

Create Your Own Dr. Seuss Character Contest



© Random House

Contest Rules

1. Draw your own Dr. Seuss character and write a brief description (1-5 sentences) of your character.
2. Grades K-12.
3. Participants must be residents of Pueblo County.

Winners will be honored at an awards ceremony on Wednesday, April 6 at 7 p. m. in the Ryals Room of the Rawlings Library. Winning entries will be on display at the awards ceremony.

Entries are due Friday, Feb. 26, 2016.

Entries may be dropped off at any PCCLD location or mailed to: Pueblo City-County Library District, Attn: Community Relations, 100 E. Abriendo Avenue, Pueblo, CO 81004. For more information, please call 553-0220 or email sara.schwartz@pueblolibrary.org.

Auxiliary aides and interpreter services are available, with a one-week notice, to individuals with disabilities by calling 553-0227.

Create Your Own Dr. Seuss Character Contest Entry Form

Name: _____

Grade: _____ Teacher's Name: _____

School: _____

Home Address: _____

Zip: _____ Home Phone: _____

Please include the above information on your entry.

Born on March 2, 1904, Theodor Seuss Geisel grew up in Springfield, Massachusetts. As a child, he was an avid reader and loved to draw. From high school, he attended Dartmouth College where he became editor of the college humor magazine. In that periodical appeared the first bizarre cartoon animals that eventually became his book illustrations. Geisel graduated from Dartmouth and entered Oxford University, intending to pursue a doctorate in English literature. Within a year, he changed his mind about academia. He married fellow student Helen Palmer and they returned to the United States.

Soon Geisel was selling drawings and prose pieces to magazines such as *Life* and *Vanity Fair*. His work for Standard Oil with the “Quick, Henry the Flit!” slogan made him a name as an illustrator; however, he wanted to write serious fiction and humor for adults.

His first children’s book came about by accident. He was crossing the Atlantic on a cruise ship when he became caught up in the monotonous rhythm of the ship’s engine. The result was *And to Think That I Saw it on Mulberry Street* set in his hometown. He drew the illustrations and completed the work in 1937. He met with more than 25 rejections before it was accepted by Vanguard Press. Geisel used his middle name, and his mother’s maiden name for his children’s books, saving his last name for greater, more serious writing. To that he added the “Dr.” in a flippant gesture to the doctorate he never completed. He was not long a “Dr.” by default. His alma mater Dartmouth was one of several universities which conferred honorary doctorates on him over the years. After World War II, Geisel settled in La Jolla, California, and returned to his work for children.

In 1957, Dr. Seuss took 223 words, rhymed them and turned out *The Cat in the Hat*, a little volume of absurdity that worked like a karate chop on the weary little world of Dick, Jane and Spot. (Ellen Goodman, *The Detroit Free Press*, Nov. 1966.) This was his first book specifically aimed at beginning readers. The author said he was motivated to write the book after reading a *Life* magazine article called “*Why Johnny Can’t Read.*” The article suggested that beginning primers were dull.

His books for young readers have sold more than one hundred million copies and have been translated into almost every language. He was the recipient of a special Pulitzer Prize in 1984 for his “special contribution over nearly half a century to the education and enjoyment of America’s children and their parents.” According to *Publisher’s Weekly*, three of the ten all-time best selling Children’s Classics are Dr. Seuss books. (#7 *Green Eggs, and Ham*, 1957, #8 *Cat in the Hat*, 1960, and #10 *One Fish, Two Fish, Red Fish, Blue Fish*, 1960.)

