

2016–2017 Season

CATCO ^{IS}
KIDS!

PLAYGUIDE

A SEUSSIFIED CHRISTMAS CAROL

by Peter Blodel

produced in association with Columbus Recreation and Parks

December 2–11, 2016

Columbus Performing Arts Center, 549 Franklin Ave.



The Story

In this glorious tale of holiday cheer, playwright Peter Bloedel reinvents Dickens' most beloved Christmas story as if Dr. Seuss had his way with the story. The Scrooge is a bona fide all-people-hater who comes to realize the error of his greed after being visited by Jake Marley, his old business partner, and three Christmas spirits who show him Christmases from his past, present, and future. The Scrooge is transformed into a kind and giving person who shows us how to count our blessings during the holidays!



About the Author: Charles Dickens



Charles Dickens was born in England in 1812 and is thought of as one of the great European writers. Although he had a hard childhood, he grew up to become a successful writer of many well-known books, including *Oliver Twist* and *A Christmas Carol*. Because of his novels, Dickens became famous and toured the United States of America as a lecturer. Dickens even performed a one-person version of *A Christmas Carol* on this tour. Dickens had much success during his tours. While he enjoyed being a celebrity at first, Dickens became tired of not having much privacy. He returned to England and continued his writing career.

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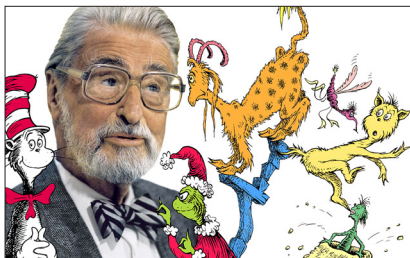
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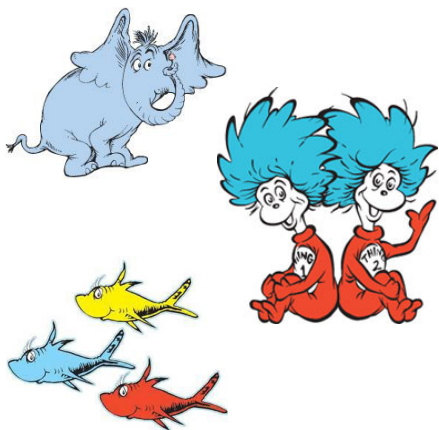
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About the Author: Dr. Seuss

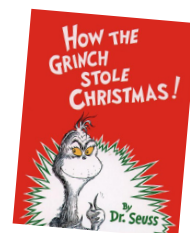
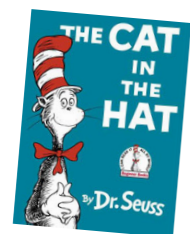
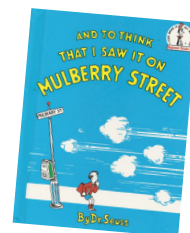


Theodor Seuss Geisel, or Dr. Seuss as he has become well-known, was born in 1904. When he was 18 years old, Dr. Seuss went to college. After graduating, he decided to pursue cartooning full-time and worked for magazines as a cartoonist in magazines and for advertisements. Dr. Seuss's career in children's literature started when he wrote the book *And to Think That I Saw it on Mulberry Street*, but the book wasn't published right away (see the fun facts section for more about that story). Dr. Seuss would eventually write and illustrate over 44 beloved books such as *Green Eggs and Ham*, *The Cat in the Hat*, and *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*. His books have been translated into more than 15 languages and have sold over 200 million copies around the world.

Fun Facts About Dr. Seuss



- Dr. Seuss wrote under seven different names!
- Dr. Seuss was not actually a doctor.
- Dr. Seuss wrote *Green Eggs and Ham* on a dare because his publisher said that he couldn't write a book using only 50 words.
- His first children's book, *And to Think That I Saw it on Mulberry Street*, was rejected 27 times before it was published.
- Before he wrote children's books, Dr. Seuss worked as a cartoonist for advertisements.
- Dr. Seuss invented the word 'nerd.'



How Seuss Said It!

Take a look at these fun quotations by Dr. Seuss. Do you recognize any of them?



"You have brains in your head. You have feet in your shoes. You can steer yourself any direction you choose. You're on your own. And you know what you know. And YOU are the one who'll decide where to go..."

"Why fit in when you were born to stand out?"

"Don't cry because it's over, smile because it happened."

"So, open your voice, lad! For every voice counts!"

"Today you are you. That is truer than true. There is no one alive who is youer than you!"

"A person's a person no matter how small."

"Today was good. Today was fun. Tomorrow is another one!"



BEFORE THE SHOW



Curriculum Connections



You can use this Playguide and your visit to CATCO is Kids to help your students meet the curriculum standards required in schools by the Ohio Department of Education and the Common Core State Standards Initiative. Look throughout our Playguide for the icon

Curriculum
Connection

and you will find academic standards that correspond with the different activities listed.

Drama/Theatre: Grade 2
Cognitive and Creative
Learning Processes:
Creating ICE

Curriculum
Connection



1. With a parent or guardian, take a trip to the local library. Find a book in the juvenile section that tells the story of *A Christmas Carol* and read it with a family member. Who are the characters in the story? Where does the story take place? Can you list all of the events that happen in the story? What do you think the story is trying to say? Use the answers to these questions to create your own play based on *A Christmas Carol*. Do you think your play will be similar to or different than this play?



Describe the characters, setting, central ideas and plot in stories or dramatic and theatrical works.



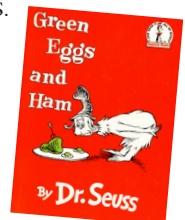
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Curriculum
Connection



2. With a parent or guardian, visit the local library and find a book by Dr. Seuss, and read it with a family member. With guidance and support, create a list of the characters in the story, where it takes place, and what happens in the story. Using the list that you created, act out who the characters are, where the story takes place, and your favorite part of the story. Perform your ideas for family and friends.

Describe characters, settings, and major events in a story, using key details.



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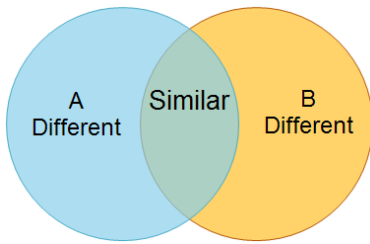
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3. Go to the library with a parent or guardian and check out *Green Eggs and Ham* by Dr. Seuss from the juvenile section. Read the book with a family member. With guidance and support, make a list of words that rhyme from the book, words that sound the same as other words. Can you think of words that rhyme but are not from the book? Hold onto your list for a later activity in this playguide!

Recognize and produce rhyming words.

AFTER THE SHOW



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Curriculum
Connection



1. After watching the CATCO is Kids production of *A Seussified Christmas Carol*, go to the library with your parent or guardian and find a copy of *How the Grinch Stole Christmas* by Dr. Seuss in the juvenile section. Read the book with a family member. After reading it, create a Venn diagram that shows the similarities and differences between *A Seussified Christmas Carol* at CATCO is Kids and *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*. How were the stories different? How were they the same? Share your thoughts with a family member or friend.

Compare and contrast two or more versions of the same story (e.g., Cinderella stories) by different authors or from different cultures.

Drama/Theatre:
Grade 1, Cognitive
and Creative
Processes:
Producing and
Performing 3PR



Curriculum
Connection



2. After seeing the CATCO is Kids performance, create your own original *A Seussified Christmas Carol* play. Can you make the characters' words rhyme? Use what you remember from the play as a guide when you create the movements and voices for all the characters in the story. Practice your play, and think about the characters' feelings at the beginning of the story and how their feelings change towards the end. Perform your play for family and friends!

Demonstrate various movements, voices, and feelings by performing a variety of familiar roles.

Drama/Theatre: Grade K,
Cognitive and Creative Processes:
Producing and
Performing 5PR

Curriculum
Connection



3. After seeing *A Seussified Christmas Carol*, go to the library with a parent or guardian and check out *Green Eggs and Ham* by Dr. Seuss from the juvenile section. Read the book with a family member. Make a list of your favorite words that rhyme. You can use the same list from the activity above. Using your voice and movement, act out the words you chose. What do those words mean? Can you think of words than mean the opposite of those words?

Engage in drama and theatre experiences to explore concepts from other academic areas.



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THINGS TO THINK ABOUT AND DO



Rhyme Time

Cat	Go	Fun	Eye	See

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AND THE GREATEST FUTURE WE CAN IMAGINE

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A Seussified Paper Plate

In *A Seussified Christmas Carol*, Scrooge is kind of like the Grinch. His heart even grows three sizes at the end! Follow the instructions below to make your own grinchy holiday decoration! Be sure to work with an adult or guardian.

Materials needed:

- a paper plate
- lime green paint
- a paint brush
- scissors
- a black marker
- red (full sheet), yellow, black, green, and white construction paper
- a glue stick
- a ruler

Directions:

1. Paint your paper plate with the lime green paint. Let it dry completely.
2. After your paper plate is dry, cut a piece off of each side that is shaped like a curvy triangle. See the picture!
3. To make the Santa hat, cut a large triangle out of your red construction paper. The hat should have a 7 inch base. Also, cut a 7 inch strip out of your white construction paper (base of the hat) and a small circle (ball at the end).
4. Fold your Santa hat about half way and crease it so the top section falls to the side of the hat (see picture.) Add some glue under the fold so the paper stays lying flat. Then, glue on the white circle and strip of white paper to finish your hat!
5. Glue the Santa hat to the top of your dry paper plate.
6. Cut the face pieces you need out of your construction paper: oval eyes out of yellow, circle pupil from red, eyelashes out of black (or you can draw them on with marker), and a green nose. Glue the eyes, eyelashes, and nose onto your Grinch face as shown.
7. Finish your Grinch by using your black marker to draw on eyebrows and a mouth. Congrats on your seussified paper plate!

Link to instructions:

<http://iheartcraftythings.com/paper-plate-grinch-craft.html>

