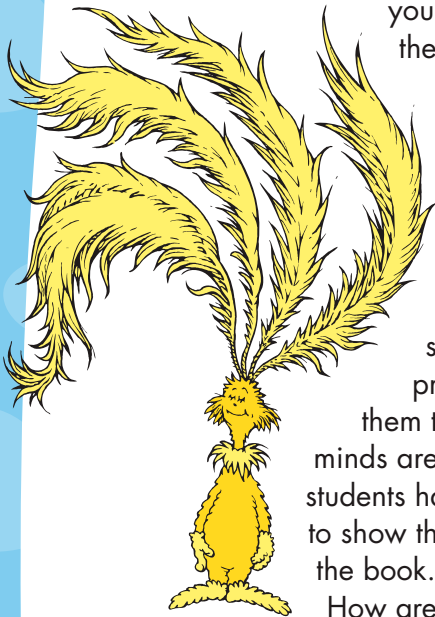
Get your students' imaginations going with this visualization activity as you read aloud from **Dr. Seuss's ABC**. Each student will need a blank piece of paper and pencil. As

you read the book, invite them to draw the images that come to their minds (Don't share the illustrations just yet!).

Not only will this fun lesson help students strengthen their listening and comprehension skills, but it will also

provide an opportunity for them to understand that our minds are so unique! Wait until students have shared their drawings to show them the illustrations from the book. How are they similar?

How are they different?



### ACTIVITY 2: Real vs. Imaginary Thoughts

Read and discuss **Oh, the Things You Can Think!** Have students draw two thought bubbles on a piece of paper. In one thought bubble, have students draw a picture of something that is based on reality, something that they see in their everyday life. Maybe it's a balloon, maybe it's a pool, let them choose. In the second thought bubble, have students draw a picture of something that is pretend, maybe it's a balloon swimming pool, let them choose. Depending

on their age, they can also write a story to go with each drawing. The main goal is to encourage kids to pull from their everyday lives and imagine something new!

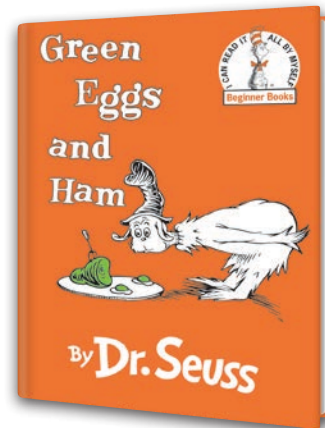
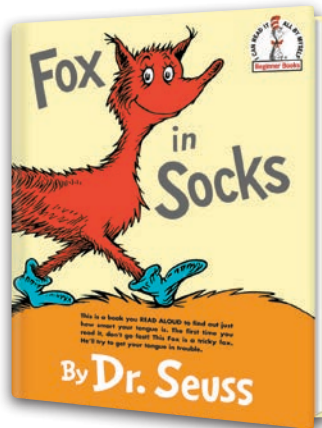
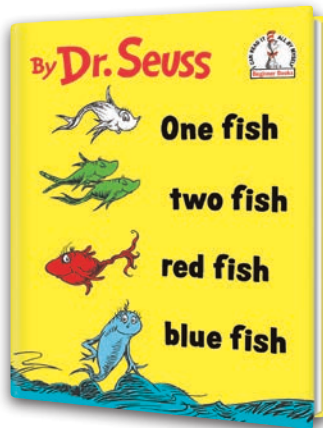
### ACTIVITY 3: Freeze Rhyme!

Preselect some pages from **The Cat in the Hat**. Have students move around the room and ask them to listen carefully while you read. Whenever you say a word that rhymes with "cat" or "hat," they have to freeze!

### ACTIVITY 4: Build Your Own Edible Thinking Hat

This delicious Cat in the Hat-inspired snack is a fun and tasty way for your students to work with patterns. For this edible craft, you'll need lollipop sticks, chocolate sandwich cookies, marshmallows, and sliced strawberries. Give each student a lollipop stick, a cookie, two marshmallows, and three slices of strawberry. Start by having your students take apart the sandwich cookie, using the side with the cookie and cream as their base. (They can eat the other half!) Next, take your lollipop stick and pierce a strawberry, then a marshmallow, alternating until you end with a strawberry on top. Place your stick in the cookie cream and you have a towering top hat!





## DAY 2: Rhyme Time Tuesday

### ACTIVITY 1: Fishy Found Poetry

Read aloud from **One Fish Two Fish Red Fish Blue Fish**, emphasizing places in the text where words rhyme and asking students what they notice and wonder about the book. As you read the book aloud, ask students to write down words that stand out to them. Then have students craft their own found poem using the words they wrote down. They can choose to rhyme or not as they assemble their found fishy poem.

### ACTIVITY 2: Fox, Socks, In?

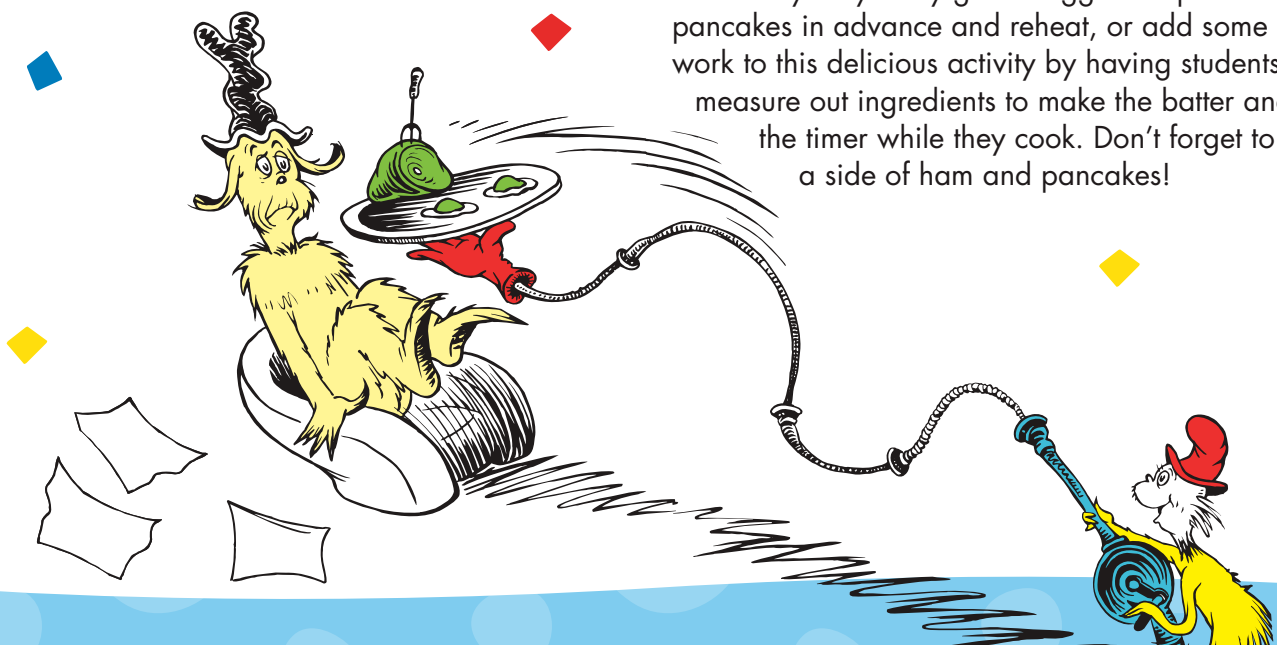
**Fox in Socks** is full of silly and entertaining rhymes. Play this oral oddity game with your students by reading three words—two that rhyme and one that doesn't, such as fox, socks, and in—and asking them to select the non-rhyming word. Try adding picture cards for students who benefit from visual support.

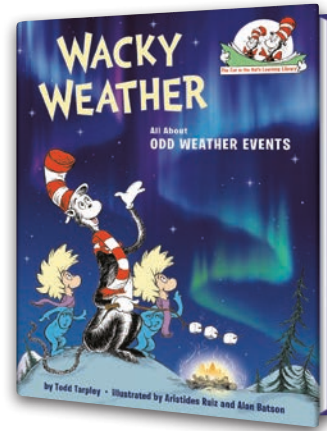
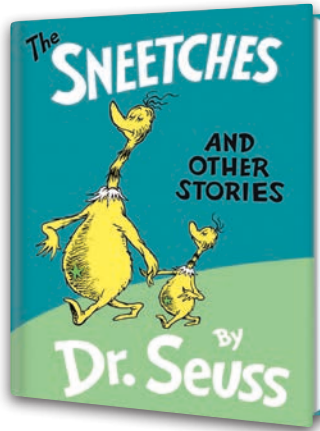
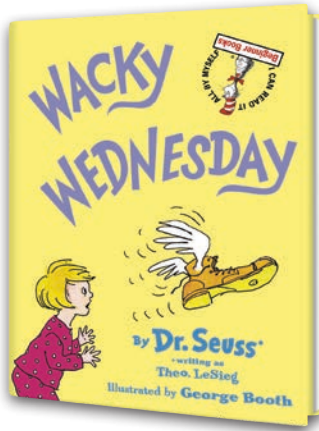
### Activity 3: Likes and Dislikes

Following a read aloud of **Green Eggs and Ham**, encourage your students to discuss their likes and dislikes. Pair the discussion with a simple movement activity like touching their toes if they like green eggs and touching their nose if they dislike green eggs.

### ACTIVITY 4: Green Eggs and Ham Pancake Breakfast

Instead of dyeing your eggs green, why not throw a **Green Eggs and Ham**-inspired pancake breakfast with your class? Prepare your favorite pancake recipe, and split the batter into two bowls. Add a few drops of green food coloring to one bowl for your green pancakes, and then use the remaining batter to make mini pancakes. These will be your yolks. Using a small round cookie cutter, cut a hole out of your green pancakes and replace with your mini pancakes to create your yummy green "eggs!" Prep the pancakes in advance and reheat, or add some STEM work to this delicious activity by having students help measure out ingredients to make the batter and set the timer while they cook. Don't forget to add a side of ham and pancakes!





## DAY 3: Wacky Wednesday

### ACTIVITY 1: Create Your Own Wacky Wednesday

For this **Wacky Wednesday** activity, have your students create the wackiest characters in the wackiest settings that they can think of. Using *Wacky Wednesday* as inspiration, ask them to work in pairs to create and illustrate their characters and scenes, then count the number of “wacky” ideas they’ve come up with!

Have older students write a brief biography for their characters including things like their age, occupation, and which qualities make them so wacky!

### ACTIVITY 2: Sneetches Can Teach Us

**The Sneetches** can be silly, but they also have an important message to share. Help your students strengthen their summarizing skills while understanding the story’s important message of inclusivity by having them retell the story in their own words. For each plot point, draw a quick sketch of the scene on the whiteboard (or ask your students to volunteer to draw). When you’re finished, use the images you’ve created to summarize the story as a whole group. This skill-building activity will also help your students’ socio-emotional development.

### ACTIVITY 3: Wacky Classroom Scavenger Hunt

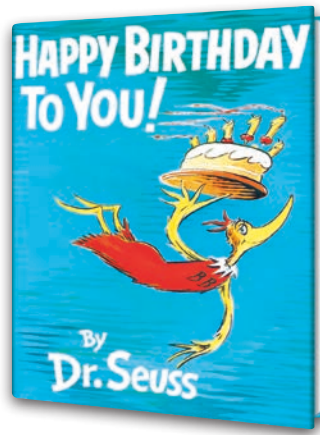
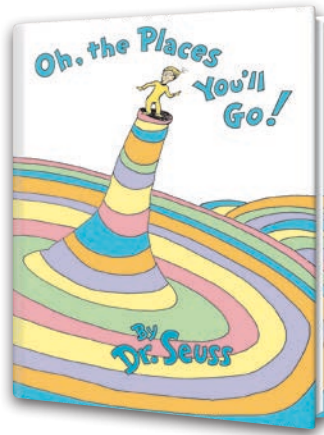
Create a wacky classroom scavenger hunt to get your kiddos moving and thinking outside the box on Wacky Wednesday! Select a certain number of

items in your classroom and make them “wacky.” Try turning charts or posters upside down, changing the month or day on the calendar, creating a wacky weather forecast, and anything else that will make your students say “That’s wacky!” Create a checklist with images or helpful hints for finding each wacky item. With students working in pairs, encourage them to move around the room and look in unexpected places to find all the items on their list. If you like, the first team to find all the items can win a special prize (like some wacky socks, for example!).

### ACTIVITY 4: Snow Doughnuts

“It’s time for some doughnuts!  
But don’t be too hasty.  
They’re made out of snow,  
so they won’t be too tasty!”

The forecast looks like snow, which means it’s time to make snow doughnuts! But don’t worry—unlike the snow doughnuts in **Wacky Weather**, these delicious doughnuts will only be rolled in powdered sugar. Search online for a simple baked donut recipe. If you have access to an oven or toaster oven at school, have your students help to measure the ingredients and make the dough. Then have them take turns dropping scoops of dough into a mini doughnut pan or mini muffin tin. (If you don’t have an oven, you can make the doughnuts at home or use plain, store-bought doughnuts instead.) Have students roll the doughnuts in powdered sugar (if you baked them fresh, let them cool before this step.). Encourage students to notice how much “snow” their donut accumulates once they start to roll!



## DAY 4: Reading Celebration

### ACTIVITY 1: Bucket List

As you prepare to celebrate Dr. Seuss's birthday, ask your students to reflect on what their birthdays mean to them. As a whole group, use chart paper to create a bucket list of your students' goals for themselves for the next year. Goals can be anything from being kind to a classmate to visiting a new country to trying an unfamiliar food. Pair this activity with a read-aloud of ***Oh, the Places You'll Go!*** to really get their imaginations to soar. Post the finished list in the classroom as a daily reminder to your students that they if they set their minds to it, they can achieve their goals.

\*For students who don't celebrate birthdays, reframe the activity to have students choose a goal for themselves to accomplish by the end of the school year.

### ACTIVITY 2: The Places We'll Go

After reading aloud ***Oh, the Places You'll Go!***, have your students take turns coming up with ideas for the places they'd like to go and how they'd like to get there. Have your class stand in a circle, choosing one student at a time to be in the center. Encourage that student to share their idea for where they'd like to go—it can be real or imaginary—and how they'd like to get there, modeling the movement for the class to follow. Perhaps they'd like to go to outer space on an elephant ride or to the bottom of the sea on the back of a seahorse—nothing is too far-fetched! Have them act out the movement and everyone will follow along!

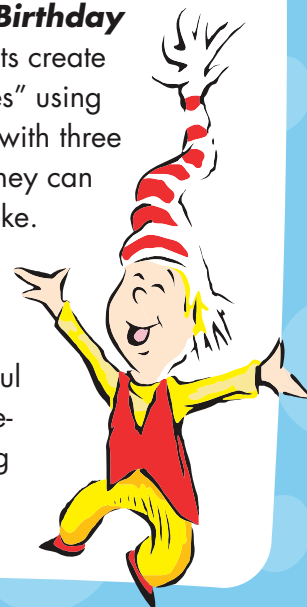
### ACTIVITY 3: Readers' Theater

To commemorate Dr. Seuss's birthday, provide a selection of Dr. Seuss books and ask students to vote for their favorite. Once the winning book is chosen, create roles for each student to play (you can add more parts if there are more children than characters in the story). Print out scripts for each child and give them plenty of time to practice. Have students hold on to their lines when it comes time for the performance so they are reading (not memorizing). Encourage them to pay attention to *how* they read their lines and act their parts. Demonstrate as needed to help strengthen their skills in fluency and prosody.

You can download a Readers' Theater for *Happy Birthday to You!* here: <https://sites.prh.com/dr-seuss-reads#educator-materials>

### ACTIVITY 4: Birthday Cakes in Katroo

Using the birthday cake in ***Happy Birthday to You!*** as your model, have students create layered Seuss-themed birthday "cakes" using sugar cookies. Provide each student with three round sugar cookies and icing that they can assemble into their own miniature cake. Encourage children to use their creativity when it comes to decorating their Seuss cakes—just provide the supplies! They'll love using colorful icing and candy to decorate their creations! If you like, offer edible writing gel so students can write a special message.



# A Quick & Easy Checklist to Hosting a Spectacular Celebration of Reading with Dr. Seuss at Your School!

School-wide celebrations are a fantastic way of getting teachers, staff, students, and families involved in building a long-lasting sense of community and inclusion. Follow this guide for all the information you need to get your whole school excited about hosting a spectacular celebration of reading with Dr. Seuss in honor of his birthday on March 2. This literature-themed celebration will have everyone reading, rhyming, and celebrating imagination and adventure in no time!

## Brainstorm your ideas

Dr. Seuss's birthday is on March 2, and you'll want to start thinking about your celebration three to four months in advance. Choose your texts by polling your students, testing them out with read-alouds in your classroom, and asking your colleagues which Dr. Seuss books they enjoy teaching. Will your event be a full-day celebration or special week of activities? Where will it be held? Who will be involved? Think about your goal and vision for the event.

## Get the okay from your principal and administrators

Once you have an idea of what your celebration could entail, talk with your principal and administrators to get them on board. Discuss who might be on the planning committee, which spaces you'll utilize (the hallways, the gym, outside space, etc.), the date(s) for your event, and which classes will participate.

## Collaborate with your school events committee and Parent Teacher Organization

As soon as your administrators are in, consult with your school events committee and your PTO. Talk through your activity ideas, get input from colleagues, assign projects, and start sourcing materials.

Finalize the theme of your events and the texts you'll incorporate. Will every class receive a set of books for their classroom library? Will you have extra copies of the books for prizes and giveaways? Start thinking about placing book orders six to eight weeks in advance of your event. You can order directly from Penguin Random House to receive a bulk discount.

## Involve your students and families

Start talking with your students about the celebration of reading as something they can look forward to. Read your Dr. Seuss texts and incorporate Seuss-themed lessons into your curriculum planning. Have your students help make flyers, send notes or emails home to families, and ask for family volunteers to help run the activities. (Be sure to chat with your principal about any paperwork requirements for volunteers.)

## Celebrate with your school community!

Celebrating and promoting literacy is a shared goal and one that wouldn't be realized without caring and devoted educators like you! Take the time to celebrate, be silly, and enjoy the adventure with your students and school community. Don't forget to take photos!



# School-Wide Activity Ideas

## ACTIVITY 1: Work Together to Create a Magical Seuss-Themed Artwork

Get every student excited about celebrating reading with Dr. Seuss by creating a classroom mural. Each class or grade will select one Dr. Seuss Book to use as their theme. When the artworks are complete, exhibit them in the hallways, the gymnasium, or another public space within the school. Each class will take turns going on a gallery walk to view the art on display. Students will feel proud of their hard work and collaboration!

## ACTIVITY 2: Play Field (or Gym) Games with Thing 1 and Thing 2

Students will have to keep up with Thing 1 and Thing 2 in these Seuss-themed field games! Invite families to help set up and supervise each station.

### Wacky Relay:

Pair students. Each pair—Thing 1 and Thing 2— will work together to complete a wacky relay race holding a ball between their legs. The pair that makes it back to the finish line first wins.

### Fish in a Bowl:

Break up into small groups or teams. A member of each team will race to try to fill their bucket up with water from a larger bucket in order to make their fish bowl float. The team whose fish bowl floats to the top of their bucket first wins!

### Kite Flying:

Try to keep up with Thing 1 and Thing 2 as they fly their kites so fast. Using premade kite kits, have students assemble, decorate, and fly their kites. Just steer clear of any wacky weather!

### Juggling Competition:

Have students compete in a wacky juggling contest. No need to juggle a fishbowl or a rake, but have silly props available that students can choose from, such as a top hat, a squishy ball, and a plush fish.

### Face Painting:

Ask teachers or family members to volunteer as face painters. Come up with a few simple designs and let students choose!

## ACTIVITY 3: Make It Musical with a Music and Costume Parade

Invite students to dress in their most Seussian costumes or wacky outfits and have a parade through the school! To add to the festivity, each grade can have a different prop. For example, one grade can wear Cat's hats, another can carry shakers or other musical instruments, and another can wave ribbon wands. Don't forget to queue up a Seuss-themed soundtrack for the parade!

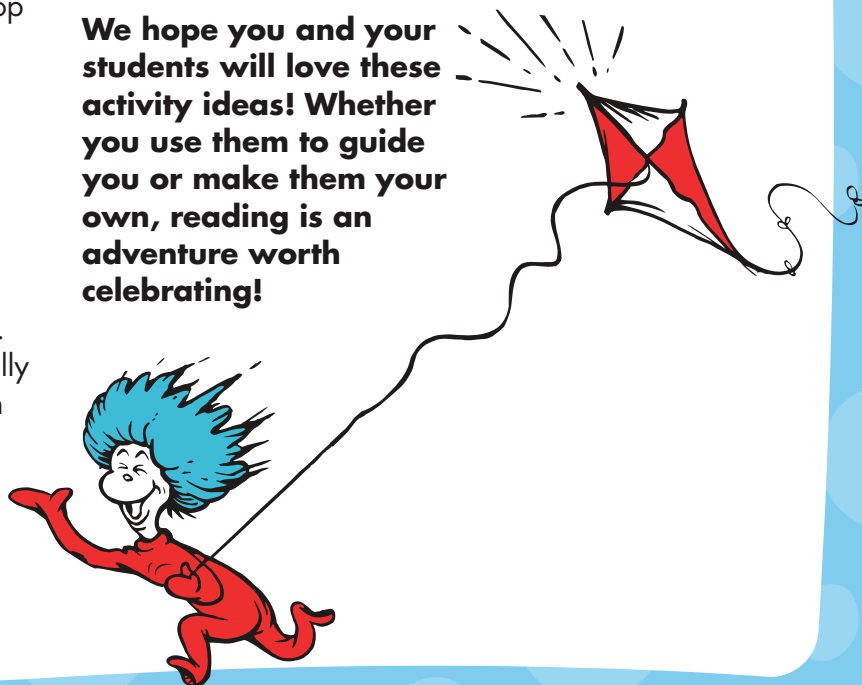
## ACTIVITY 4: Dr. Seuss's Birthday Party Celebration!

Throw a festive birthday party for Dr. Seuss and encourage students to come dressed as their favorite Seuss character to celebrate. Teachers and staff can dress up too!

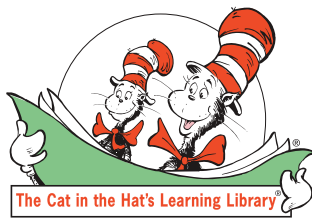
Set up a station where students use art supplies and recycled materials to create silly Seuss-themed décor like a fish in a dish, a fox on a box, and a shoe on a wall. Serve wacky treats like upside down cupcakes and one fish two fish Jello cups with goldfish.

Offer awards and prizes for a rhyming poetry contest, a ***The Cat in the Hat*** drawing contest, and the most creative costume contest.

**We hope you and your students will love these activity ideas! Whether you use them to guide you or make them your own, reading is an adventure worth celebrating!**

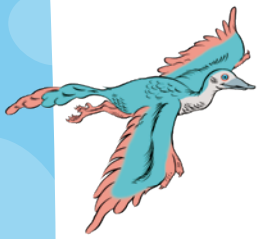




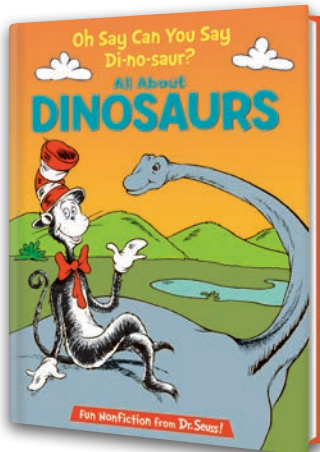


# Laugh and Learn with Nonfiction from Dr. Seuss!

The Cat in the Hat's Learning Library® has more than 35 rhyming and easy-to-read titles that give young readers fun facts about the world we live in and the reading confidence they need!



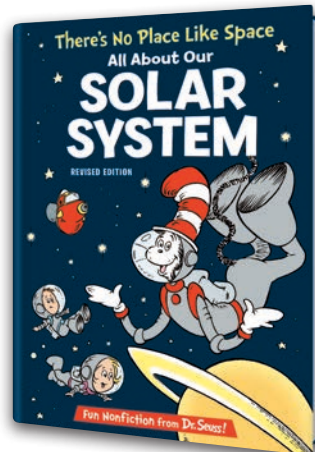
Watch for these newly designed covers to hit shelves later this year.



## Oh Say Can Your Say Dinosaur?

9780679891147

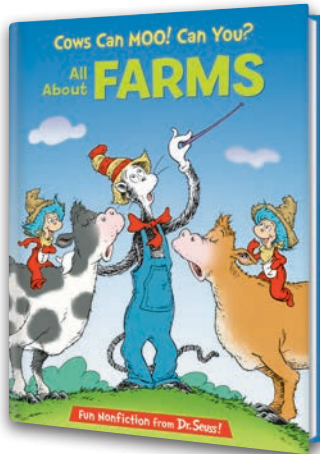
In this positively prehistoric adventure, readers will learn how fossils are formed and found, what different dinosaurs ate, how to pronounce tricky dinosaur names, and much more.



## There's No Place Like Space

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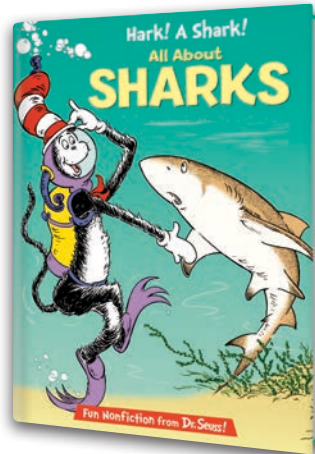
On this adventure into outer space, readers will discover what makes each planet in our solar system unique, how a million Earths could fit inside the sun, how astronauts have driven a special car all over the moon, and much more.



## Cows Can Moo! Can You?

9780399555244

On a trip to the Green-bean family farm, readers will see how cows are milked, chickens are fed, sheep are sheered, fields are tilled, and much more.



## Hark! A Shark!

9780375870736

Dive deep into the world of sharks and discover why they have lots of teeth but no bones, how their tough skin helps them swim fast and stay clean, how they come in all shapes and sizes, and much more.

## Praise for the Cat in the Hat's Learning Library®

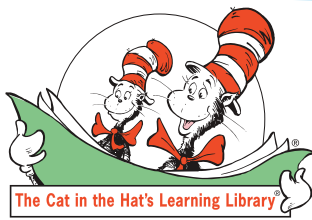
There is a big gap between “concept” books written for preschoolers and **nonfiction** that requires fluent reading skills. The Cat in the Hat's Learning Library® books introduce beginning readers to important basic concepts about the world we live in. They provide the **critical foundations** upon which complex facts and ideas can eventually be built. In addition, The Cat in the Hat's Learning Library® shows young readers that books can be **entertaining and educational** at the same time.

### This is a wonderful series!

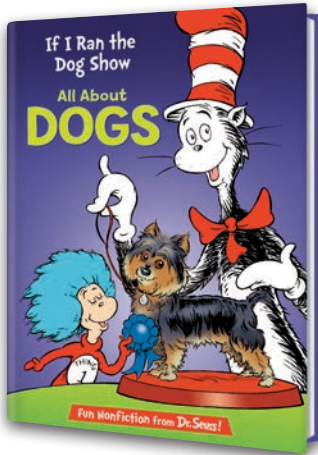
— Barbara Kiefer, Ph.D., Charlotte S. Huck Professor of Children's Literature, The Ohio State University

**“The familiar format and entertaining text are sure to appeal to beginning readers.”**

— School Library Journal



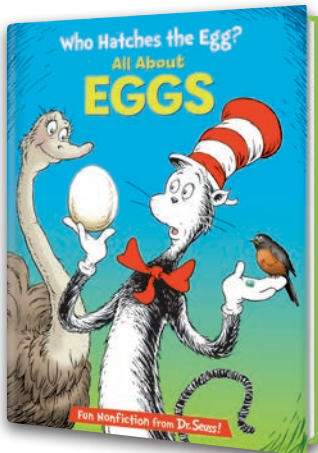
# Laugh and Learn with Nonfiction from Dr. Seuss!



## If I Ran the Dog Show

9780375866821

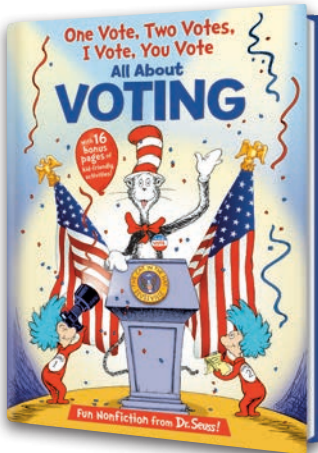
In this doggone fun book, readers will learn about the wide variety of dog breeds, their amazing bodies and senses, the growth stages of puppies, and much more.



## Who Hatches the Egg?

9780449814987

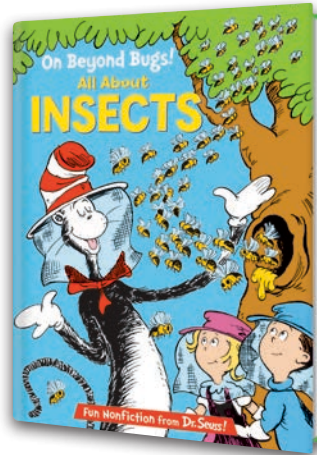
Crack open the science of eggs and discover how birds, insects, and spiders all lay eggs; how must amphibians, fish, and reptiles also lay eggs; the amazing shapes, sizes, and colors they come in; and much more.



## One Vote Two Votes I Vote You Vote

9780399555985

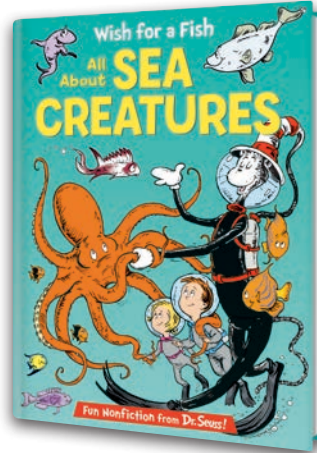
In this kid-friendly guide to voting, readers will learn the basic principles of democracy, the different ways people vote, why Election Day is held in early November, and much more.



## On Beyond Bugs!

9780679873037

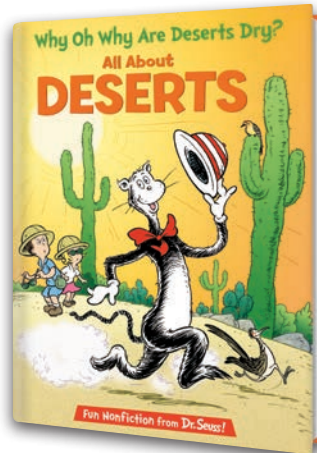
In this journey into the world of insects, readers will learn how ants can lift things ten times their weight, how bees communicate by dancing, why flies buzz, and much more.



## Wish for a Fish

9780679891161

Crack open the science of eggs and discover how birds, insects, and spiders all lay eggs; how must amphibians, fish, and reptiles also lay eggs; the amazing shapes, sizes, and colors they come in; and much more.



## Why Oh Why Are Deserts Dry?

9780375858680

Journey through the deserts of the world and learn how plants and animals have adapted to survive the unforgiving climate, why deserts don't have to be hot, what causes us to see mirage, and much more.



# Dressed for the Occasion

We always need to look our best for a celebration! Decorate the hat below. When you're done, with the help of an adult, cut out your design along the dotted line. See following page for next steps.



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“Your mother will not mind at all!” said  
“I know some good games we could play,” said



know some new tricks,” said the Cat in the Hat.  
“A lot of good things I will show to you.”



“Your mother will not mind at all!” said



“Your mother will not mind at all!” said  
“I do.”



how some good games we could play,” said the cat

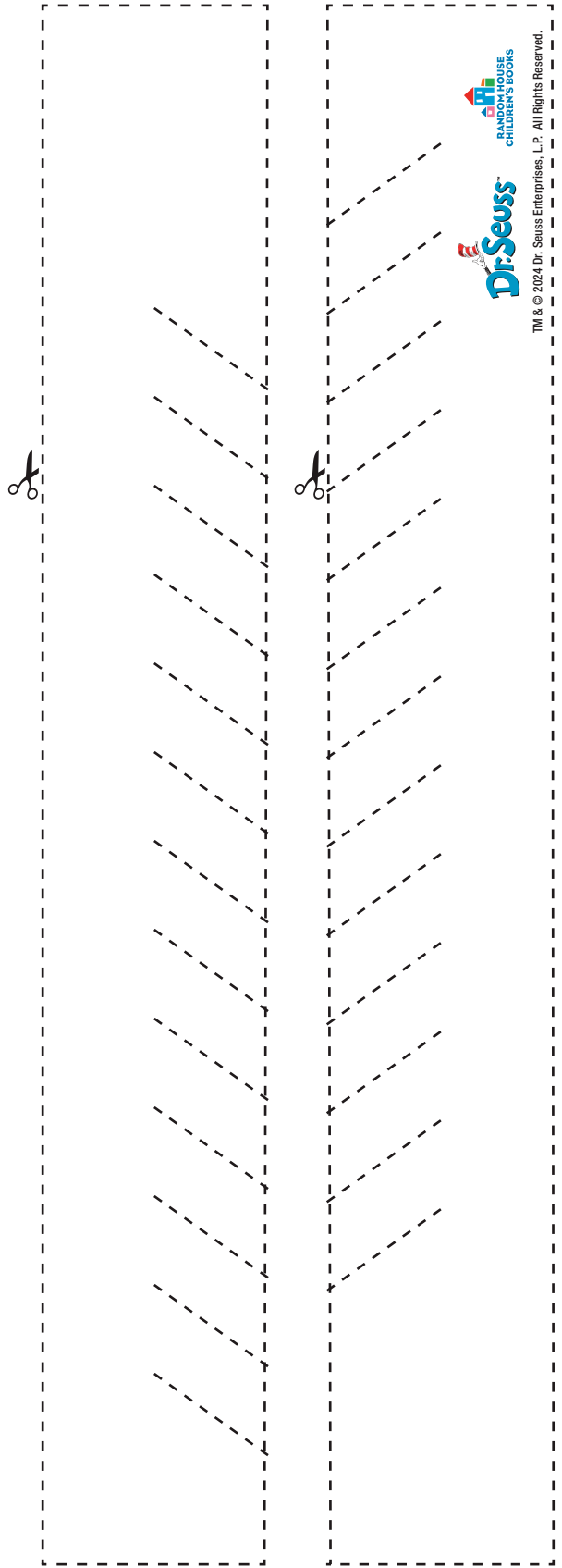
“I know some new tricks,” said the Cat in the



“Your mother will not mind at all!” said

# Dressed for the Occasion

Next, cut out each tab along the dotted line. Glue one tab on either side of the hat's back. Fit it to your head, and have an adult cut the slanted line that fits you best. Hats off to you!



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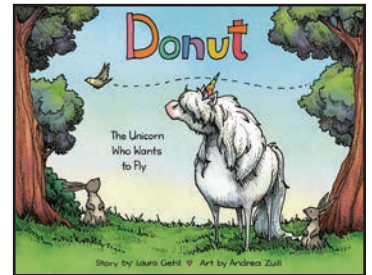


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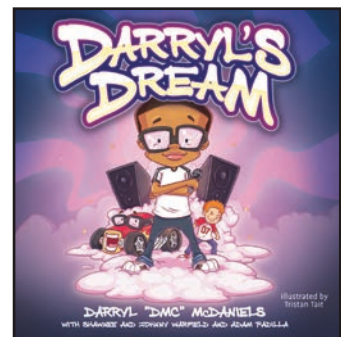
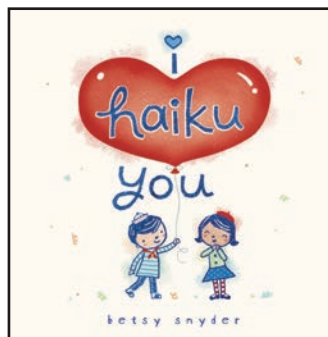
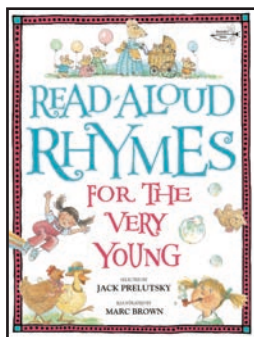


# Book Recommendations for Further Reading!

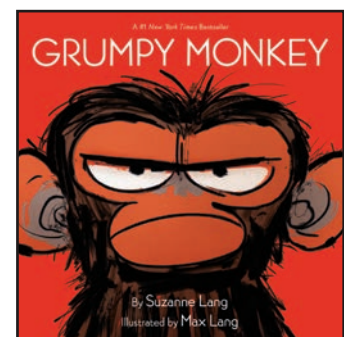
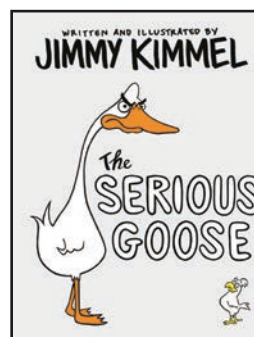
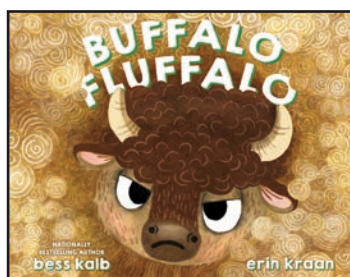
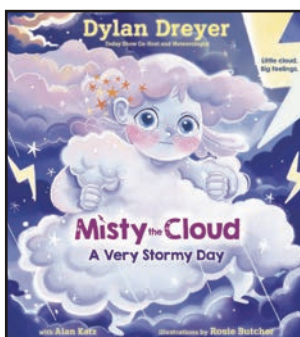
## Imagination Station



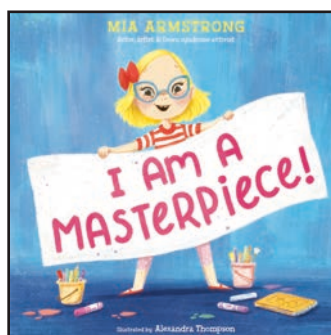
## Rhyme Time Tuesday

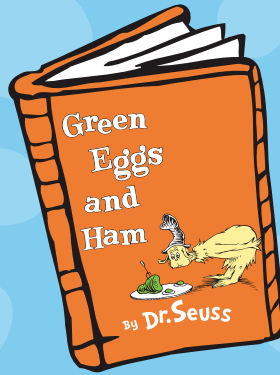
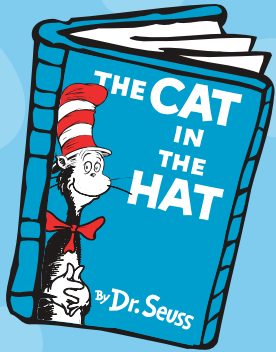
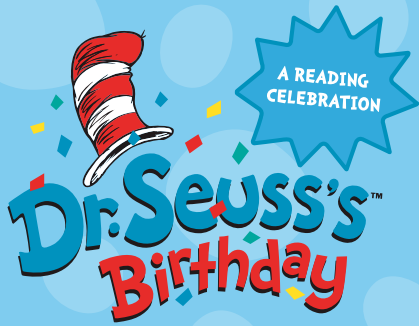


## Wacky Wednesday



## Reading Celebration





**“The more that you read,  
the more things you will know.  
The more that you learn,  
the more places you’ll go.”**

**—Dr. Seuss, *I Can Read with My Eyes Shut!***

