

Reflection: Musings on Dr. Seuss

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Musings on Dr. Seuss

Anapestic tetrameter. Who can tell me what anapestic tetrameter is?

“Twas the night before Christmas and all through the house
Not a creature was stirring not even a mouse.”

“Every Who down in Whoville liked Christmas a lot
But the Grinch who lived just north of Whoville did not.”

Dr. Seuss love anapestic tetrameter. I don't blame him; it's like dancing the waltz with words.
2-3-ONE-2-3-ONE-2-3-ONE-2-3-ONE.

“But I think that the most likely reason of all
may have been that his heart was two sizes too small.”

Some of us remember learning how to read with his Beginner Books. Sure, we had “Fun with Dick and Jane.” But those books were work; Dr. Seuss was fun. Our school books portrayed a perfect world we were supposed to have with houses and front yards and dogs and cats and dresses on the girls and pants on the boys. I'm not sure what's on most of the Seuss creatures – he seemed to go mostly for accessories like hats and bow ties and socks. And his perfect worlds were wild features of his prodigious imagination; with bridges and towers and hills and caves. And color? Except for the pink bathtub rings left behind by a large cat, color didn't really matter. [Don't forget Green Eggs and Ham the children told me!]

Theodor Geisel had no children of his own, but he knew what children needed to know:

- small is important
- sometimes the smallest things are the most precious
- sometimes the smallest things are the most powerful
- big isn't necessarily scary
- just because you have power doesn't mean you need to use it
- using your power for kindness is the best kind of power of all
- it's okay to try new things
- your mom and dad don't know everything
- using your voice might just save the day
- being together makes us stronger
- things aren't as important as feelings
- do the unexpected, life doesn't have to make sense
- mean what you say
- love wins out in the end
- reading is fun

In these days we celebrate new light in the darkness, and new life in the world. May our hearts grow three sizes today!