

CURVE

A CURVE &
ROSE
THEATRE
KINGSTON
PRODUCTION

IN ASSOCIATION WITH THE
NATIONAL CENTRE
FOR CIRCUS ARTS



By **Dr. Seuss**

EDUCATION PACK

Hello there
young reader

My name is Dr Seuss. I can tell that by reading this, you are looking for something to do.

Are you bored? Looking for some fun?

I'd like to share with you one of my greatest creations...

THE CAT IN THE HAT



I'm going to show you how you too can create a terrific story with words and drawings just like me. Do you know the ingredients for a great Dr Seuss story?

Dr Seuss' The Great Eight Story ingredients checklist

(tick these off as you go along)

- 1 A Hall of Fame Pen Name
- 2 A challenging bet
- 3 Some characters who are looking for fun
- 4 A list of words you'd like to use
- 5 A creature you can make human
- 6 Pencil and paper
- 7 Some tricks up your sleeve
- 8 Patience and imagination

As you learn about each ingredient you can put your ideas into your very own story recipe:

Step 1



(Story recipe PDF)

Print (you may need some help from an adult)

Step 2

Write or draw your ideas and see your story come to life.

Step 3

The wonderful thing about creating stories is that they can be brought to life, and my friends in your theatre will show you how they have made **The Cat in the Hat** step out of my book and into your neighbourhood.

I wonder if he will call around to your house?

We better get started before he does. One more thing, Whenever you see a  click on it to discover more. **There are some people I'd like you to meet first. Why don't you click on the Hat to meet them?**

Ready?



Ingredient 1

A Hall of Fame Pen Name

My real name is **Theodor Seuss Geisel**. My dad always wanted me to be a doctor but I always wanted to be a creator. I really liked my middle name so I decided to combine this title with my favourite name and call myself **Dr Seuss**.

I would recommend that you find your 'pen name' too. Here's how you do it:

Pick a title

People have titles to help us understand what job they might do, or to show respect to adults such as teachers or neighbours.

If you could pick your title what would it be? Here are some examples:

Mr. Mrs. Madam Master President Duke Duchess Lord
Lady Doctor Professor Sir Dame Judge Captain Chief

My title is:

Pick a word with one syllable

Words are like jigsaws. They can be made up of different pieces that make the word. These pieces are called **syllables**. All words have syllables. A word might have one, two, or even more syllables. For example:

Red is one sound and so it has **one syllable**.

Hello has two sounds **hel-lo** and so it has **two syllables**.

Knowing how many sounds a word has will help us later on with rhythm and rhyme.

Your one syllable name can be a word you really like, your favourite name, colour, animal, material, object, game, sound, weather, food, clothes, action or anything. As long as it has one syllable.

Here are some examples:

John Jump Ant Bike Web Shoe Claw Dog June Pearl Scott Zoom Mars
Ice Storm Ink Sky Wolf Tree Fox Egg Buzz Nose Eggs Ham Hop

My favourite One syllable word is:

My Hall of Fame Pen Name is:

My Pen Name also helped me to stay mysterious as I am quite shy. I don't really like to talk about myself. I leave that to other people. **Suba Das**, The director of **The Cat in the Hat** can tell you more about me. How many cats does he say I had?



If you'd like to find out more about my life, take a look at this documentary.



Lots of things in my life influenced the stories that I wrote. In fact, the reason why I wrote **The Cat in the Hat** was because I wanted to win a bet.

Ingredient 2

A challenging bet

I wrote **The Cat in the Hat** to help young readers like you to learn to read by using words and drawings to tell the story. Before my books, the stories in schools were pretty boring. They all said that I couldn't write a story with only 200 different words.

But I did it! (with 236 words to be exact).

And later on I won another bet to write **Green Eggs and Ham** using only 50 different words (The 50 words, by the way, are: a, am, and, anywhere, are, be, boat, box, car, could, dark, do, eat, eggs, fox, goat, good, green, ham, here, house, I, if, in, let, like, may, me, mouse, not, on, or, rain, Sam, say, see, so, thank, that, the, them, there, they, train, tree, try, will, with, would, you).

I enjoy a challenge. And I love words.

Do you think you could win a bet?

If I asked you to write your own story, using only 50 different words, that rhyme? With drawings? Could you do it?

The bet is on!

The prize is a secret that can only be revealed once you have completed the task. Now this is going to be exciting.

You have your **Pen Name** and your bet is set. Before you begin let me remind you of my story **The Cat in the Hat** to help you think of some ideas. I wrote down what happens but that naughty cat has jumbled it all up. Can you help me to put it back in order?

Put your answers onto the story recipe sheet

Thing One and Thing Two fly their kites in the house and everything is turned upside down.
But the Cat plays a game called UP-UP-UP with a fish and balances the fish bowl on his umbrella.
The fish falls into a pot and tells the cat to go away.
Sally and I are bored in the house on a rainy day.
But the Cat won't go and plays FUN-IN-A-BOX instead.
Mother returns home.
Then The Cat in the Hat appears with a bump and says he has some tricks to share.
But the Cat returns to help and picks everything up.
The fish says that the Cat shouldn't be here and should go away.
We have to clean up a lot of mess.
Mother returns and asks if we had any fun. But I wasn't sure how to answer that one!
The cat stands on a ball and holds a book, and even balances a cup and a cake on his hat. He holds up a little toy ship, and some milk on a dish and hops up and down.
Out of the box comes Thing One and Thing Two and they shake hands with Sally and I.
Sally and I catch the Things with a net and tell the Cat to leave.
The trick gets bigger and better until the Cat falls on his head!

Sally and Boy can tell us if we got this right



Ingredient 3

Some characters who are looking for fun



What did you find out about the characters? Remember you can write your ideas in the story recipe sheet.

The Boy is

Sally wants

The Cat likes

The Fish is worried about

The Things enjoy

In the live performance of the play there will be music and songs. This music will be created by composer **Tasha Taylor Johnson** (Pen name **Captain Tune Maker**). She can do all sorts of clever things with music.

Listen to this:



What do you think it is?

Exactly! Rain! What else can you make with music?

Captain Tune Maker has made the music to sound like the character's personalities. Who do you think this could be?



How would you describe this music?
Which character do you think it is?



How would you describe this music?
Which character do you think it is?
Let's ask **Captain Tune Maker** if we guessed the characters?



Think about two characters that you would like to write about in your story and if they were a type of music what would they be from the list below? How can you make them different from one another like **The Cat** and **The Fish**?



Hip hop

Reggae



Funk

Classical



Rock

Bossa Nova



Character 1 - Name:

Type of music:

Character 2 - Name:

Type of Music:

Ingredient 4

A list of words you'd like to use

Rhyming words are two or more words that have the same or similar ending sound. Some examples of rhyming words are: goat, boat, moat, float, coat.

When you are figuring out if two words rhyme, use your ears to listen as you say the words. If they sound the same or similar, they rhyme. For example: car & bar rhyme; house & mouse rhyme. If the two words sound different, they do not rhyme. For example: car & man do not rhyme; house & grass do not rhyme.

Match up the words that rhyme on the story recipe:



Excellent. I think you are ready to find your own words. Let's make a start!

A good game to play is Keep the Rhyme

You can play it by yourself or with a friend.

All you need to do is think of a word to start with and take it in turns to find another to keep the rhyme going.

Can you help Sally and Boy with their game?

Round One

Cat Rhyming Game



Round Two

Book Rhyming Game



Round Three

Dog Rhyming Game



Which word did you get the most rhyming words for?

Blank white box for writing the answer to the question above.

Complete the list of creatures that you could use in your story, remember that they need to rhyme.

I've given you some in examples to start you off:

Cat in the Hat
Fox in Socks

in a Fog
 on the Road
Pig in a
Snake on a



Now make a list of 5 words that you would like to use in your story and find their rhyming partner.

A grid of 10 yellow boxes for writing words and their rhyming partners.

Ingredient 5

A creature that you can make human

My stories often have animals or objects that seem more human. This is called **Anthropomorphism**.

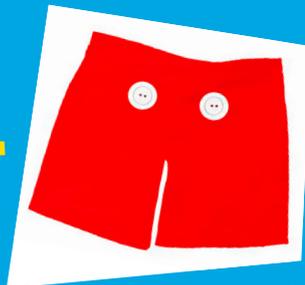
This is when you make something which is not a human, more human-like in a story or art.

This can mean making the thing shaped more like a human. It can mean giving it human, feelings, goals, or the ability to talk.

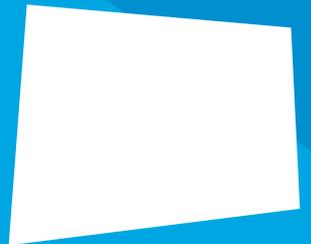
Can you think of any characters in stories that you know who have been made more human-like?

Name the following well known characters from the clues given

1



2

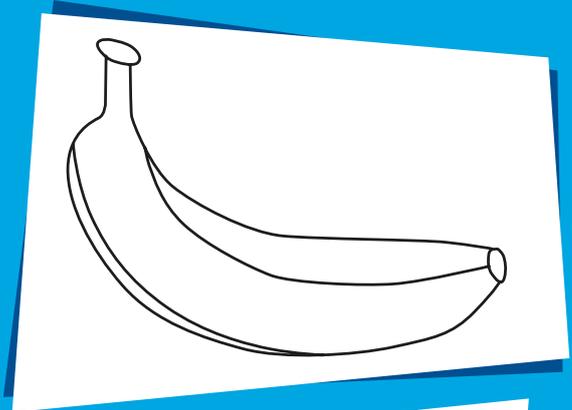
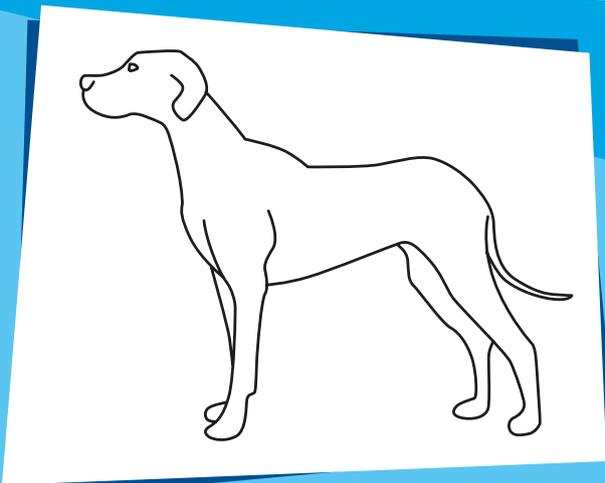


How can you create your own anthropomorphic characters?

What would you add to the following animals or objects to make them more human?

You can draw them on your story recipe.

Think about their feelings, clothing, position, whether they can talk.



Ingredient 6

Pencil and paper

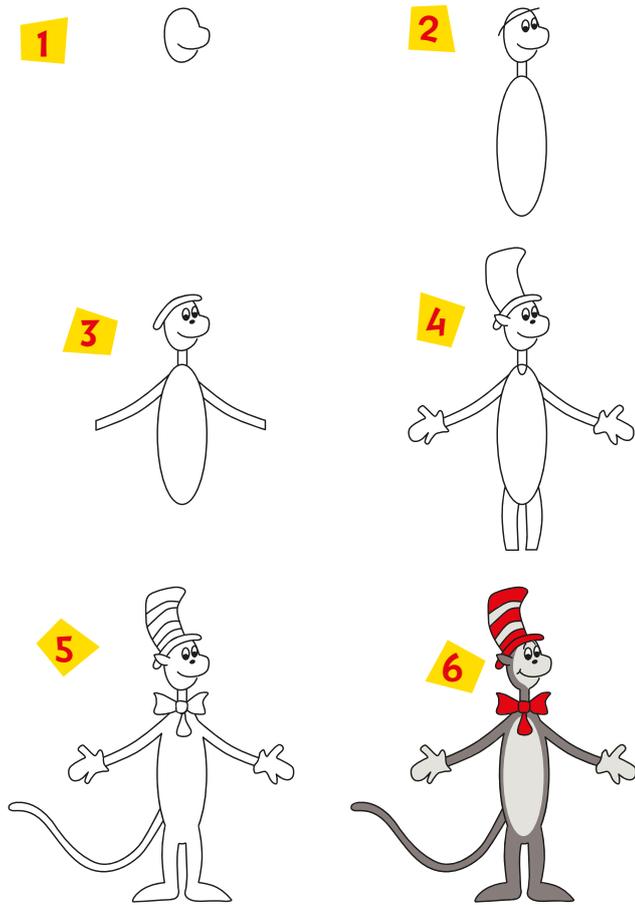
If you are going to win the bet you will need to learn how to draw your characters.

Follow my step by step guide to see if you can draw some of the characters from **The Cat in the Hat**.

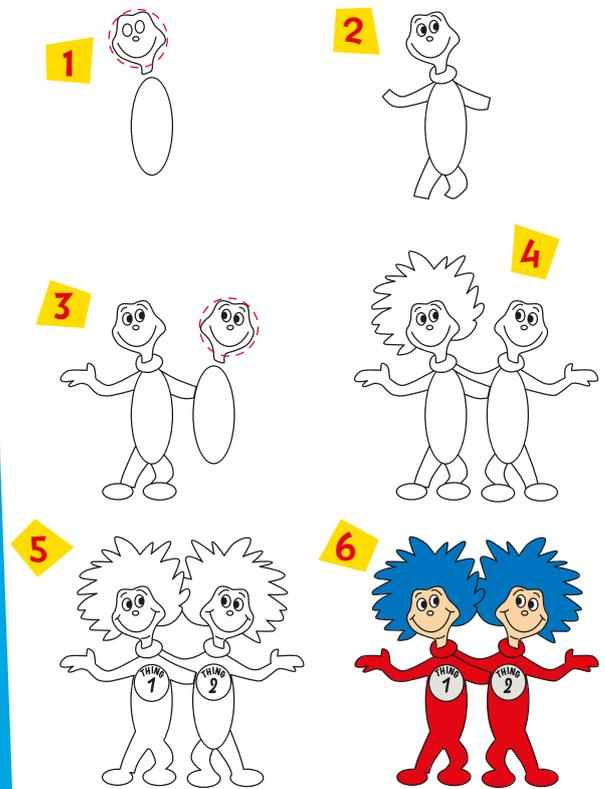
My stories are made up of words and drawings. This is a photo of me creating one of my favourite characters:



Here is The Cat:



And here is how you do Thing 1 and Thing 2:



What animal, or object would you like to create in your story? How would you make it more human?

Follow my six steps to draw your own creature:

Remember to start with the face and everything else will follow, why don't you take your pencil and paper and try to draw your creature? Do it in six easy steps in your story recipe sheet:

In your theatre, the designer **Isla Shaw** has been making her own drawings to help to make the words and drawings that I've written jump out of the book and onto the stage.

Here are some of her ideas for making my story into a theatre play:

Head Body Arms Legs Human Features Colour



Ingredient 7

Some tricks up your sleeve

You are almost there with your story, you have a hall of fame name, some characters who are looking for fun, some rhyming words, a creature you can make human and some brilliant drawings to get make your story come alive.

Now all you need are some tricks to keep your story a surprise. Tricks are things that we can't believe are possible to do. It is something that we do to entertain and amuse others.

Take a look at this trick

Bending a spoon



To bring the story to life the actors in *The Cat in the Hat* have been learning some tricks with an expert **Jack Horner**.

Let's see what tricks he has been working on:

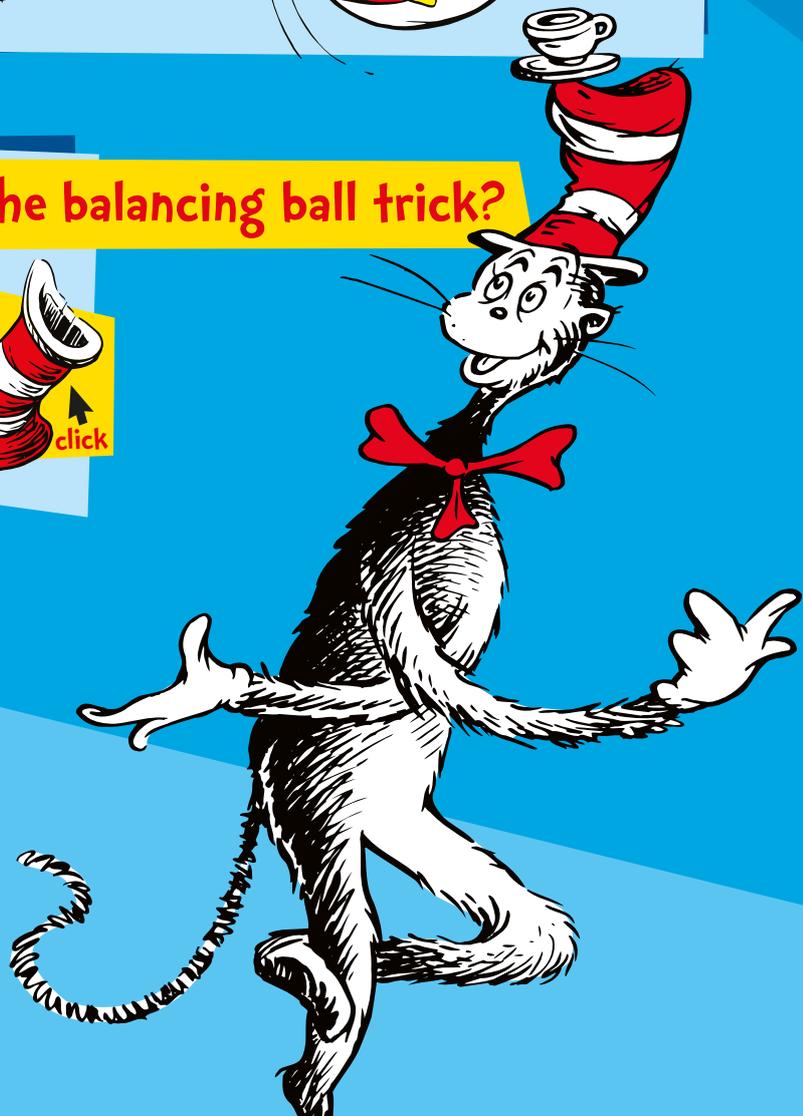
Jack & tricks



Shall we see Nana practise the balancing ball trick?

What tricks would you like to include in your story?

Put them into your story recipe to use in your creation.



Ingredient 8

Patience and imagination

If you have followed my ingredient list you will have the makings of a wonderful story. Congratulations!



Don't worry if you are only at the beginning of this journey, with patience and imagination you can create anything.

And remember

“The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go.”

I think that by now you have won our bet, and the prize?

A story you can share and bring to life for others!

Click here to print out your Dr Seuss Story Certificate.

