

2022 Classroom Activity Guide

A Love of Reading Starts with Dr. Seuss™

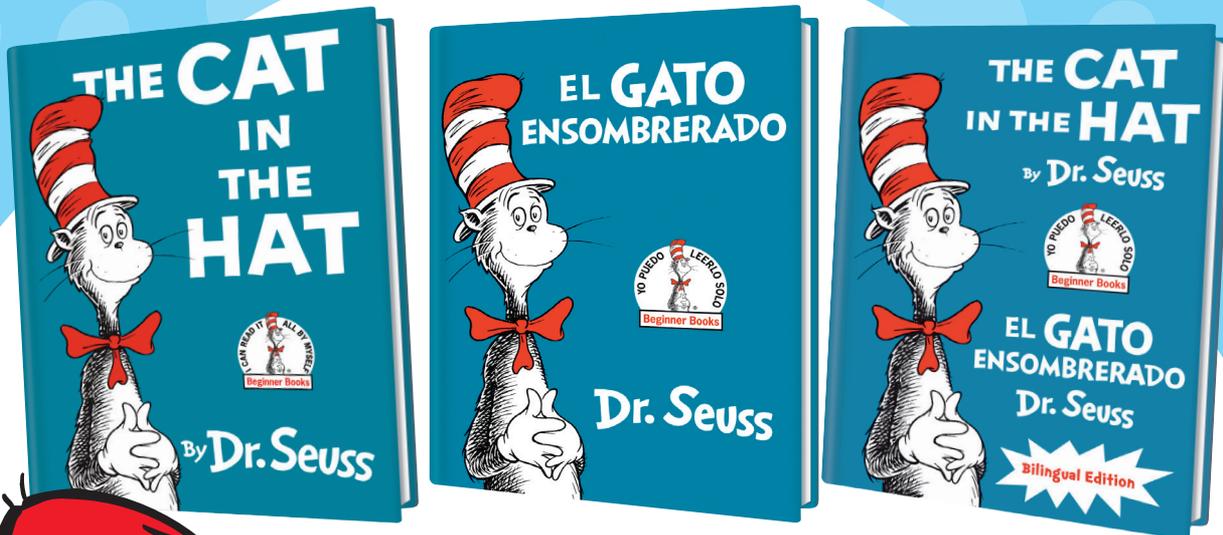
It's that time of year when we celebrate reading and the contributions that Dr. Seuss books have made in teaching, inspiring, delighting, and motivating young readers for generations. This year, we encourage you to celebrate with your students by reading and sharing the books that have helped millions of kids become lifelong readers!

In this Hats Off to Reading Celebration Guide, you'll find activities that will spark kids' desire to read and write, provide experiences that will build background knowledge, and encourage kids to ask questions, use their imaginations, and celebrate reading. Plus, you'll find additional book recommendations that will keep kids reading, learning, and having fun! These activity ideas are designed for students in grades K to 4, roughly ages five to nine. They were created to be adaptable to various ages and interests. Students can complete them individually, in groups, or as a class; activities can be adjusted for virtual learning.



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Write your own

The Cat in the Hat uses only 236 words. Can your students write a story with a limited number of words? Can they make it rhyme? Can they make it funny?

Shift perspective

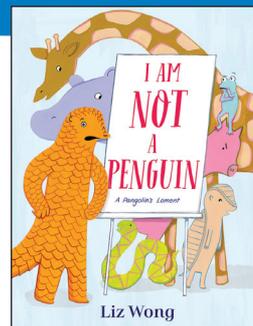
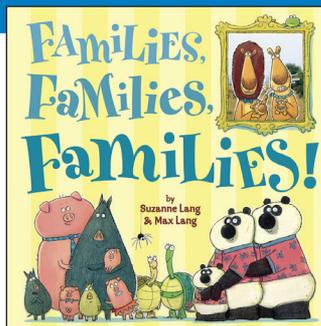
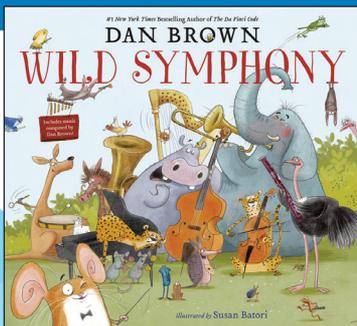
Invite students to retell the story from a different point of view. How would the fish or Thing One and Thing Two tell the story? What about Mother? Does she really not know about the Cat's visit?

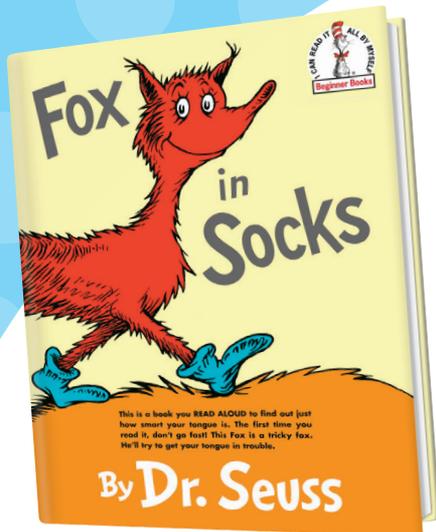
Charades!

When the Cat in the Hat is around, there's no chance to just sit, sit, sit, sit. The Cat in the Hat wants to play! How about a game of charades? Have kids play in small groups and guess characters and animals from Dr. Seuss's books.



Need more animal inspiration for charades? Check these out!





Search for tongue twisters

Fox in Socks is all about tongue twisters. Invite your students to research other tongue twisters and share them with the group. Go a step further and look for alliteration, assonance, and sibilance in songs and poems.

Have a tongue twister challenge

Choose some tongue twisters, starting with easy ones and getting more challenging. Remind students that making mistakes isn't failing. Tongue twisters are supposed to be hard and are a great way to practice public speaking. Set up a spelling bee-type competition. Allow students to practice the tongue twisters and then have them take turns reciting them. If you make a mistake, you're out. If you have to break a tie, see who can say the tongue twister correctly the fastest.

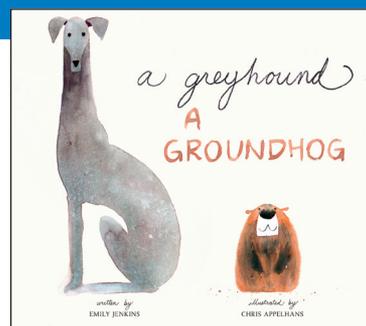
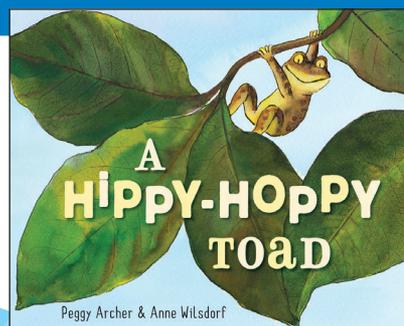
Make your own!

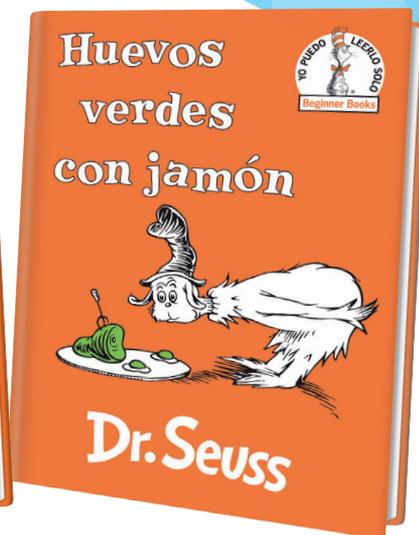
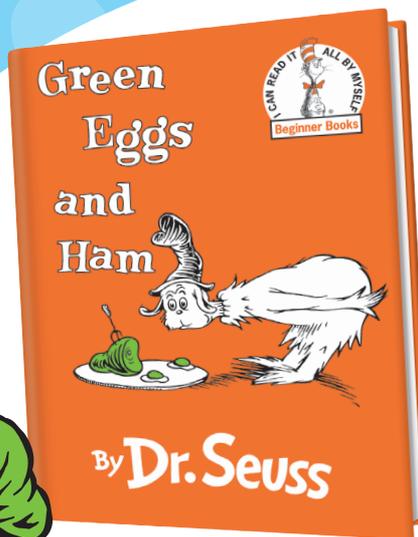
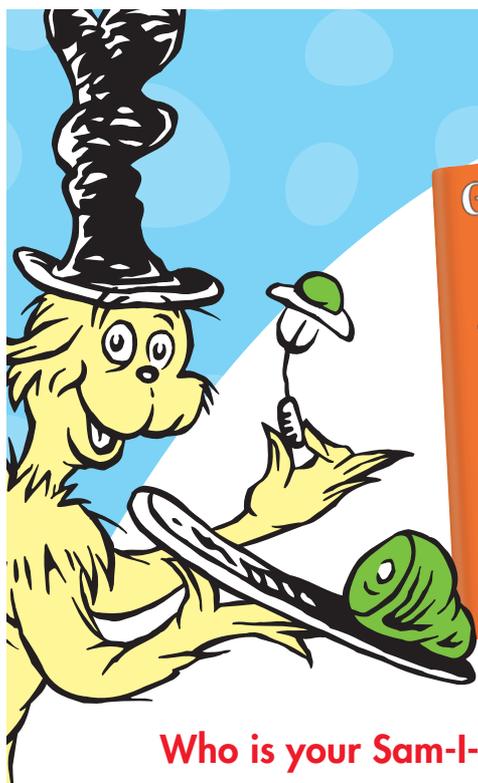
Have students work together in teams of four to write tongue twisters of their own. Offer a simple formula for them to follow, and have each student on the team contribute a name (whom the tongue twister is about), an activity (what the person/creature is doing), a place (where the activity is happening), and a noun and its description (what is being used for the activity). Bring everyone back together to read the tongue twisters aloud.

Rhyming poetry

Make a new version of Magnetic Poetry on your bulletin board. Write fifty words on index cards, Post-its, or paper. Attach them to your bulletin board where students can reach them. Demonstrate for your students how you choose some of the words to make a rhyming sentence. Encourage them to make their own sentences and rhymes with the words provided. If you like, provide blank pieces of your chosen "magnets" for students to add their own rhyming words to the mix.

Books for even more practice with tongue twisters!





Who is your Sam-I-am?

Ask your students, “Why do you try new things? Curiosity? The recommendation of a trusted friend or family member? Somebody bugging you, like Sam-I-am?” Ask kids to brainstorm ways they can encourage each other to try new things.

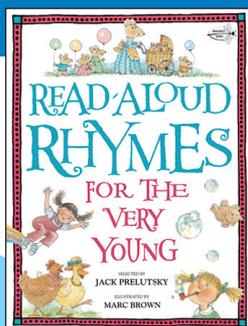
An eggcellent rhyming adventure!

For younger students, hide green plastic eggs throughout your classroom or library. Each egg should have a word written on it or written on a paper inside it that rhymes with a word on another egg. Each student has to find two eggs that rhyme—an egg that says “boat” and an egg that says “goat,” for example—so make sure to hide two eggs for every student.

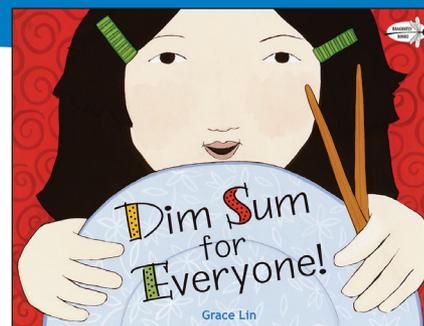
For older students, the challenge is more eggstraordinary! Place paper eggs with words written on them on walls throughout the school. Encourage students to locate the eggs and find an object that rhymes with the word written on each paper egg. If available, students can make use of tablets to take photos of rhyming objects, or they can collect their rhyming items.

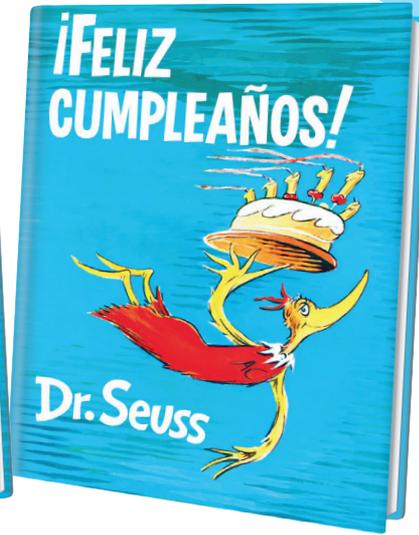
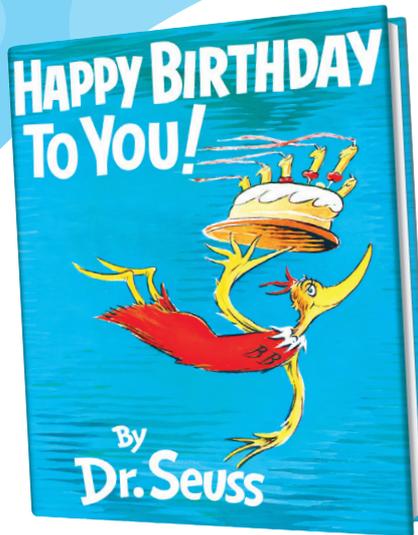
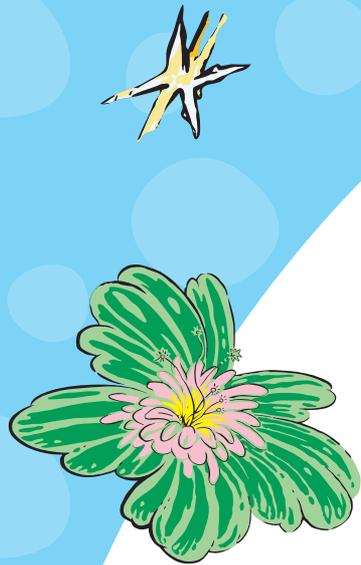


For more rhyming fun, share *Read-Aloud Rhymes for the Very Young!*



Who doesn't love books about food?





Celebrations

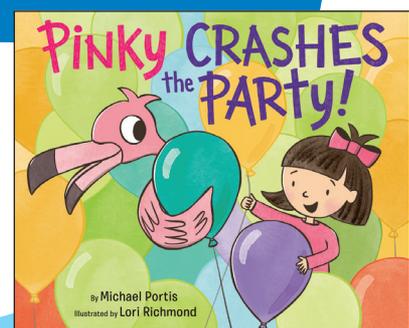
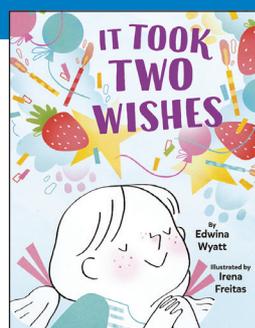
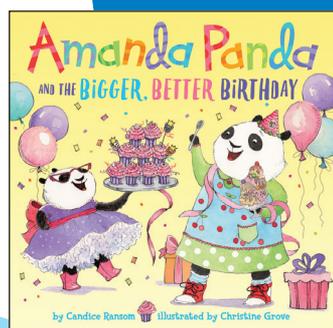
In *Dr. Seuss's Happy Birthday to You!*, the Katroo Happy Birthday Asso-see-eye-ation is responsible for the fabulous birthday celebrations that take place in Katroo. Read this title aloud to students, and talk about the things they do to celebrate birthdays in their families. How are the activities similar or different from the book?

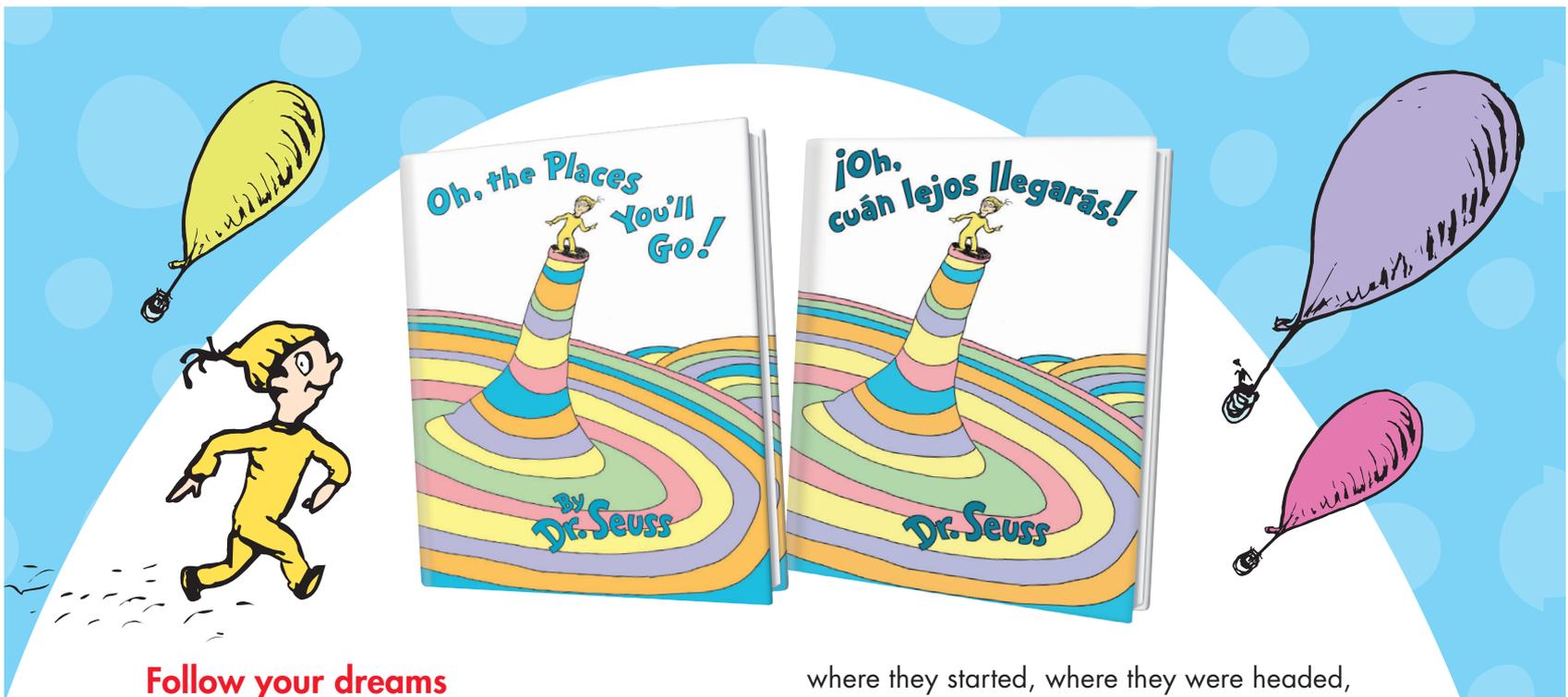
Birthday games

Sometimes people play games or do other activities at birthday parties. Pin the tail on the donkey and musical chairs are common birthday games. At some parties, people whack a piñata until the candy falls out. Ask your students to come up with games that might be played at a Dr. Seuss birthday party. What kind of scavenger hunt or relay race would he have? Create games and materials for them. Play the games at your Dr. Seuss celebration. Students can make their own Dr. Seuss character piñatas and use them to decorate at the party.



Discover more birthday celebration books!





Follow your dreams

New beginnings mean new opportunities. Ask your students what they'd like to do over the summer, next year, or as grown-ups. What dreams or goals do they have? What does success look like to them? What personality traits do they have that will help them succeed? Have your students create a vision board with their goals, dreams, and affirmations of their abilities and personality traits.

Plan for wrong turns

Take time to talk with your students about the disappointments, bumps, lurches, slumps, setbacks, and loneliness encountered in the story. Have they ever experienced anything similar? How did it feel? Were they surprised? Discouraged? Frustrated? Did they give up or press on? Have them draw a map of that experience, showing

where they started, where they were headed, and obstacles they encountered.

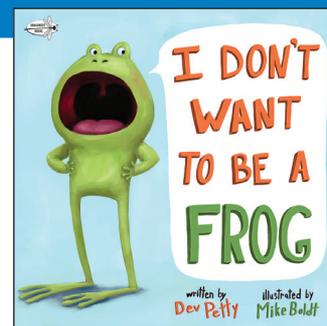
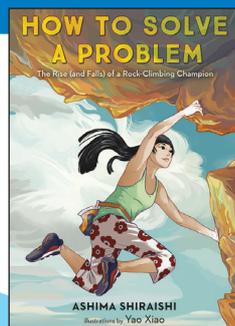
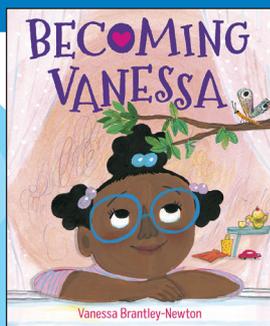
Getting back on track

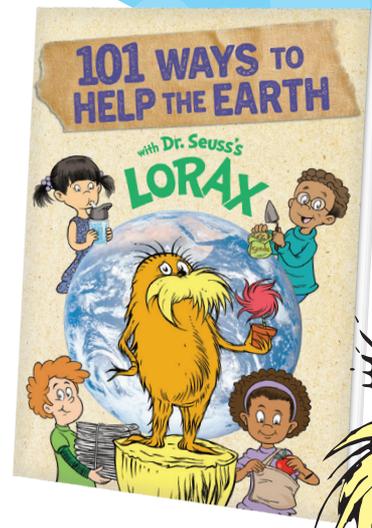
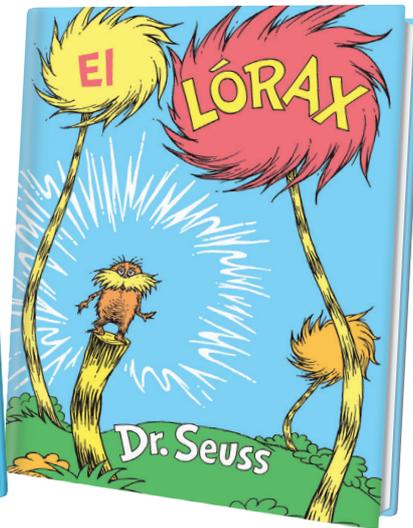
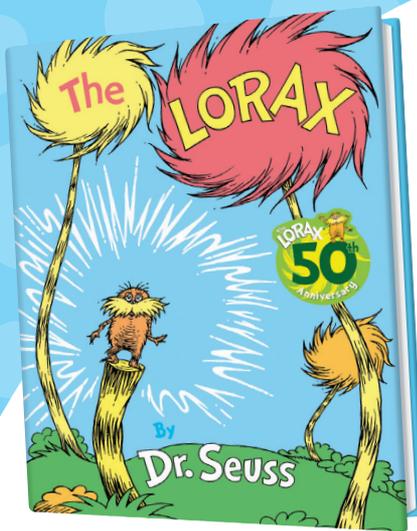
What challenges do your students expect to meet as they pursue their dreams? Have them brainstorm potential setbacks and coping strategies to tackle them. Who can they turn to for help? What personality traits might be beneficial? Explore the idea of resilience with your students, and practice skills like positive self-talk, mindfulness, and reframing difficult situations.

Remember that life's a great balancing act

Explore that idea with your students. What does it mean? How can it help them reach their goals? Invite them to share the meaning of Life's Great Balancing Act in any medium they like.

Share books about journeys we go on to continue growing and learning!





Start with the story

As teachers, you know that reading can be fun *and* inspirational. Share *The Lorax* with your students. Take time to talk about how the story progresses and the unintended consequences of people's (or the Once-ler's) actions. Have your students stage a reading or performance of *The Lorax* with Swomee swans, brown Bar-ba-loots, Humming-Fish, Thneed consumers, and of course, a Once-ler and a Lorax. Challenge students to make costumes and scenery out of recycled materials.

Interpret *unless*

The Lorax leaves the word *unless* carved in stone. Ask students what they think his message is. What is he asking the Once-ler and all of us to do? Have students brainstorm what they'd like to do to prevent environmental devastation like that caused by the Thneed factory. Invite students to stand up

and share their ideas about sustainability and environmentalism.

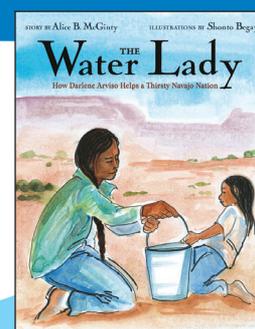
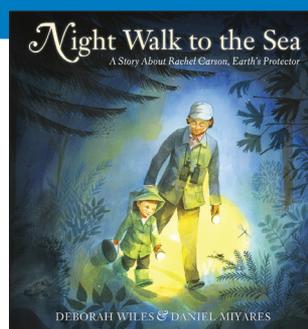
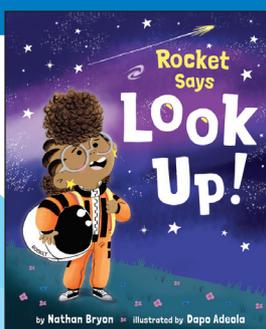
Make an impact

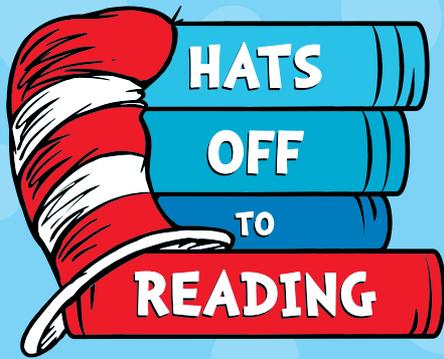
Point out the impact symbols in *101 Ways to Help the Earth*. Ask students to form impact teams focused on the environmental activity they like best. Have them look through the book for their symbol and compile a list of the Lorax's suggestions. Students should make a poster or a slideshow with their symbol's green activities and brainstorm more to add.

Be a community scientist

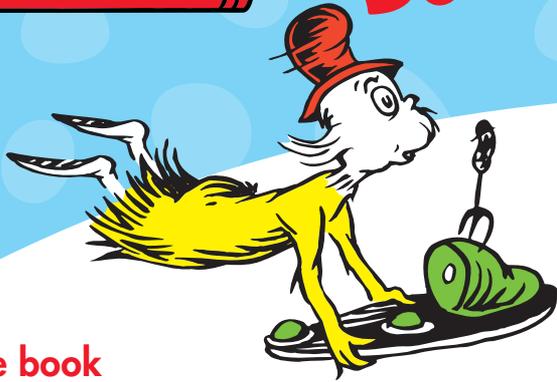
Beyond your birthday and reading celebrations, encourage your students to research environmental issues important to them and to search for any citizen science projects related to that issue. Look for projects they can participate in or follow.

Celebrate the environment all year long! Encourage students to read these books about the environment and take action to help protect our Earth.





Celebrate Reading with All Dr. Seuss's Books and Characters!

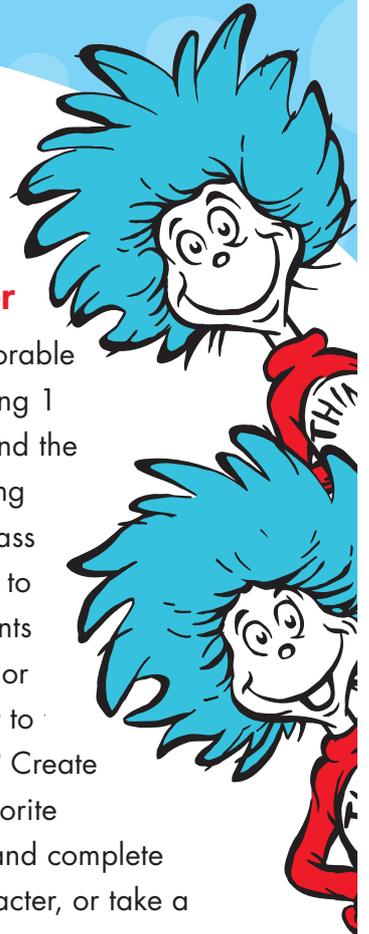


Favorite book

Have students share their favorite books! What was the first book they read? What is their favorite book, and why? What is their favorite Dr. Seuss book? With whom do they love to read? What books are they excited to read this year? Encourage students to share with the class.

Favorite Dr. Seuss character

Dr. Seuss created dozens of memorable characters: the Cat in the Hat, Thing 1 and Thing 2, Sam-I-am, Horton, and the Lorax, to name a few. After reading several Dr. Seuss books to your class or making them available for kids to read on their own, ask your students to identify their favorite character or characters. Who would they want to invite to their own birthday party? Create a Dr. Seuss Wall of Fame with favorite characters. Have the kids create and complete a survey about their favorite character, or take a vote and tally who the favorite characters are. Ask kids to create a display and chart the results. Have a favorite character costume party. Provide materials for students to make costumes and have a parade at your party!



Guide activities prepared in part by Eileen Hanning, children's literacy consultant; Rachael Worthington Walker, children's literacy consultant; and Random House Children's Books.



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