

Who is Dr. Seuss?

While many children and adults have enjoyed books by Dr. Seuss, very few actually know anything about Dr. Seuss himself. Dr. Seuss was born in 1904 and was given the name Theodor Seuss Geisel. He grew up in Springfield, Massachusetts and left town as a young man to attend Dartmouth College in New Hampshire. In college, he wrote for the school newspaper. Geisel created the name Dr. Seuss, a penname he would continue to write under for the rest of his life. Seuss first entered college with the idea that he would become a professor, but a classmate who saw him sketching thought he should become an artist. He soon pursued his passion for drawing. After college, he got a job working as a cartoonist for a newspaper. However, once the United States became involved in World War II, Seuss wanted to use his talent to help in the war effort. He worked for the Army making different types of war movies and animated films that were used to train soldiers. Publishers who saw his work during the war wanted Seuss to illustrate a children's book. The war experience, along with his experience as a journalist, led to his desire to write and illustrate his own children books.

Dr. Seuss had a slow and difficult start as an author. His first book almost did not get published. However, after many months of being turned down his persistence paid off. Seuss soon signed with a new publisher. This small success was enough to keep Dr. Seuss writing and illustrating. While writing, he often put on silly hats to help to reduce the stress of finishing a story. Shortly after his first work was published, Dr. Seuss wrote and published *The Cat in the Hat*, the book that made him famous. For years afterwards, Dr. Seuss continued to write and illustrate many books in his own unique style, which was very different than other authors. He won many awards for his books throughout his writing career, and many were adapted for television and movies. The name, Dr. Seuss, became very popular in children's literature. Though Theodor Seuss Geisel, also known as Dr. Seuss, passed away at the age of 87 in 1991, his books and illustrations continue to live on.

1. When did Theodor Seuss Geisel decide to become an artist?
 - A. When he was fighting in World War II.
 - B. When he was at home in Springfield.
 - C. When he was a student at Dartmouth College.
 - D. After his first book was published.

0% _____ 100%

Confident Confident

2. What does the word *unique* mean in this passage?

- A. Fun
- B. Lonely
- C. Different
- D. Identical

0% _____ 100%

Confident

Confident

3. What is the main idea of this story?

- A. Dr. Seuss' life as an author and illustrator.
- B. Dr. Seuss' passion for newspaper writing.
- C. Dr. Seuss' desire to become a professor.
- D. The movies that Dr. Seuss produced.

0% _____ 100%

Confident

Confident

4. After the war, why did publishers want Dr. Seuss to write children's books?

- A. Because they did not like his illustrations or movies.
- B. Because they did not want him to begin teaching.
- C. Because they liked his animated films and war movies.
- D. Because they wanted him to stay in the Army.

0% _____ 100%

Confident

Confident

5. Which of these events happened first?

- A. Dr. Seuss went to college.
- B. Dr. Seuss wrote *The Cat in the Hat*.
- C. World War II
- D. Dr. Seuss got a job as a cartoonist.

0% _____ 100%

Confident

Confident

On a scale between 1 and 10 with 1 being low and 10 being how well did you like this passage?

Didn't

Like It

At All

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

I Really
Liked It

Inference: Why do you think Dr. Seuss books have been so popular with children? Do you have a favorite Dr. Seuss book? What makes that book your favorite?