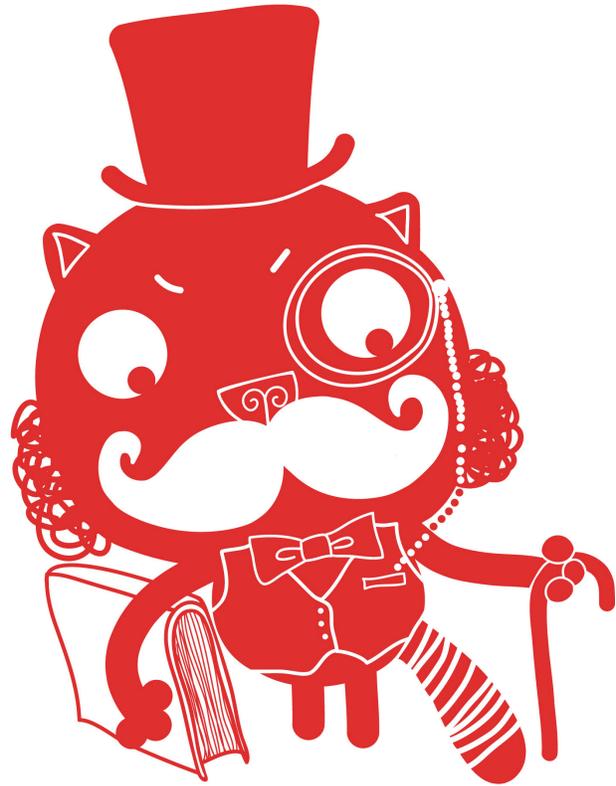


## Who is Dr. Seuss?

While many children and adults have enjoyed books by Dr. Seuss, very few actually know anything about the man himself. Dr. Seuss was born in 1904 and 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 pen name he would continue to write under for the rest of his life.



- 2 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.
- 3 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 up 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 reduce the stress of finishing a story. Shortly after his first book 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 from 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.

**Multiple Choice:**

**1. Which statement best summarizes the main idea of the passage?**

- a. Dr. Seuss had a hard time on his first book, but he kept trying until his work paid off.
- b. Dr. Seuss wasn't an author or illustrator at first, but he chose to follow his dreams and eventually was very successful.
- c. Dr. Seuss worked for the army, where he made different kinds of movies to train soldiers.
- d. Dr. Seuss is famous because he wrote *The Cat in the Hat*; it's a very good book.

**Answer Key:** Answer B is correct. This summary touches on all the key details of the passage.

**Aligned CCLS: RI.4.2**

**2. What can you infer about Dr. Seuss from the following sentence:**

*"However, after many months of being turned down, his persistence paid off."*

- a. Dr. Seuss enjoyed being turned down.
- b. Dr. Seuss didn't really want to be an author.
- c. Dr. Seuss's first book wasn't very good.
- d. Dr. Seuss was very determined.

**Answer Key:** Answer D is correct. Dr. Seuss kept trying because he was determined. He was persistently pursuing his dreams.

**Aligned CCLS: RI.4.1**

**3. What could have caused Dr. Seuss to pursue his passion for drawing?**

- a. He grew up in Springfield, Massachusetts.
- b. In college, one of his friends suggested he become an artist.
- c. Dr. Seuss had a slow and difficult start as an author.
- d. He wrote for the school newspaper while he was in college.

**Answer Key:** Answer B is correct. Although the other answers are true facts from the passage, the author suggests that his friend's insistence that he should be an artist might have played a causal role in Seuss's decision to pursue drawing.

**Aligned CCLS: RI.4.3, RI.4.5**

**Short Response:**

**1. Did Dr. Seuss always know that he wanted to illustrate his own books? Use details from the text to support your answer.**

*2 Point Response:* Dr. Seuss did not grow up thinking he wanted to illustrate his own books. When he first started college, he thought he might enjoy being a college professor. However, after a friend suggested he pursue art, Dr. Seuss seemed to change his mind. This was the first time he decided to pursue illustration as a career.

*1 Point Response:* Dr. Seuss did not grow up thinking he wanted to illustrate his own books. He decided to become an illustrator in college.

*0 Point Response:* Dr. Seuss did not grow up thinking he wanted to illustrate his own books.

**Aligned CCLS: RI.4.3**

**2. Explain how Dr. Seuss became a famous author. Was it easy for him? Use details from the text to support your answer.**

*2 Point Response:* Dr. Seuss struggled as an author at first, but he did not give up. After many months of being turned down by publishers, he kept trying until finally he got a small taste of success. This little taste was enough to push him to keep writing, and eventually he wrote the most well-known book of his career, *The Cat in the Hat*. If it wasn't for his determination, he never would have written this famous book.

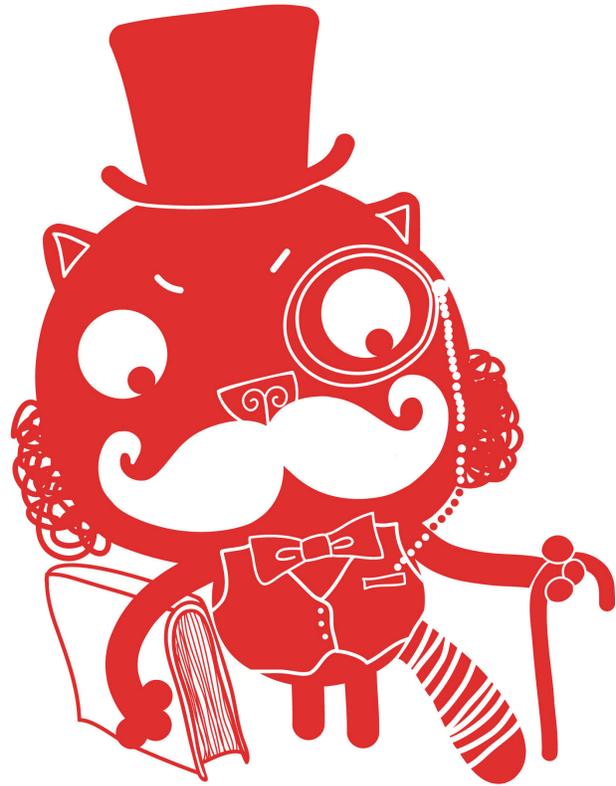
*1 Point Response:* After many months of being turned down by publishers, he kept trying until finally he got a small taste of success.

*0 Point Response:* Dr. Seuss became a famous author because he was a great artist.

**Aligned CCLS: RI.4.3**

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