

Green Eggs and Ham
Dr. Seuss
Random House, 1960

Would you eat green eggs and ham? Don't say "No!" to Sam I Am!

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>

Activities (Adapted from the Children's site, but for teens and librarians)

Have a Green Eggs and Ham Party for the students in the Elementary Schools of your district or for the Story Hour time in your Public Library! Scramble eggs, adding green food coloring in electric frying pans and serve them, (separately from ham to respect those who don't want their ham touched by green eggs) in cups with plastic spoons. Read Dr. Seuss books (especially *Green Eggs and Ham!*) and show Dr. Seuss movies. Check out Seussville.com for more egg activities!

Visit the Elementary School Library/ies in your district or volunteer to assist at a Dr. Seuss themed Story Hour at your Public Library and read Dr. Seuss books to younger children. This would be a great community service project and you would have fun too.

Make egg carton based crafts with younger children: Create egg carton creatures. Take an old egg carton and a few other easy-to-find art supplies and you have "eggs-quisite" art! As an extra bonus, you're recycling. The links below provide ideas for transforming everyday egg cartons into "eggs-ceptional" works of art.

- [Egg Carton Ideas](#)
- [Egg Carton Crafts](#)
- [Egg Carton Faces](#)
- [Egg Carton Creatures](#)
- [Egg Carton Caterpillar](#)
- [Egg Carton Ladybug](#)
- [Egg Carton Flowers](#)
- [Egg Carton Kittens](#)
- [Egg Carton Arachnids](#)

- [Making Papier Mache from Egg Cartons](#)
- [Egg Carton Pig Nose](#)
- [Snow Fun Art: Egg Carton Penguins](#)

From: Education World http://www.education-world.com/a_lesson/04/lp337-05.shtml

This should be a fun and inexpensive project that also allows for recycling.

Set up a display of Dr. Seuss books to recognize his birthday. On his birthday, host a read aloud event in the school or public library. Invite teachers, administrators, or elected officials to join in on the fun and read to the children you work with.

Sew the iconic “Cat in the Hat” hat to wear when you run a Dr. Seuss themed event. Or sew several for give-aways at the events.

Websites:

Author site:

<http://www.catinthehat.org/index.html>

Green Eggs and Ham Activities

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

Seuss and other special eggs activities:

www.Seussville.com

<http://www.seussville.com/titles/greeneggs/events.html>

http://www.seussville.com/printables/geah_recipes.html

Teacher Resources

<http://www.glc.k12.ga.us/trc/cluster.asp?mode=browse&intPathID=7243>

<http://falcon.jmu.edu/~ramseyil/seuss.htm>

http://www.atozteacherstuff.com/Themes/Dr_Seuss/

Literature Based Lesson Plans Based on Dr. Seuss Books

<http://www.kiddyhouse.com/Teachers/Literature/DrSeuss.html>