



**By Lynn Ahrens & Stephen Flaherty**

**Based on the Works of Dr. Seuss**

**Study Guide**

**The Magik Theatre 2008**

# SUMMARY

With help from The Cat in the Hat, a girl named JoJo imagines a world inhabited by fantastic creatures. One is Horton, an elephant. One day, while grazing in the clover, Horton finds a dust speck, which he discovers is a tiny planet where even tinier people called Whos live. Horton decides to protect the Whos' planet, which is very hard to do in the Jungle of Nool. Gertrude McFuzz, a bird with a one-feather tail, likes Horton very much. She thinks that Horton doesn't notice her because of her puny tail. She wants a big, beautiful tail like Mayzie La Bird's. To make her tail bigger, Gertrude eats the fruit of the pillberry bush, and to her amazement, her tail grows and grows. Unfortunately, it's so heavy she can no longer fly.

Meanwhile, Horton has lost the Whos' planet in a huge field of clover. He's so busy looking for it that he still doesn't notice Gertrude, even though her tail has many, many feathers now. Unable to find the Whos, Horton becomes discouraged. Then he spots Mayzie high in her nest. Mayzie, who would rather go on vacation than sit on her egg, convinces Horton to do the sitting for her. After Mayzie flies away, Horton sits on the egg for months. Just when Horton worries that he'll never find the Whos, Gertrude, who has plucked most of the feathers from her tail, shows up and presents him with a clover—the very clover with the Whos' planet on it! Horton finally appreciates Gertrude as she tells him how she found the Whos. The only problem: the Jungle citizens don't believe Horton because they can't see the Whos. JoJo gets all of the Whos to shout at once. For the Jungle citizens, hearing is believing, and they vow to help Horton protect the Whos.

Suddenly, the egg under Horton begins to hatch. Everyone stares, amazed, as a tiny, winged Elephant-Bird flies out of the egg. Horton worries that he can't take care of something that flies. To his relief, Gertrude offers to help. As the story ends, JoJo returns to her own world, marveling at the power of her imagination.

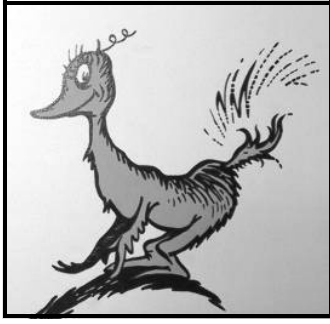
## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1) Who are the main characters in the show? Why do you think they're main characters?
- 2) Horton is very protective. What are some of the things Horton protects in this show?
- 3) What are some advantages to being a Who? What are some disadvantages?
  - 4) If you had to protect the Whos' planet, what would you do differently than Horton?
  - 5) What did Gertrude learn about having a big, beautiful tail?
  - 6) In order to sit on the egg, Horton had to give up looking for the Whos. Have you ever had to make a choice like that? What helped you decide?
  - 7) Name two real inventions that may have helped the Jungle citizens notice the Whos.
  - 8) Which character would you most like to be friends with? Explain why.
  - 9) Is this story fiction or non-fiction? What makes you think so?
  - 10) How was the show similar to Dr. Seuss's books? How was it different?



[EL 110.2, 110.3, 110.4, 110.5, 110.6, 110.7; SC 112.2, 112.3, 112.4, 112.5, 112.6, 112.7; HE 115.2, 115.3, 115.4, 115.5, 115.6, 115.7; TH 117.4, 117.7, 117.10, 117.13, 117.16, 117.19]

TEKS Key: EL = English Language Arts/Reading, MA = Mathematics, SC = Science, SS = Social Studies, HE = Health Education, AR = Art, MU = Music, TH = Theatre



## MATH: Sorting

(Teacher: Photocopy pictures of 10 to 20 different Seuss characters.)

Look at the characters. How are they alike? How are they different? Now sort the characters. You can sort them by size, color, claws, stripes, tails, feathers, number of legs, or anything you like! Create a table or chart to

share your results. [MA 111.12, 111.13, 111.14, 111.15, 111.16, 111.17]

## GEOGRAPHY

Describe each of these settings mentioned in Seussical. What kinds of plants and animals live in each? What is the weather like? Are these places real or imaginary? Which place would you most want to call home? Why?

Jungle of Nool

Whoville

Fort Worth

[SS 113.2, 113.3, 113.4, 113.5, 113.6, 113.7]

## ART: Masks

Use a paper plate to make your own Seussical mask. You can color your features on, or cut them out of construction paper. You can add hair with yarn or feathers. You can even add some googly eyes from the craft box. When you're finished, put a dab of glue on the bottom of the paper plate and attach a clothespin or popsicle stick; this will be to hold your mask when it's ready. Create a play using your masks! [AR 117.2, 117.5, 117.8, 117.11, 117.14, 117.17; TH 117.4, 117.7, 117.10, 117.13, 117.16, 117.19]

### Dr. Seuss Books Represented in SEUSSICAL – How Many Have YOU Read?

Horton Hears a Who!

One Fish Two Fish Red Fish Blue Fish

Oh, The Thinks You Can Think!

Green Eggs and Ham

McElligot's Pool

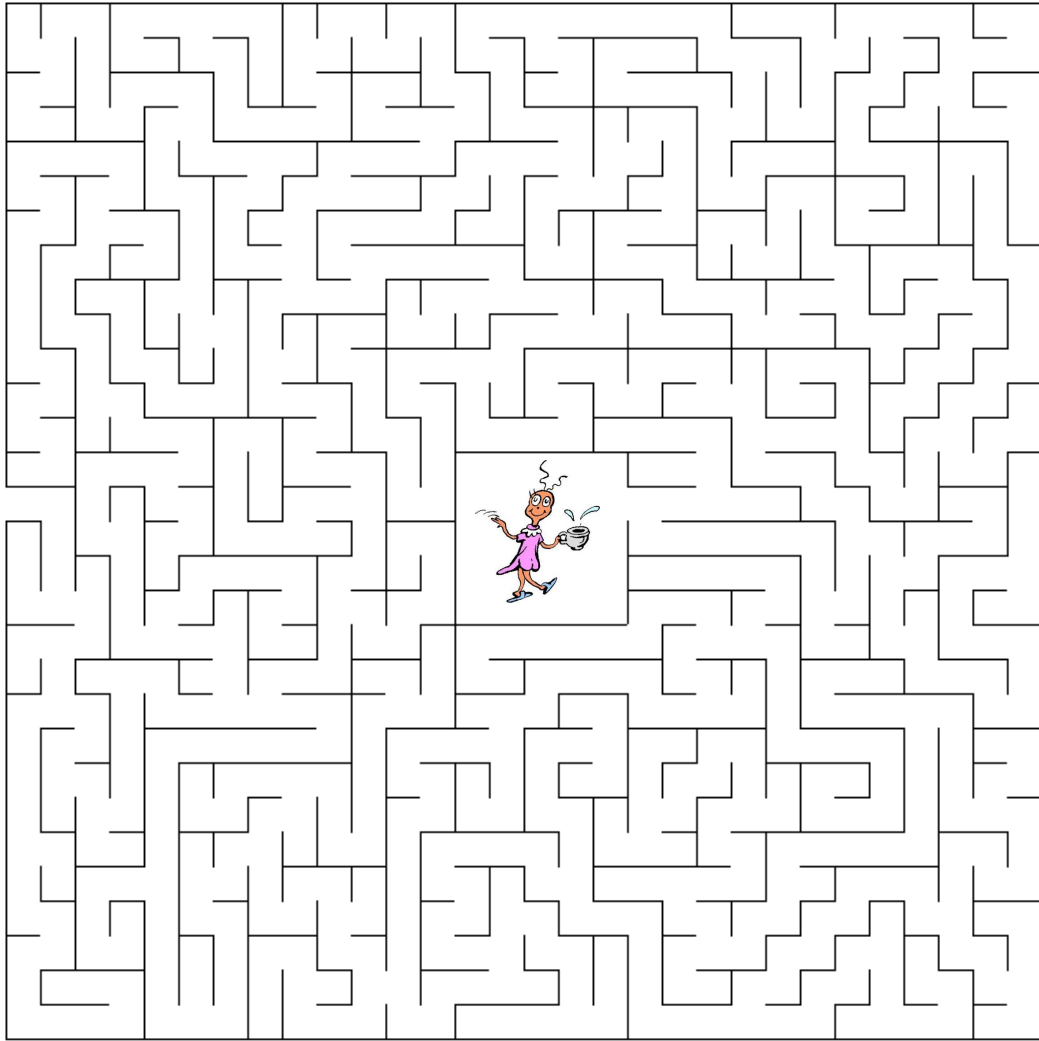
The Cat in the Hat

Oh, The Places You'll Go!

The One-Feather Tail of  
Miss Gertrude McFuzz

Horton Hatches the Egg

# Help Horton find the Who!



**Several TEKS (117.4, 117.7, 117.10, 117.13, 117.16, 117.19) are covered just by attending a production at The Magik Theatre, including:**

The learner will

- identify appropriate audience behavior;
- respond to and evaluate dramatic activities;
- identify the use of music, creative movement and visual components in play; and
- observe the performance of artists and identify theatrical vocations.



# MUSIC TERMS

This show is a **musical**. That means the characters sing as well as speak.

## VOICE TYPES

Different people sing differently. Some people sing really high. They are called **sopranos**. They are usually women.

Women who sing lower are called **altos**.

Men who have higher-pitched voices are called **tenors**. The romantic leads in many musicals are tenors.

Men who sing low are called **basses**. These men often play villains or funny characters.



## VOLUME

You can also sing at different volumes. If you sing **forte** ("FOR-tay") it means you sing or play loudly. If you sing or play **piano** ("pee-AH-no") it means you sing or play very softly. You can play the piano at *piano* volume! These musical terms are Italian.

When you read music you read it from a book called a **score**. The score tells you who is singing and how they are singing. It also tells the conductor what instruments should play and how loudly or softly they should play.

[MU 117.3, 117.6, 117.9, 117.12, 117.15, 117.18]



# Welcome to the Jungle (of Nool)!

Draw your own Citizen of the Jungle of Nool! Does it have a tail? Wings? Big eyes? Does it have fur or scales, stripes or feathers? Perhaps it looks a little like your favorite animal or someone you know? Explain to your class how you created your Noolian. [AR 117.2, 117.5, 117.8, 117.11, 117.14, 117.17]