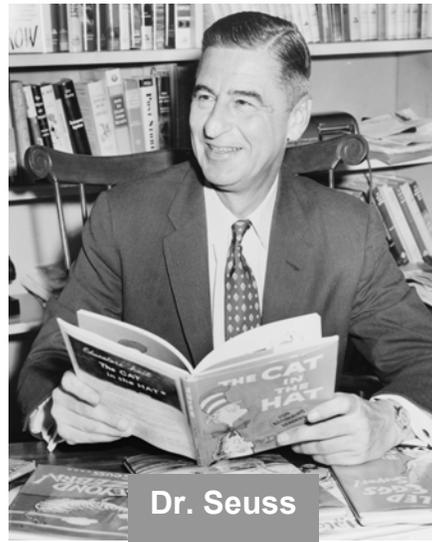


## The Life of Theodor Seuss Geisel by Sally Roper

- (1) Most of you have read the children’s books *The Cat in the Hat* or *Green Eggs and Ham* or *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*. And most of you have heard of the name Dr. Seuss, the author of those books and many others. But was he really a doctor? Actually, no, his real name was Theodor Seuss Geisel. Although he wasn’t a real doctor, he did help millions of children learn to read.
- (2) Theo Geisel was born in Springfield, Massachusetts in 1904. Theo’s father was in charge of a park near their house. Inside the park was a zoo and a library was right beside the park. Theo spent most of his childhood either playing in the zoo or reading books in the library.
- (3) After finishing college, Theo began drawing cartoons for different magazines. At first, his cartoons were hilarious and they were signed “Dr. Seuss.” However right before and during World War II, his cartoons turned political. He drew cartoons that made the enemies of the United States look mean and unkind. They were “dark” drawings for a dark time. He wanted the people in the United States to look at his cartoons and support the war. In 1943, Dr. Seuss actually joined the U.S. Army. His role was to write and make movies to promote peace throughout the world.
- (4) In 1954, Dr. Seuss wanted to start writing children’s books. In 1954, *Life* magazine published a report that claimed American schoolchildren were no longer reading. The report stated that children felt that most children’s books were boring. This report upset Dr. Seuss. He loved reading as a child and felt that this was a shame. He began writing books that would attract children. He pulled from his childhood imagination of running through his father’s zoo. He drew odd, but elaborate pictures. He made up strange characters and told stories through sentences that rhyme. He wanted to make reading fun again.
- (5) Well, it worked. In 1957, the classic book *The Cat in the Hat* was published. It was a huge success, and it still remains the best children’s book of all time. Before his death in 1991, Dr. Seuss wrote and illustrated 48 books for children in an effort to get more children to read!







## **SC READY Writer's Checklist**

### **PLAN before you write**

- Make sure you read the question carefully.
- Make sure you have read the entire passage carefully.
- Think about how the question relates to the passage.
- Organize your ideas on scratch paper. Use a thought map, outline, or other graphic organizer to plan your essay.

### **FOCUS while you write**

- Analyze the information from the passage as you write your essay.
- Make sure you use evidence from the passage to support your response.
- Use precise language, a variety of sentence types, and transitions in your essay.
- Organize your paper with an introduction, body, and conclusion.

### **PROOFREAD after you write**

- I wrote my final essay in the response box.
- I stayed focused on answering the question.
- I used evidence from the passage to support my response.
- I corrected errors in capitalization, spelling, sentence formation, punctuation, and word choice.