

DR. SEUSS

Dr Seuss's real name was Theodor Seuss Geisel. He was born on the 2nd of March 1904 in Springfield, Massachusetts, USA.



DR. SEUSS

The first Dr Seuss book, *And to Think That I Saw It on Mulberry Street*, was published in 1937. It was rejected 27 times before it was published.



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Dr Seuss was not a doctor!
He added 'Dr' to his pen name because his father wanted him to study medicine. Later in his life, he was given several honorary doctorates.



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Geisel studied literature in Oxford, England from 1925 to 1926. He had planned to become a professor, but he realised that what he really wanted to do was draw, so he became a cartoonist.



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Until *The Cat in the Hat* became a huge success in 1957, Geisel earned his money drawing cartoons for advertisements. He worked for some of the biggest companies in America.



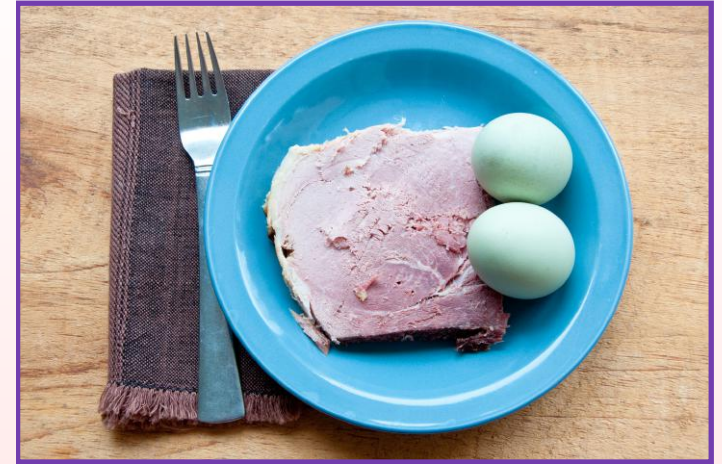
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The Cat in the Hat was written to encourage young children to read. It uses very simple words from a list that Geisel was given by his publisher.



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Green Eggs and Ham contains exactly 50 unique words. It was written after Seuss' publisher bet him \$50 he couldn't write a book using only fifty or fewer different words.



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The word "nerd" first appeared in a Dr Seuss book. You can find it in *If I Ran the Zoo*, published in 1950.



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Geisel was married twice. He married Helen Palmer, who he met in Oxford, in 1927. After her death he married Audrey Diamond in 1968.



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Theodor Seuss Geisel died on the 24th of September 1991 in La Jolla, California, USA. He was 87 years old.



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Geisel had two step-daughters, but no children of his own. When asked how come he was so good at writing for children, he is reported to have said "You have 'em, and I'll entertain 'em."



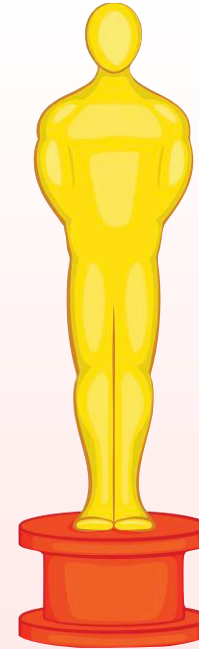
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During World War II, Geisel served in the U.S. Army. He was posted to Hollywood, where he made training films and documentaries. He worked with the famous animator, Chuck Jones, creator of Bugs Bunny.



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Geisel was awarded many honours, including a Pulitzer Prize for his work for children in 1984, two Emmy Awards and two Academy Awards (Oscars) for films.



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What Pet Should I Get? was published in 2015, after Geisel's widow found the manuscript and drawings in their house.



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Geisel said that he got his sense of rhyme from his mother, Henrietta. She used to sing rhymes to her children at bedtime.



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Geisel's father was the Superintendent of Forest Park, which had a zoo. As a boy, he sketched the animals there.



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His father, Theodor Robert Geisel, became the President of Springfield Breweries in 1919. In 1920, The National Prohibition Act banned the sale of alcohol in the USA and he lost his job.



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Geisel once said "A person's a person, no matter how small. Children want the same things we want. To laugh, to be challenged, to be entertained and delighted."



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The first Dr Seuss book, *And To Think that I Saw It on Mulberry Street*, was only published because Geisel happened to bump into an old friend who had just got a job at a children's publisher.



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The original pronunciation of "Seuss" rhymes with "voice". Geisel found that so many people pronounced it to rhyme with "goose", that he eventually pronounced it that way too.



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