



Book Talk Today

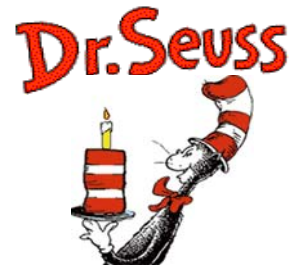


William P. Breitsprecher

Dr. Maxworthy-O'Brien

March 8, 2004

Happy Birthday to You!



March 2nd this year was dubbed the "*Seussentennial*" by the *National Education Association*. Their annual "*Read Across America*" program is celebrated each year to approximately correspond to the birthday of Dr. Seuss (1904-1991), one of the most widely read author and illustrator of children's books.

Born as Theodor Seuss Geisel in Springfield, Massachusetts, he earned a doctorate in literature at Oxford University in 1927. He started his writing career submitting cartoons and humorous articles for *Judge*, which was at that time a

leading humor magazine.

Inspired by the rhythm of a ship's engine while traveling to Europe, he wrote his first book, *And to Think That I Saw It on Mulberry Street*. Forty-three publishers promptly rejected it before a friend intervened and published it in 1937.

In 1954, a report about children's literacy, published in *Life*, stated that many kids weren't learning to read because there were not interesting books for them. His publisher sent a list of 400 words that were deemed important for children to learn. Geisel pared it down to 250 (an amount it was

believed that 1st graders could master) and wrote a book with 220 of those words - *The Cat in the Hat*.

In 1960, humorist Bennet Cerf bet Geisel that he could not write a book with less than 50 words - a bet Cerf lost when Geisel succeeded in producing *Green Eggs and Ham*. Dr. Seuss's legacy includes a Pulitzer's Prize in 1984, three Academy Awards, and almost 50 children's books (which he authored and illustrated). Perhaps the most enduring of these accomplishments is the joy of reading that Dr. Seuss's books continue to bring to new generations of children.

More Great Birthday –Themed Picture Books!

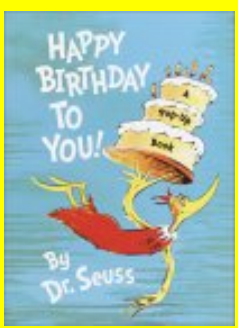
-  *Albert's Birthday*, written and illustrated by Leslie Tryon.
-  *Birthday Blizzard*, by Bonnie Pryor and illustrated by Molly Delaney.
-  *Bunny Cakes*, written and illustrated by Rosemary Wills.
-  *Bunny Party*, written and illustrated by Rosemary Wells.
-  *Jimmy Boa And The Big Splash Birthday Bash*, by Trinka Hakes Noble and illustrated by Steven Kellogg.
-  *Some Birthday!* written and illustrated by Patricia Polacco.

The Book:

Happy Birthday to You!

When you're a kid, what day is more fun than your BIRTHDAY! Sure, holidays like Halloween or Christmas are fun, but you have to share them with everyone else. A birthday, however, is a special celebration JUST FOR YOU! In this book, readers find out about a wonderful place called *Katoo*, where a birthday is really a special time for you. A Birthday Bird makes sure that the day is special and memorable.

Written in typical Dr. Seuss whimsical poetic style, the vividness of the descriptions as well as his stylistic drawings are sure to delight readers of all ages. It starts with a blaring blast from a *Birthday Honk-Honker* and meanders through lands filled with *Funicular Goats* and *Hippo-Heimers*. And to think, we believe that we are doing something special for someone when we buy him or her a birthday card. A birthday is a celebration of oneself – and in *Katoo*, one proclaims to the world, "*I AM I, ME, I AM I!*" The over-riding theme of Dr. Seuss's *Happy Birthday to You* is that we all have a right to be and belong. This positive message rings throughout the verses and illustrations. After re-reading this book (I enjoyed it as a child as well), I have to wonder why so many of us start to downplay our birthdays as we get older.







More Books By Dr. Seuss

Title of Book. # of pages, publication date listed in *Books in Print*, ISBN # for regular edition, grade level listed in *BIP* (if appropriate).

And to Think That I Saw It on Mulberry Street. 32 pp, 1937, 0-394-84494-7, gr. ps-3

Bartholomew & the Oobleck. ?? pp, 1949, 0-394-80075-3, gr. k-3

The Butter Battle Book. 48 pp, 1984, 0-394-86580-4, gr. 5-up

Cat in the Hat. 72 pp, 1957, 0-394-90001-4, gr. 1-2

Cat in the Hat Comes Back. 72 pp, 1958, 0-394-90002-2, gr. k-3

Cat in the Hat Songbook. 72 pp, 1993, 0-394-81695-1, gr. k-up

The Cat's Quizzer. ?? pp, 1993, 0-394-83296-5, gr. k-3

Daisy-Head Mayzie. ?? pp, 1995, 0-679-86712-0, not listed

Did I Ever Tell You How Lucky You Are? ?? pp, 1973, 0-394-82719-9, gr. ps-4

Dr. Seuss's ABC. 72 pp, 1963, 0-394-80030-3, gr. k-3

Dr. Seuss's Sleep Book. 64 pp, 1962, 0-394-80091-5, gr. 3-7

The Five Hundred Hats of Bartholomew Cubbins. 48 pp, 1938, 0-394-84484-X, gr. ps-3

Foot Book. 27 pp, 1968, 0-394-80937-8, gr. ps-1

Fox in Socks. 72 pp, 1965, 0-394-80038-9, gr. k-3

Great Day for Up! 36 pp, 1974, 0-394-92913-6, gr. ps-1

Green Eggs and Ham. 72 pp, 1960, 0-394-80016-8, gr. 1-2

Happy Birthday to You. ?? pp, 1959, 0-394-80076-1, gr. 1-5

Hop on Pop. 72 pp, 1963, 0-394-80029-X, gr. 1-2

Horton Hatches the Egg. ?? pp, 1940, 0-394-80077-X, gr. k-3

Horton Hears a Who. ?? pp, 1954, 0-394-80078-8, gr. k-3

How the Grinch Stole Christmas. ?? pp, 1957, 0-394-80079-6, gr. k-3

Hunches in Bunches. 48 pp, 1982, 0-394-95502-1, gr. 1-5

I Am Not Going to Get up Today! 48 pp, 1987, 0-394-89217-8, gr. k-3

I Can Draw It Myself: By Me, Myself with a Little Help from My Friend Dr. Seuss. 48 pp, 1970, 0-394-80097-4, gr. ps-4

I Can Lick Thirty Tigers Today & Other Stories. ?? pp, 1969, 0-394-80094-X, gr. k-3

I Can Read with My Eyes Shut! ?? pp, 1978, 0-394-93912-3, gr. 1-3

I Had Trouble in Getting to Solla Sollew. 64 pp, 1992, 0-394-80092-3, gr. 1-4

If I Ran the Circus. ?? pp, 1956, 0-394-80080-X, gr. k-3

If I Ran the Zoo. ?? pp, 1950, 0-394-80081-8, gr. k-3

King's Stills. ?? pp, 1939, 0-394-80082-6, gr. k-6

Lorax. ?? pp, 1971, 0-394-92337-5, gr. 2-3

McElligot's Pool. ?? pp, 1947, 0-394-80083-4, gr. k-3

Marvin K. Mooney, Will You Please Go Now. ?? pp, 1972, 0-394-82490-3, gr. ps-2

Mister Brown Can Moo, Can You. ?? pp, 1970, 0-394-80622-0, gr. ps-1

My Book About Me. ?? pp, 1969, 0-394-80093-1, gr. k-8

Oh, Say Can You Say? ?? pp, 1979, 0-394-84255-3, BYR), gr. 1-4

Oh, the Places You'll Go! ?? pp, 1990, 0-679-80527-3, gr. k-3

Oh! The Things You Can Think! 48 pp, 1975, 0-394-83129-2, gr. ps-1

On Beyond Zebra. ?? pp, 1955, 0-394-80084-2, gr. ps-3

One Fish, Two Fish, Red Fish, Blue Fish. 72 pp, 1960, 0-394-90084-7, gr. 1-2

Scrambled Eggs Super! ?? pp, 1953, 0-394-90085-5, gr. k-3

The Seven Lady Godivas. 80 pp, 1987, 0-394-56269-0, for parents

Shape of Me & Other Stuff. ?? pp, 1973, 0-394-82687-6, gr. ps-1

Sneetches & Other Stories. ?? pp, 1969, 0-394-90089-8, gr. k-4

There's a Wocket in My Pocket! 36 pp, 1974, 0-394-82920-4, gr. ps-1

Thidwick, the Big-Hearted Moose. ?? pp, 1948, 0-394-80086-9, gr. k-3

Yertle the Turtle & Other Stories. ?? pp, 1958, 0-394-80087-7, gr. k-3

You're Only Old Once! 48 pp, 1986, 0-394-55190-7, for parents

Source: *Books in Print*

