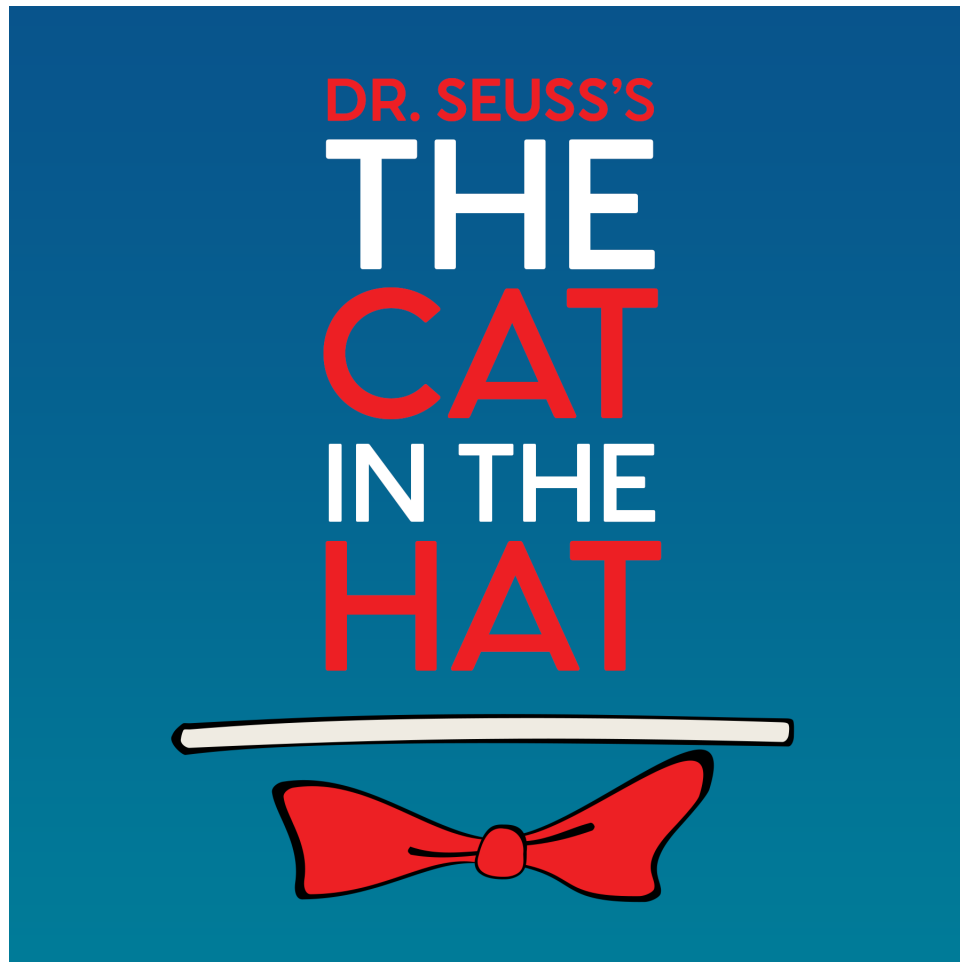


PLAY GUIDE



Dr. Seuss's The Cat in the Hat

Based on the book by Dr. Seuss

Adapted and originally directed by Katie Mitchell

Presented on the LCT Main Stage: February 23 - March 10, 2020

And at Regional Venues: March 11-19, 2020



418 W. Short Street
Lexington, KY 40507
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Major Contributors:



Dear Educator –

Lexington Children's Theatre is proud to be producing our 81st season of plays for young people and their families. As an organization that values the arts and education, we have created this Play Guide for teachers to utilize in conjunction with seeing a play at LCT.

Our Play Guides are designed to be a valuable tool in two ways: helping you prepare your students for the enriching performance given by LCT's performers, as well as serving as an educational tool for extending the production experience back into your classroom.

We designed each activity to assist in achieving the Kentucky Academic Standards (KAS), including the National Core Arts Standards for Theatre. Teachers have important voices at LCT, and we rely heavily on your input. If you have comments or suggestions about our Play Guides, show selections, or any of our programming, your thoughts are greatly appreciated. Please email Jeremy Kisling, our Associate Artistic Director in Charge of Education, at jkisling@lctonstage.org.

Please use the Teacher Response form following a performance. We are thrilled that you rely on LCT to provide your students a quality theatrical experience, and we hope this resource helps you in your classroom.

-LCT's Education Department

The mission of our education programming



The mission of Lexington Children's Theatre's Education Department is to **provide students of all ages with the means to actively explore the beauty, diversity, complexity, and challenges of the world around them through the dramatic process.** We strive for young people to develop their own creative voice, their imagination, and their understanding of drama and its role in society.

Your role in the play

You may wish to have a discussion with your class about your upcoming LCT experience and their role as audience members. Remind your students that theatre can only exist with an audience. Your students' energy and response directly affects the actors onstage. The quality of the performance depends as much on the audience as it does on each of the theatre professionals behind the scenes and on stage.

Young audiences should know that watching live theatre is not like watching more familiar forms of entertainment; they cannot pause or rewind us like a DVD, there are no commercials for bathroom breaks, nor can they turn up the volume to hear us if someone else is talking. Your students are encouraged to listen and watch the play intently, so that they may laugh and cheer for their favorite characters when it is appropriate.

At the end of the play, applause is an opportunity for your students to thank the actors, while the actors are thanking you for the role you played as an audience.



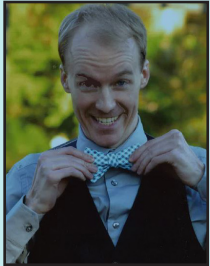
Meet the Cast - *Dr. Seuss's The Cat in the Hat*



CLAIRE HILTON (*Sally*) is thrilled to return to Lexington Children's Theatre this spring for her role of Sally in *The Cat in the Hat*, and to choreograph and perform in *Ella Enchanted*. Audiences may remember her as *Rapunzel* in last year's touring company. This past fall, Claire had the pleasure of originating a role in *The Invisible Boy* at Children's Theatre of Charlotte. When not hopping from gig to gig onstage, Claire teaches high school drama in North Carolina, and is a freelance choreographer at regional theatres. She would like to thank the entire LCT family for giving her a home away from home, for letting her flex her acting muscles in the world of Dr. Seuss, and for letting her shout "5,6,7,8!"



CAITLYN JOYCE (*Kitten 2/Thing 2*) is thrilled to back at LCT for her second year! She was most recently seen at LCT as Young Eva in *And Then They Came for Me: Remembering the World of Anne Frank*. Some of her favorite productions include *Much Ado About Nothing* (Hero), *Annie Get Your Gun* (Annie Oakley), and *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe* (Lucy). She is incredibly thankful for her training at East Carolina University where she received her BFA in Musical Theatre. Go Pirates! Much love to her parents, Sandy and Bill, for their unwavering support and love. Woo!



A.J. MORRISON (*Fish*) discovered a passion for performing for young audiences nearly a decade ago as he began his professional career at the Children's Theatre of Indianapolis where he appeared in dozens of roles totaling over 2500 performances across a three-year period. He has since performed with many regional theatres in roles such as Grasshopper (*James and the Giant Peach*), Lyle (*Lyle, Lyle Crocodile*), Templeton (*Charlotte's Web*), The Magic Mirror (*Snow White*), White Rabbit (*Alice in Wonderland*), Sharktooth (*How I Became a Pirate*), Romeo (*Romeo & Juliet*), Puck (*A Midsummer Night's Dream*), and Bob Cratchit (*A Christmas Carol*). Last summer A.J. had the pleasure of touring the Midwest teaching and performing alongside students as a resident teaching artist with Chicago-based Compass Creative Dramatics and now serves as their Education Director.



CALEB PLESS (*Cat*) Caleb is excited to be back with the LCT family! Caleb's first LCT production was *Diary of a Worm, a Spider, and a Fly*. Caleb is from Nashville, TN and received his BFA in Musical Theatre from Western Kentucky University. Professional credits include: *Mary Poppins* (Bert), *Beauty and the Beast* (Lumiere), *Camelot* (Sir Lionel), *Kiss Me, Kate* (Bill), *All Shook Up* (Dean). Caleb performed this summer as Old Tom in *The Lost Colony* in Manteo, NC, which was the honorary Tony recipient in 2013. He appeared as a featured dancer at the *Stephen Foster Story* in Bardstown, KY for five years and toured with *Musical Mysteries and More* in Pittsburgh, PA as an actor and choreographer. Next Caleb will be performing with Four Corners Theatre Company in NM in *Camelot* as Sir Lionel and the choreographer. Caleb is proud to be in the Equity Membership Candidate Program. Enjoy the show!



FINN STEWARD (*Boy*) Finn Steward is elated to perform at Lexington Children's Theatre. Born and raised in Birmingham, Alabama, he is a graduate of the Alabama School of Fine Arts and has been working professionally out of New York City for two years. His most recent credits include: Master of the Queen's Ceremonies in *The Lost Colony* (Roanoke Island Historical Assoc.), Band member in *Wanda's Monster* (The Lost Colony's family summer show), and multiple characters in *The Prisoner's Friend* (Samford University). He thanks his family for encouraging him and also thanks every audience member for supporting the arts. "Fantasy is a necessary ingredient in living" -Dr. Seuss



CAMERON TAYLOR (*Kitten 1/Thing 1*) is a professional actor born and raised in Lexington, Kentucky. Cameron graduated from Coastal Carolina University in 2017 with a BFA in Physical Theatre. As part of his degree, Cameron studied abroad at the Accademia dell'Arte in Arezzo, Italy. There, he studied such techniques as clowning, mask work, commedia dell'arte, mime, and circus arts among others. Cameron grew up participating in many aspects of LCT's programming and has had the pleasure of working with LCT as a Resident Education Intern in the summer of 2016 and performing the role of Ralph Herdman in *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever* in 2017. Cameron has also worked as a touring actor with The National Theatre for Children in Minneapolis, MN, and as a performer with such companies as *Unto These Hills* in Cherokee, NC, and *Tecumseh!* in Chillicothe, OH. He thanks his family and friends for their invaluable love and support.

What to know - before the show!

Play Synopsis

It is a cold, wet, rainy day and Sally and her brother have nothing to do. So, the two sit by the window and watch the rain, dreaming of going out to play ball. A loud and sudden BUMP causes the two of them to turn towards the door and see a cat entering their home—the Cat in the Hat. He cries out, “I know it is wet and the sun is not sunny. But we can have lots of good fun that is funny!”

The children’s Fish expresses his disapproval that a cat should not be in their home while their mother is out. The Cat dismisses Fish’s concerns and hoists him atop his umbrella in a marvelous balancing act. The Cat balances the Fish along with cake, milk, books, and more all while standing upon a large ball. When the Cat’s luck runs out, he crashes down to the floor spilling all of the items with him. The Fish finds himself falling into a teapot, still trying to persuade the children that a cat should not be in their home while their mother is out!

The Cat explains how much he enjoys being at their house and runs to grab his new game—Fun-In-A-Box. The box opens, and out spill Thing One and Thing Two who quickly begin running through the house flying their kites; leaving paintings, vases, and more crashing to the floor. As Fish sees the children’s mother coming home, he finally convinces Sally and her brother that the Cat in the Hat must leave.

Sally’s brother runs for his net and catches Thing One and Thing Two. Once they are back in the box, he tells the Cat to go. When the Cat leaves, Sally, her brother and the Fish are overwhelmed when they look at the giant mess they must now clean up. But the Cat returns to reveal his final trick. “I always pick up all my playthings and so...I will show you another good trick that I know!” Riding his cleaning machine, the Cat tidies the entire house and leaves with a kind tip of his hat. When their mother returns, she asks Sally and her brother about their day, but the two are left speechless after their day with the Cat in the Hat.



What to know – before the show!

Animal Rhymes

Divide your class into two groups. Have one team think of an animal. Announce a word that rhymes with the name of that animal. For example, if you are thinking of “mouse,” you would say to your students: “I am thinking of an animal that rhymes with ‘house.’” The guessing team must guess the animal by acting it out rather saying it out loud. The first team to correctly guess five animals wins!

KAS: TH:Pr4.1.1b; TH:CR3.1.3b

Painting with “Water” Color



Let the rain add its own style to your art. Cover a work surface with newspaper. Take washable markers and draw a picture of flowers or trees or anything that needs rain to live and grow. Take an eyedropper filled with water and squeeze a drop of water onto the picture. Squeeze out more drops in more places on the drawing. The colors will run and the drawings will change into something new and interesting. After the pictures have dried, have your students share them with the class and make observations about how the added rain changed the colors, shapes, etc.

VA:Cr1.2.2; VA:Cr3.1.2.

Take a Walk in the Rain

Narrative Pantomime involves students simultaneously acting out a narrative read by the teacher. The narration is designed to explore an environment or develop understanding of a character’s experience. To begin, ask the students to find a comfortable space in the room. Next, read a brief narrative which has been written in second person (you form). Remember, to leave some time between sentences to allow the students to explore the actions. To get you started, we have listed one on the next page. Feel free to add to the story or create your own!



VA:Cr1.2.2; VA:Cr3.1.2.

What to know – before the show!

Take a Walk in the Rain Continued...

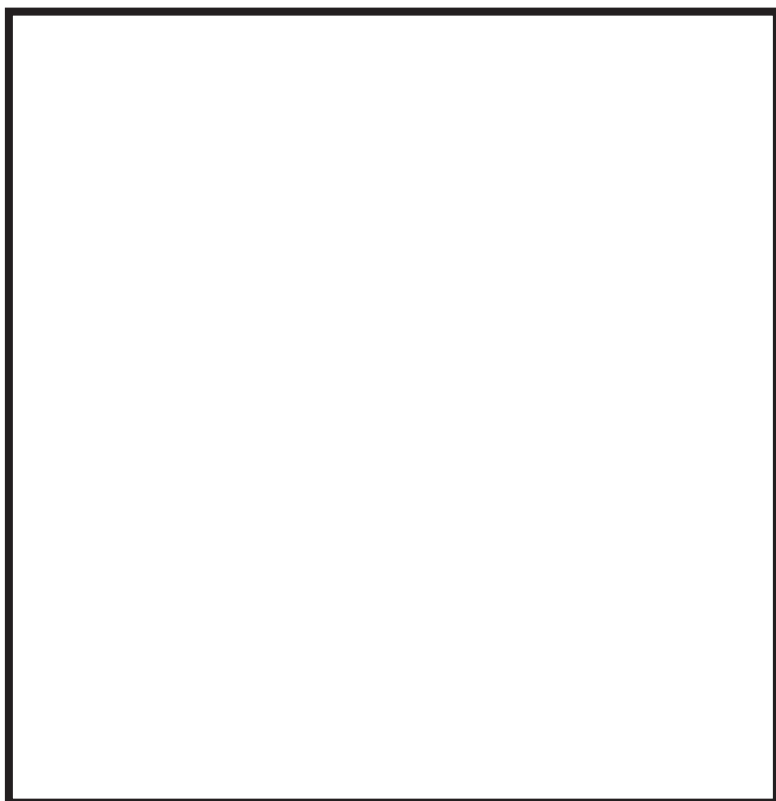
Imagine you are sitting, looking out the window as the rain falls down. You trace the movements of the raindrops against the glass. Just then you remember you have a raincoat and umbrella. You can go outside! You search the house for where you left the coat last. When you find it, you put it on making sure to button or zip it closed. You find the umbrella next, but it pops open inside the house! After struggling to close it, it pops open again. Eventually, you give up and decide to squeeze it through the front door and head outside. As you walk along the sidewalk, you listen to the pitter patter of the rain, and you begin to dance to its sound. You stop, because you've just danced into a puddle! Oh, well your feet are already wet. You begin to splash in the puddles. As you get wetter and wetter, you throw the umbrella into the air and the wind blows it away. You watch it fly into the sky. Once it is gone, you look down and notice all the mud. You get down on your hands and knees and squish your hands into the mud, making mud pies and dirt balls. You finally decide you've had enough for one day and walk home. You step inside and take off the rain coat, and your soaking wet shoes and socks. You run to the couch and pull a warm blanket over your head. You are now dry.

TH:Pr5.1.1a; TH:Pr6.1.1

Rainy Day

Sally and her brother have nothing to do on the rainy day until they meet the Cat in the Hat. What would you do on a rainy afternoon? Draw and write about your ideas below or on a separate sheet of paper.

If it rained all day long and I couldn't go outside, I would:



VA:Cn10.1.K; W.1.3

What to know – before the show!

Contextual Article

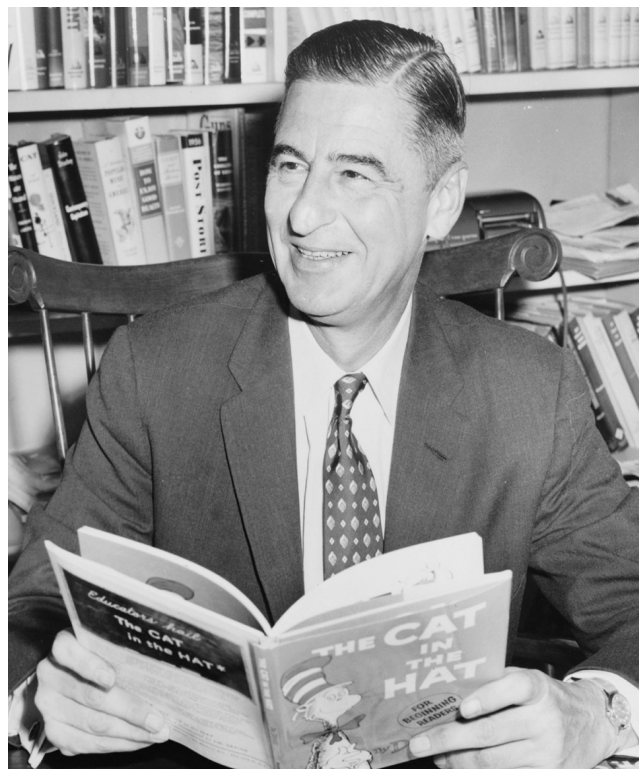
Meet Dr. Seuss

Theodor Seuss Geisel (March 2, 1904 – September 24, 1991) was an American writer and cartoonist. He was most widely known for his children's books, which he wrote and illustrated under the pseudonym Dr. Seuss.

Geisel published 46 children's books, often characterized by imaginative characters, rhyme, and frequent use of anapestic meter. His works have spawned numerous adaptations, including eleven television specials, four feature films, a Broadway musical and four television series.

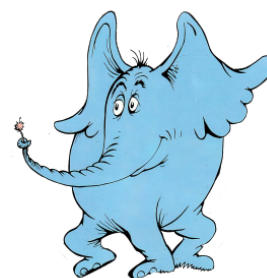
He was a perfectionist in his work and would sometimes spend up to a year on a book. It was not uncommon for him to throw out material until he settled on a theme for his book. For a writer he was unusual in that he preferred to be paid only after he finished his work rather than in advance.

Geisel's birthday, March 2, has been adopted as the annual date for National Read Across America Day, an initiative on reading created by the National Education Association. Each year it's a day for students and teachers to focus on reading and how important and entertaining it can be.



Fun Facts

- Even though most people pronounce his name Soose (as in goose), it's actually pronounced Zoice (as in voice).
- Dr. Seuss was not a real doctor. After graduating from Dartmouth, he went to study literature at Oxford University in London. His notebooks include some notes on the lectures, but mostly reveal a greater love for doodling. So, he left higher education, returned to the U.S. and became a cartoonist.
- As a magazine cartoonist, he began signing his work with "Dr. Theophrastus Seuss." Theophrastus was the name of the toy dog he'd had since childhood. He later shortened it to "Dr. Seuss."
- It was when Dr. Seuss was returning from a European vacation, by boat, he began writing a poem to the rhythm of the ship's engine. The result was his first children's book *And to Think That I Saw It on Mulberry Street* in 1937.
- Dr. Seuss didn't become a household name until he wrote *The Cat in the Hat* in 1957.



ONLINE DISCOVERY

By clicking on the names or pasting the URL, students can learn more about Dr. Seuss.

Dr. Seuss National Memorial Sculpture Garden, <https://www.seussinspringfield.org/dr-seuss-memorial-sculpture-garden>

The Art of Dr. Seuss, <http://www.drseussart.com>

How to grow - after the show!

Balancing Act

Can you do a balancing act like the Cat in the Hat? Clear some space in your classroom and see if you can balance an imaginary beach ball in each hand. Then stick out your foot and add an imaginary tea cup without falling. Now add additional things to your balancing act. Can you hold something on your head? Your elbow? Nose? See how many things you can balance before you fall. Take turns with your students and see who can balance the most things.



TH:Cr1.1.1c; TH:Pr6.1.1

Making a Machine



This is a teamwork activity using your body. The general idea is that every person joins in to create a large “machine” complete with sound and movement. To begin, one student is chosen to perform an action and sound, and one by one other students must add on to that action. The machine must make sense, so each addition should connect to the one before in some way. Once all the people have added on, you can slow the machine down, speed it up, or make it go in reverse to keep things interesting.

You can repeat this activity and ask your students for suggestions for other machines they could create. See if you can create a large cleaning machine like the one in *Dr. Seuss's The Cat in the Hat*.

TH:Cr3.1.1c; TH:Pr5.1.1a; TH:Pr6.1.2

Making Rain

What You Need:

- Large clear jar with a wide mouth
- Hot water
- Food coloring
- Ice cubes on a small plate



You can create a little indoor rain in a jar. Put a small amount of hot water in the jar. Add a drop of food coloring if you like. Put the plate of ice cubes on top of the jar. Let it sit for a minute. You will be able to see moisture forming on the bottom of the plate and then you'll see the moisture drip down like rain. Rain happens when warm, moist air rises up and hits colder air above it.

ONLINE DISCOVERY

By clicking on the name or pasting the URL, students can learn more about the water cycle. “The Water Cycle” by Learning Junction, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s0bS-SBAgJl>

SC:2-PS1.A; SL.K.3

How to grow - after the show!

Make Your Own Rhymes

The Cat in the Hat. Say it out loud and you hear how the words “cat” and “hat” sound similar. When the ends of words sound the same, they rhyme. In the boxes below, there are sentences with one word missing. Fill in each blank with a word that creates a rhyme, and then draw a picture of your sentence in the box.

A snail with a _____

A frog on a _____

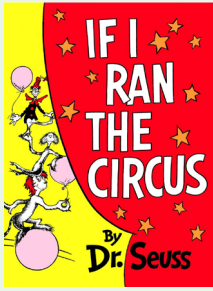
A goat in a _____

Now create your own rhyme and draw a picture!

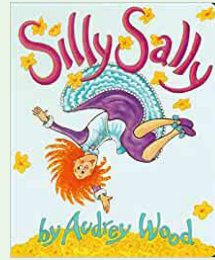
A _____ with a _____

How to grow - after the show!

What to Read Next



If I Ran the Circus by Dr. Seuss
Step right up, as the young Morris McGurk realizes his big circus dreams!

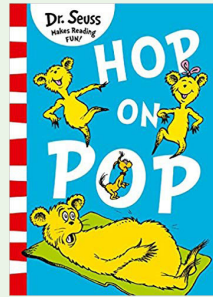


Silly Sally by Audrey Wood

Meet Silly Sally who goes to town, she's walking backwards — upside down!

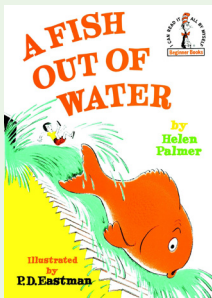
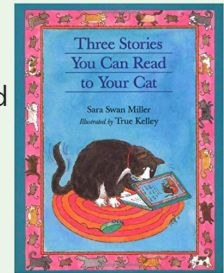
Hop on Pop by Dr. Seuss

See Red and Ned and Ted and Ed in a bed. The simplest Suess for youngest use!



Three Stories You Can Read to Your Cat by Sara Swan Miller

Snuggle up with your kitty and read these stories about the things cats like to do. Invite your cat to come hear a story—but ask nicely!



A Fish Out of Water by Helen Palmer

An honest and age appropriate look at the facts of traveling the Underground Railroad.

LCT teaches in YOUR school!

Would you like to see some of these play guide activities modeled in your classroom?

Book a workshop for your class with one of LCT's teaching artists! In our pre-show workshops, our teaching artists will engage students in acting skills and themes from the play through drama activities. In our post-show workshops, students will extend their play-going experience by strengthening their personal connection to the play and deepening their understanding of the themes and characters.



Call us at 859-254-4546 x 226 to book a pre or post-show workshop for your class!

To learn more about Lexington Children's Theatre and our programming for your school visit:
www.lctonstage.org/for-educators/in-school-experiences/