

***The Cat in the Hat***  
**by Dr. Seuss**

Two children sitting at home on a rainy day are visited by the Cat in the Hat who shows them some tricks and games.

**About the Author**

Theodor Seuss Geisel, better known to the world as the beloved Dr. Seuss, was born in 1904 on Howard Street in Springfield, Massachusetts. Ted's father, Theodor Robert, and grandfather were brewmasters in the city. His mother, Henrietta Seuss Geisel, often soothed her children to sleep by "chanting" rhymes remembered from her youth. Ted credited his mother with both his ability and desire to create the rhymes for which he became so well known...Ted left Springfield as a teenager to attend Dartmouth College, where he became editor-in-chief of the *Jack-O-Lantern*, Dartmouth's humor magazine. Although his tenure as editor ended prematurely when Ted and his friends were caught throwing a drinking party, which was against the prohibition laws and school policy, he continued to contribute to the magazine, signing his work "Seuss." This is the first record of the "Seuss" pseudonym, which was both Ted's middle name and his mother's maiden name.

To please his father, who wanted him to be a college professor, Ted went on to Oxford University in England after graduation. However, his academic studies bored him, and he decided to tour Europe instead. Oxford did provide him the opportunity to meet a classmate, Helen Palmer, who not only became his first wife, but also a children's author and book editor.

While Ted was continuing to contribute to *Life*, *Vanity Fair*, *Judge* and other magazines, Viking Press offered him a contract to illustrate a collection of children's sayings called *Boners*. Although the book was not a commercial success, the illustrations received great reviews, providing Ted with his first "big break" into children's literature. Getting the first book that he both wrote and illustrated, *And to Think That I Saw It on Mulberry Street*, published, however, required a great degree of persistence - it was rejected 27 times before being published by Vanguard Press.

*The Cat in the Hat*, perhaps the defining book of Ted's career, developed as part of a unique joint venture between Houghton Mifflin (Vanguard Press) and Random House. Houghton Mifflin asked Ted to write and illustrate a children's primer using only 225 "new-reader" vocabulary words. Because he was under contract to Random House, Random House obtained the trade publication rights, and Houghton Mifflin kept the school rights. With the release of *The Cat in the Hat*, Ted became the definitive children's book author and illustrator.

After Ted's first wife died in 1967, Ted married an old friend, Audrey Stone Geisel, who not only influenced his later books, but now guards his legacy as the president of Dr. Seuss Enterprises.

At the time of his death on September 24, 1991, Ted had written and illustrated 44 children's books, including such all-time favorites as *Green Eggs and Ham*, *Oh, the Places You'll Go*, *Fox in Socks*, and *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*. His books had been translated into more than 15 languages. Over 200 million copies had found their way into homes and hearts around the world.

Besides the books, his works have provided the source for eleven children's television specials, a Broadway musical and a feature-length motion picture. Other major motion pictures are on the way.

His honors included two Academy awards, two Emmy awards, a Peabody award and the Pulitzer Prize.

From: <http://www.catinthehat.org/history.htm>  
[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dr.\\_Seuss](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dr._Seuss)

### **Activities:**

Make a Cat-in-the-Hat HAT! (includes other activities)  
[http://www.hubbardscupboard.org/dr\\_seuss.html](http://www.hubbardscupboard.org/dr_seuss.html)

### **Websites and Teacher Activities:**

Cat in the Hat Party items:

[http://www.partymerchant.com/cat\\_in\\_the\\_hat\\_party.htm](http://www.partymerchant.com/cat_in_the_hat_party.htm)

Cat in the Hat Activities:

<http://www.fastq.com/~jbpratt/education/books/seuss.html>

Cat in the Hat Free Jigsaw: <http://www.apples4theteacher.com/catnhatpuzz.html>

Have some fun with the Cat in the Hat:

<http://www.seussville.com/catinthehat/activities.html>

Seuss activities galore!: [www.Seussville.com](http://www.Seussville.com)

Learning activities from Teaching Heart.net:

<http://www.teachingheart.net/miniunitcathat.html>

NEA's Read Across America The Cat in the Hat's 50<sup>th</sup> Birthday Teacher Activity Guide: <http://www.nea.org/readacross/activityguide.html>

Cat in the Hat and Dr. Seuss Birthday Ideas:

[http://www.amazingmoms.com/htm/party\\_catinthehat.htm](http://www.amazingmoms.com/htm/party_catinthehat.htm)

### **Other Resources:**

The Annotated Cat: Under the Hats of Seuss and His Cats /Philip Nel, Random House, 2007

The Cat in the Hat Song Book /by Dr. Seuss; piano score and guitar chords by Eugene Poddany, Random House, 1967

The Seuss, the Whole Seuss and Nothing But the Seuss: A Visual Biography of Theodor Seuss Geisel /by Charles D. Cohen, Random House, 2004.

Dr. Seuss' The Cat In The Hat (Full Screen Edition) (2003)  
Starring: [Mike Myers](#), [Alec Baldwin](#) Director: [Bo Welch](#) Rating PG

Dr. Seuss - The Cat in the Hat (Original Television Episode) (1971)  
Starring: [Allan Sherman](#), [Daws Butler](#) Director: [Hawley Pratt](#) Rating **NOT RATED**

***My Brother Sam is Dead***  
**by James Lincoln Collier**

A family is divided when one son joins the Revolutionary Army while the rest of the family sympathizes with the British.

About the Author: FROM:

<http://www.randomhouse.com/author/results.pperl?authorid=5394>

**ABOUT THE AUTHOR**

Accomplished author James Lincoln Collier comes from a family filled with writers and teachers. His father wrote children's books and several of his aunts and uncles were writers. His brother is a professor and his wife is a teacher. Collier has more than 30 years of experience as a journalist. He graduated from Hamilton College in 1950 and has been a prolific writer ever since—with several books and more than 600 published articles to his credit. He is also an accomplished jazz musician who plays the trombone professionally.

James Lincoln Collier has collaborated on many historical novels with his brother, Christopher, who is a history professor specializing in early American history. The writer and historian work together to make history vivid and interesting for young readers, enabling them to relate the lessons of the past to life today.

The books the brothers write are first conceived by Christopher Collier who says he “starts with something important, something [he wants] to teach about.” Then, he does intensive research—which can take many months—to get all the historical information that is relevant to the story. He then lays out the episodes he has conceived along with other information, and sends the outline to James. Then, James says, “once I have digested the research, I sit down and write. Of course, even though I can go anywhere I want with the story, I write out of the historical background.” Ultimately, he says “my job as a writer is to make each book very exciting so the kids are going to stay with it.”

The Collier brothers have written *With Every Drop of Blood*. This powerful story takes place in the last days of the Civil War, when a Rebel boy is captured by a runaway slave who is now a Yankee soldier. The boys' natural enmity grows into an unlikely bond as they struggle to survive the last days of the war together.

**Activities:**

**Enrichment Activities from:**

Family Education Network's Teacher Channel – TeacherVision.com  
<http://www.teachervision.fen.com/reading/american-revolution/5751.html>

- 17th-Century Pastimes and Sports  
Share the [17th-Century Pastimes and Sports](#) list with your students. Assign groups to play different games and then have them summarize their experience for the class.
- Comprehension Checks  
Check your students' comprehension of the story with [Test A](#), [Test B](#), and [Test C](#). Use the [Answer Key](#) for correcting.
- Culminating Projects  
Have your students design and complete a project to conclude the unit. Use the [My Brother Sam Is Dead Projects](#).
- Fifty Stars and Thirteen Stripes  
Your students have seen the United States flag, but do they know what the colors mean? Have students complete the [Fifty Stars and Thirteen Stripes](#) worksheet to find out.
- Indian Pudding  
This colonial food was very popular; and it's tasty and very easy to make. Try this recipe for [Indian Pudding](#).
- Map Skills  
Track loyalists who were forced to flee to Canada using the [My Brother Sam Is Dead Mapping Activity](#). Check your students' work using the [Answer Key](#).
- Paper Weaving  
Have your class create paper weavings, a craft practiced by colonial women with cloth. Use our lesson entitled [Paper Weavings](#).

And check out:

Revolutionary War Hall

<http://www.virtualology.com/virtualwarmuseum.com/revolutionarywarhall/>

The site shows segments of historical documents that could serve as models for documents created by the students, which should be based in historical fact.

### **Websites and Teacher Resources:**

Sparknotes: <http://www.sparknotes.com/lit/brothersam/>

Teacher Cyberguide: <http://www.sdcoe.k12.ca.us/score/sam/samtg.html>

Webquest: <http://projects.edtech.sandi.net/ofarrell/mybrosam/>

Web English Teacher: <http://www.webenglishteacher.com/collier.html>

Discovery School.com:

<http://school.discovery.com/lessonplans/programs/therevolutionarywar/>

### **Other Resources:**

**A Guide for Using My Brother Sam is Dead in the Classroom (Paperback)**

by Patty Carratello and John Carratello, Teacher Created Resources, 2004

**My Brother Sam is Dead**/ sound recording, 1 cassette, Newbery Award Series,  
Random House, 1976