

Study Guide prepared by  
Catherine Bush  
Barter Playwright-in-Residence

## ***Dr. Seuss's The Cat in the Hat***

Based on the book by Dr. Seuss

Adapted by Katie Mitchell

\*Especially for Grades K-6



**By the Barter Players, Gilliam Stage at Barter Theatre, Spring 2019**

**(NOTE: standards listed below are for reading *The Cat in the Hat*, seeing a performance of the play and completing the study guide.)**

### **Virginia SOLs**

**English** – K.1, K.5, K.8, K.9, 1.1, 1.2, 1.4, 1.5, 1.8, 1.9, 2.1, 2.3, 2.5, 2.6, 2.7, 2.8, 2.12, 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4, 3.5, 3.9, 3.11, 3.12, 4.1, 4.2, 4.4, 4.5, 4.7, 4.9, 5.1, 5.2, 5.4, 5.5, 5.7, 5.9, 6.2, 6.4, 6.5, 6.7, 6.9

**Theatre Arts** – 6.5, 6.18, 6.25

### **Tennessee/North Carolina Common Core State Standards**

**English/Language Arts - Reading Literacy:** K.1, K.3, K.5, K.7, 1.1, 1.3, 1.6, 1.7, 2.3, 2.4, 2.5, 3.1, 3.4, 3.5, 4.1, 4.3, 4.4, 4.5, 4.6, 5.3, 5.4, 5.6, 6.4, 6.6, 6.7

**English Language Arts – Writing:** K.1, K.3, 1.1, 1.3, 1.8, 2.1, 2.3, 2.8, 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.7, 4.1, 4.2, 4.3, 4.7, 5.1, 5.2, 5.3, 5.7, 5.9, 6.1, 6.2, 6.3, 6.7, 6.9.

### **Tennessee Fine Arts Curriculum Standards**

**Theatre** – K.T.R1.A, 1.T.R1.A, 2.T.R1.A, 3.T.R1.A, 4.T.R1.A, 5.T.R1.A, K.T.R2.A, 1.T.R2.A, 2.T.R2.A, 3.T.R2.A, 4.T.R2.A, 5.T.R2.A, 6.T.Cr2.B, 6.T.R1.A, 6.T.R2.C

### **North Carolina Essential Standards**

**Theatre Arts** – K.A.1, K.CU.2, 1.A.1, 1.CU.2, 2.A.1, 3.A.1, 3.CU.1, 3.CU.2, 4.A.1, 5.A.1, 5.CU.1, 6.A.1, 6.CU.2

## **Setting**

A living room on a cold, rainy day...



## Characters

**Boy** – a boy

**Sally** – the boy’s sister

**Cat** – the Cat in a Hat

**Fish** – a goldfish in a bowl

**Thing 1** – a thing

**Thing 2** – another thing

**Mother** – the children’s mother



### Note: Cast Size and Doubling of Actors

In this production of *The Cat in the Hat* we will be using only six actors, with some actors playing more than one role. Doubling of actors requires distinction between characters. In this production, characters will be distinguished by costume, voice and other physical character traits.

### Synopsis

A boy and his sister Sally are stuck at home with nothing to do one rainy afternoon. Suddenly there is a knock on the door announcing the arrival of that most magnificent mischief-maker of all, the Cat in a Hat. Soon the boy and his sister Sally find themselves watching all sorts of tricks including “Up-Up-Up with a Fish,” “On the Ball,” and “Fun in a Box.” On the way we meet an overprotective goldfish and the amazing Thing 1 and Thing 2. The children are entertained – but what will Mother say when she comes home and sees the mess? Only a smart cat can save the day!

### Biography of author Theodor Geisel a.k.a. “Dr. Seuss”

Theodor Seuss Geisel was born March 2, 1904 in Springfield, Massachusetts. He attended Dartmouth College, where he became editor-in-chief of the *Jack-O-Lantern*. The pieces he contributed to this magazine were signed “Seuss” – his mother’s maiden name. After Dartmouth he went on to Oxford University, where he met Helen Palmer, who became his first wife.

After returning to the United States, Geisel pursued a career as a cartoonist, publishing pieces in *The Saturday Evening Post*, *Life*, and *Vanity Fair*. After breaking into children’s literature with his illustrations for a collection of children’s sayings, Geisel both wrote and illustrated *And to Think That I Saw It on Mulberry Street* which was published in 1937... after twenty-seven attempts! He followed that success with a series of children’s classics, including: *Horton Hears a Who* (1954), *The Cat in the Hat* (1957), *How the Grinch Stole Christmas* (1957), *Green Eggs and Ham* (1960), *One Fish, Two Fish, Red Fish, Blue Fish* (1960), *Hop on Pop* (1963), and *Fox in Socks* (1965).



At the time of his death on September 24, 1991, Geisel had written and illustrated 44 children’s books. His honors included the Pulitzer Prize, the Academy Award, three Emmy Awards, three Grammy Awards, and three Caldecott Awards.

# WORD SEARCH

Find the following words below: school, Dr. Seuss, Sally, tricks, The Cat in the Hat, umbrella, Mother, fish, rake, ball, cup, Theodor Geisel, pot, Fun in a Box, hook, Thing One, cake, gown, kites, toy ship, Have No Fear, red fan, bumps, thumps, playthings,

T	V	P	L	T	R	F	K	O	R	U	T	S	L	U
D	A	L	I	E	H	I	U	A	O	H	V	K	E	M
P	A	H	H	H	T	U	E	N	I	B	C	C	S	B
B	H	T	E	E	S	F	M	N	I	O	V	I	I	R
L	O	S	S	H	O	Y	G	P	Y	N	S	R	E	E
M	H	T	I	N	T	O	O	K	S	E	A	T	G	L
G	F	C	E	F	N	N	K	T	F	K	L	B	R	L
R	Q	V	C	E	J	S	I	N	U	A	L	L	O	A
D	A	R	E	D	F	A	N	T	H	R	Y	G	D	X
H	S	S	U	E	S	R	D	T	A	E	H	O	O	K
P	L	A	Y	T	H	I	N	G	S	C	I	W	E	U
S	P	M	U	B	C	T	O	P	U	D	E	N	H	R
D	Q	X	P	Y	T	A	D	P	G	C	F	H	T	O
D	M	F	F	N	P	N	K	P	L	M	A	Y	T	B
E	P	N	W	L	A	Q	M	E	Q	M	P	U	Q	D

# True and False

Write T if the statement is True and F if the statement is False.

1. \_\_\_\_ The story opens on a sunny day.
2. \_\_\_\_ The children have a pet fish.
3. \_\_\_\_ The fish wants the Cat in the Hat to stay.
4. \_\_\_\_ The Cat in the Hat loves games and tricks.
5. \_\_\_\_ The Cat in the Hat can balance on a ball.
6. \_\_\_\_ The big red wood box contains Clown One and Clown Two.
7. \_\_\_\_ The boy's sister is named Sally.
8. \_\_\_\_ Thing One and Thing Two fly paper airplanes down the hall.
9. \_\_\_\_ The tail of the kite was Mother's gown.
10. \_\_\_\_ The Cat in the Hat has a Cleaning Up Machine.

# Rhyme Time

Draw a line to connect the rhyming words below:

JUMP

KICKS

TRICKS

FALL

FISH

THUMP

FOX

CAKE

BALL

BOX

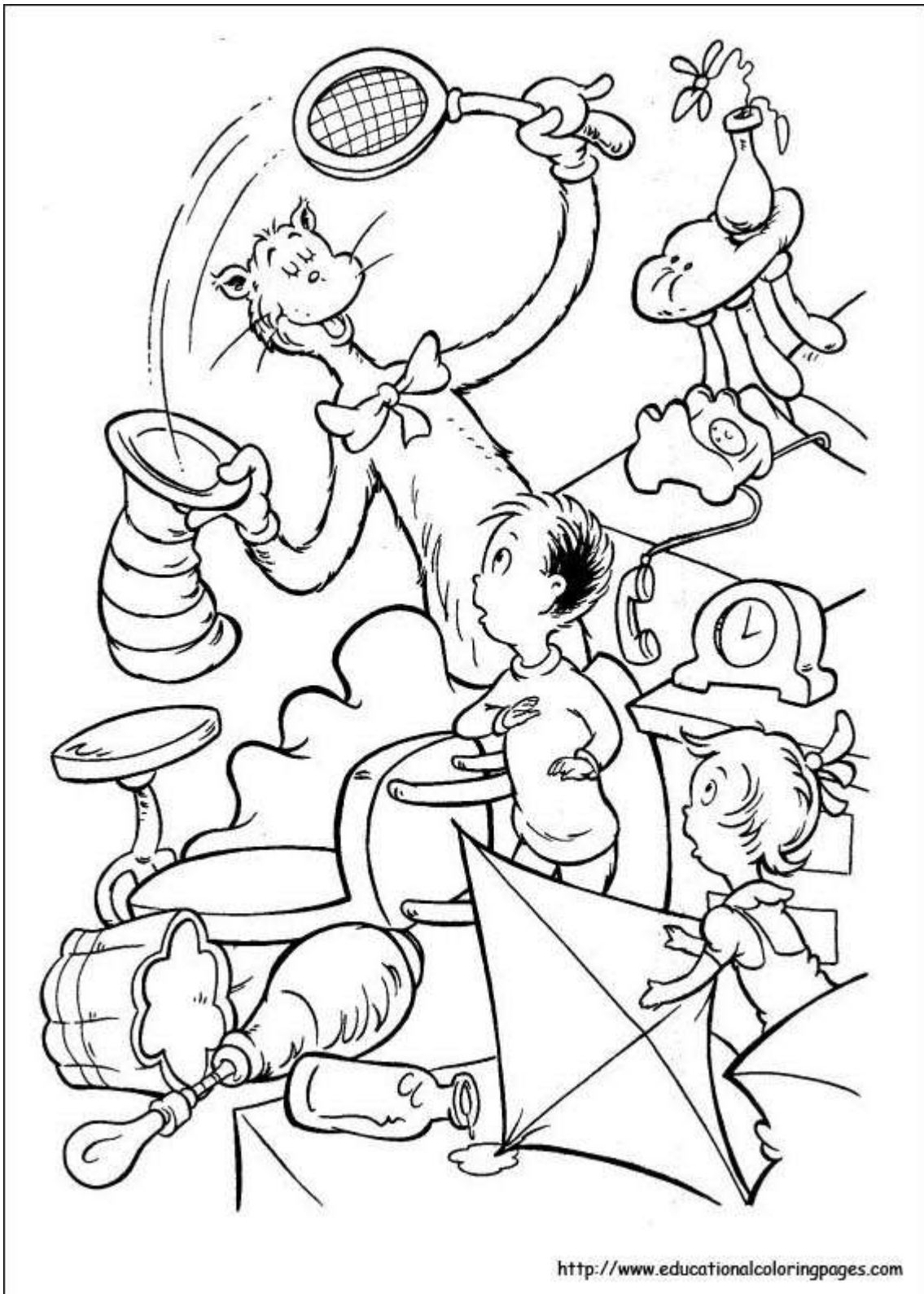
LOOK

HOOK

RAKE

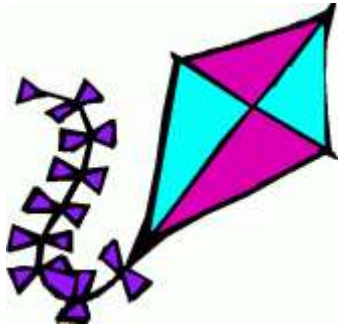
WISH

Color the picture below.



## Let's Go Fly a Kite!

Thing One and Thing Two like to fly kites down the hall.



Making and flying diamond kites can be a fun class project. Check out the link below to discover how to make one.

<http://www.my-best-kite.com/how-to-build-a-diamond-kite-s.html>

**Then make your own and see whose can fly the highest, etc. For added fun, invite other classes to participate!**

## Write It!

Write a letter to the actors from this production. Tell them what you liked about the play, their performance, etc. Mail your letters to:

The Barter Players  
c/o Barter Theatre  
P.O. Box 867  
Abingdon, VA 24212-0867  
ATTN: The Cat in the Hat



## Go Fish!

The Children have a pet Fish whose existence is threatened by the tricks and games the Cat in the Hat loves so much. **To understand the proper way to care for a pet goldfish, check out the link below.**

<http://goldfish2care4.com/goldfish-care.html>

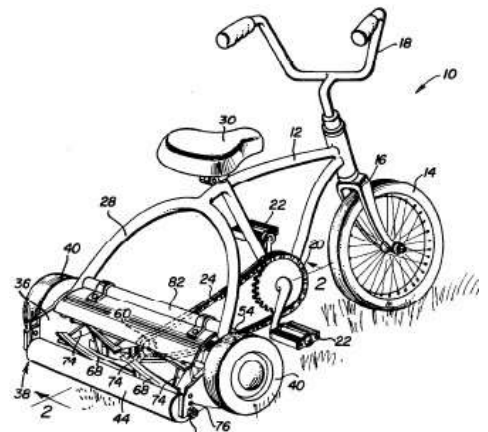


# Discussion Questions

1) The children in this story find themselves sitting at home on a rainy, wet day with nothing to do. **Make a list of activities** that could keep you occupied and out of trouble on such an occasion. Assume that electronics such as t.v., video games, computers, etc. are not available. **Compare your list** with those of your classmates. How many of those activities do you do on a day-to-day basis? **Discuss.**

2) Where do you think the Cat in the Hat came from? What made him decide to visit the Children's house? **Discuss.**

3) The Cat in the Hat eventually enters with a Cleaning Up Machine that takes care of the mess he made. **If you could invent a machine to take care of the one chore you hate the most, what would it be? Draw a picture of what it would look like. Explain how your machine works to your class.**



4) At the end of the story, the Children must decide whether or not to tell their Mother what happened when she was gone. What do you think they will do? What do you think they *should* do? **Discuss.**

5) Dr. Seuss uses simple rhymes and repeated phrases to tell his stories. Pick another famous children's story - for example, *Goldilocks and the Three Bears* or *Jack and the Beanstalk*, and **use rhymes to retell the story. Read your story to the class.** Is it easier to tell a story in rhyme? **Discuss.**

6) Using another Dr. Seuss story like "Green Eggs and Ham" and "Fox in Socks," **write your own play.** Cast the roles with your classmates and **present it to your class!**

7) **Write a paper comparing and contrasting** the book *The Cat in the Hat* with the Barter Players' production. What did you like about it? What would you have done differently?

8) *The Cat in the Hat* has been in print since 1957. **Using the internet, research one of the following topics related to this story:**

Theodore Geisel

<https://www.britannica.com/biography/Dr-Seuss>

Cats in literature

<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smart-news/cats-literature-its-long-tail-180970891/>

Rhymes and childhood literacy

<https://theimaginationtree.com/the-importance-of-rhyme-in-early-literacy-development/>

**Using visual aids, make an oral presentation to your class.**

## **Suggested Further Reading:**

### **Other Books by Dr. Seuss**

*Hop on Pop*

*How the Grinch Stole Christmas*

*Green Eggs and Ham*

*Horton Hears a Who*

*Fox in Socks*