

Dr. Seuss's How the Grinch Stole Christmas! Audience Guide

Dr. Seuss's
HOW
The
GRINCH
STOLE
CHRISTMAS!

2024-2025 Season

children's
theatre
company

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At CTC, our mission is to create extraordinary theatre experiences that educate, challenge, and inspire young people and their communities. This Audience Guide is just one of the ways in which we aim to enhance your experience and further your engagement with the shows on stage.

It includes a summary, context, fun facts, and activities plus details that can help you decide what's right for your kids.

If you have any further questions, please contact our friendly Ticket Office Associates at 612.874.0400 during their regular business hours or email them at tickets@childrenstheatre.org.

Summary

What is this show about?

Dr. Seuss's How the Grinch Stole Christmas! is a heartwarming tale that explores the true spirit of the holiday season, focusing on kindness, forgiveness, and community.

The story begins with **The Grinch**, a bitter, green creature who lives in isolation on Mount Crumpit with his loyal dog, Max. Annoyed by the Whos' festive joy down in Whoville, The Grinch despises Christmas and concocts a plan to steal it.

On **Christmas Eve**, disguised as Santa Claus, The Grinch sneaks into the town to steal the Whos' Christmas presents, decorations, and even their food, hoping to stop their celebration by robbing them of their material joys. He takes everything up to the top of Mt. Crumpit, ready to dump it all.

Meanwhile, **the Whos**, the joyful citizens of Whoville, remained undeterred. On Christmas morning, despite their losses, they gather and sing, proving that the holiday is about more than gifts or feasts—it's about love and togetherness.

The Grinch witnesses their celebration and experiences a profound change of heart. Realizing that Christmas isn't about material things, he returns everything he stole and joins the Whos in their holiday celebration, discovering the joy of community and the true meaning of Christmas.

Content Advisories

Language: 0 out of 5 stars ☆☆☆☆☆

Silly and made-up language in the style of Dr. Seuss.

Themes and Situations: 1 out of 5 stars ★☆☆☆☆

The Grinch is rejected by the Whos and lives alone on an isolated mountain cliff with only his dog Max for company.

Violence and Scariness: 2 out of 5 stars ★★☆☆☆

The Grinch can be intimidating and scary. He steals everything right before Christmas morning. Max (the dog) is pushed around by The Grinch. Gifts are broken. In a nightmare sequence, distorted projections of Whos laughing are used to create a disorienting, spooky atmosphere.

Sensory Advisories: 2 out of 5 stars ★★☆☆☆

Musical numbers may be loud and some sound effects are jarring. Fog, dry ice, and haze will be used. The Grinch comes into the audience.

Please contact tickets@childrenstheatre.org with any questions.

About Dr. Seuss

Born in Massachusetts on March 2, 1904, Theodor Geisel published his first children's book in 1937. Seuss is a Bavarian name and was his mother's maiden name. Theodor Seuss Geisel began signing his work under the mock-scholarly title of "Dr. Theophrastus Seuss" in 1927 when he was working as a magazine cartoonist. He shortened the name to "Dr. Seuss" in 1928.

Seuss worked in advertising, in the animation and film department for the US Army, and as a political cartoonist. After World War II, he started focusing on writing children's books, eventually writing and illustrating more than 60! Through the art and poetry of his books, Seuss encouraged his readers to think creatively, participate in society, and work to make the world a better place.

About *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*

How the Grinch Stole Christmas was first published in 1957. Dr. Seuss claimed that he was the inspiration for the Grinch. He was feeling grouchy about the over-commercialization of Christmas and dismayed with his wife's ongoing health issues. He looked in the mirror and remarked that he looked "very Grinch-ish." He wrote the book quickly afterwards and was mostly finished within a few weeks.



"I was brushing my teeth on the morning of the 26th of last December when I noticed a very Grinch-ish countenance in the mirror...So, I wrote about my sour friend, the Grinch, to see if I could rediscover something about Christmas that obviously I'd lost."

- Dr. Seuss, 1957

Since then, the picture book has been translated into multiple languages and topped multiple 'best of' lists. It has also been adapted to animated film, live-action film, stage plays and musicals, and even a horror film!



CTC's Whoville

The scenery, props, and costumes for *Dr. Seuss's How the Grinch Stole Christmas!* were built in 1994, and we are still using the same pieces from the original production! Each time CTC remounts the show, we clean up the pieces, fix anything that has gotten damaged, and put it back together onstage. This is CTC's 12th production of *Dr. Seuss's How the Grinch Stole Christmas!* since it premiered in 1994.

When a show at CTC is over, we can do a few different things with the scenery. Sometimes we save the show so that we can produce it again at a later date here at CTC or tour the show to other theatres around the country. We have a warehouse where we have about 15 shows saved in entirety. Some are big shows like *Dr. Seuss's How the Grinch Stole Christmas!* and *The Wizard of Oz*, and some are smaller shows like *Snowy Day*.

Other times, we will save specific pieces of the show that we think might be useful for something in the future. For example, we saved a large scoreboard that we built for *Abominables*, a play about hockey. If we do a sport-related show, that piece might be really useful, and then we don't have to rebuild it.



Abominables, 2017

Who House over the years



Who House, 2001



Who House, 2012



Who House, 2018

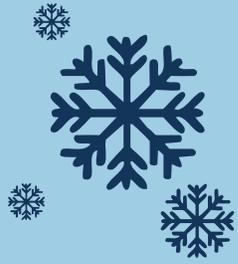


Who House, 2023



Grinchy and Joyful

Things to Talk About



Things to talk about with your family before seeing the show:

- The Grinch feels overwhelmed by the noise and excitement of Christmas in Whoville. What are some situations that make you feel overwhelmed? What helps you relax or feel calmer in those moments?
- The Whos absolutely love Christmas and celebrate it with joy. What's your favorite time of year, and why do you enjoy it so much?
- Sometimes, we all have "Grinchy" moments when we feel grumpy or upset. Can you think of times when you've felt this way? What usually helps you feel better or lifts your spirits?



3 Things to Look and Listen for During the Performance

Look for...

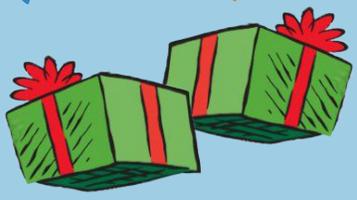
1. An antler. What character wears an antler during the show?
2. A roast beast. Does it remind you of any real food you've tried?
3. Elastic red ribbon. How many times do they stretch it across the stage?



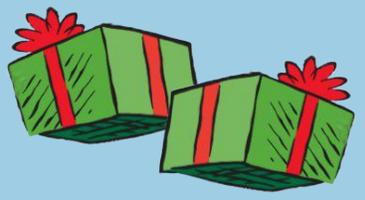
Listen for...

1. Actors singing songs. Do you recognize any of the songs?
2. Characters speaking in rhyme. Do you recognize any of the lines from the book?
3. Seussian made up words. What words do you hear?





Creative Gift Giving



Gifts come in many different forms! They can be something you buy, something you do to help others (like baking cookies for someone or helping with chores), or something you experience together (like taking a walk or seeing a show).

Time to brainstorm! What are some fun and thoughtful gifts you could give to your friends and family?

Think about:

- **Things you could make** (like a drawing, a craft, or homemade treats)
- **Ways you could help** (like cleaning up, doing a favor, or lending a hand)
- **Fun things you could do together** (like playing a game, watching a movie, or going on an adventure)

What ideas can you come up with to make someone's day special?

Buy	Help	Experience





Seussian Words

Dr. Seuss loved to make up words for animals, places, sounds, feelings, and more. Combine one sound from each list to create your own original word!

Beginning

goo nizz zat
oon yek doof
sala jeeg lowf

Middle

flup hwuu twe
za no ma
ga ti moo

End

wiu schlop zum
bleck gla nel
rink floo murk

Write your creations below:

1.

2.

3.

Choose your favorite word creation. What does it mean? Use the space below to draw or write the meaning of the word.



Savor the Seussian Rhymes

When you read *How the Grinch Stole Christmas!*, the playful, bouncy rhymes are one of the most delightful parts of the story. Dr. Seuss's signature style uses rhythmic, musical language. Take your time to enjoy and savor the rhymes in this classic opening to one of the most memorable holiday stories of all time.

Every Who down in Who-ville liked Christmas a lot...
But the Grinch, who lived just north of Who-ville, did NOT
The Grinch hated Christmas! The whole Christmas season!
Now, please don't ask why. No one quite knows the reason.
It could be his head wasn't screwed on just right.
It could be, perhaps, that his shoes were too tight.

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

But, whatever the reason, his heart or his shoes,
He stood there on Christmas Eve, hating the Whos,
Staring down from his cave with a sour, Grinchy frown
At the warm lighted windows below in their town.

For he knew every Who down in Who-ville beneath
Was busy now, hanging a mistletoe wreath.

"And they're hanging their stockings!" he snarled with a sneer.

"Tomorrow is Christmas! It's practically here!"

Then he growled, with his Grinch fingers nervously drumming,
"I MUST find some way to stop Christmas from coming!"





Now, It's Your Turn to Write Like Dr. Seuss!

Dr. Seuss's playful style uses rhythm, repetition, and whimsical language that brings even ordinary situations to life in the most imaginative ways! Now, you can try writing just like Dr. Seuss with this fun activity.

What makes Dr. Seuss's rhymes so fun?

Internal and end rhyme: Dr. Seuss often rhymes words within the same sentence (internal rhyme) and at the end of sentences (end rhyme). Here's how you can practice both types:

- **Internal rhyme** happens when two words rhyme inside the same line. For example, from *The Lorax*: "There is fun to be done!" Try making up your own sentences with internal rhyme, like "There's a cat in my hat" or "I'll wear red on my head!"
- **End rhyme** happens when the last words of two sentences rhyme, like in *Green Eggs and Ham*: "Would you? Could you? In a car? / Eat them! Eat them! Here they are!" Practice end rhyme by writing a short poem using an ABCB pattern. Here's a fun example: "It's in my hair / It's on my nose / But luckily / I have a hose."

Activity 1: Rhyme Time!

- **Internal Rhyme Challenge:** Write 5-10 silly sentences with internal rhymes. Let your imagination run wild! Examples: "I'll eat a big cake with a rake" or "There's a bug on the rug with a hug!"
- **End Rhyme Challenge:** Write a short poem with four lines, using the ABCB rhyme structure. Let your poem be as funny or as wacky as you like!

Be Repetitive! Repetition makes Dr. Seuss's writing catchy and fun to read out loud. Repeating words or phrases helps kids remember lines more easily, and it gives stories extra energy. For example, in *Green Eggs and Ham*, the line "I do not like green eggs and ham" is repeated over and over to great effect. You can create this fun repetition too!

Activity 2: Repeat After Me!

Write a short paragraph where you repeat a phrase or question. For example: "Would you? Could you? On a boat? / Could you float in a tiny coat?" Play with questions, or a favorite phrase you'd like to repeat again and again!





CTC Theatre Etiquette

At CTC, we encourage audiences to engage with the live theatre experience and react freely. It's ok to laugh if something is funny, exclaim if something is surprising, gasp if something is scary, and maybe even dance along in your seats if the music inspires you. We value the real-time, honest reactions of our audiences.

We do, however, thank you for your partnership in making sure that any reactions from your kids are kind and respectful towards the actors onstage and towards all of the people who worked so hard to make the show possible.

Accessibility

Mobility Accessibility

The Red Lobby and UnitedHealth Group Stage are on the 2nd floor. At the building entrance, turn right and head through the Mia (Minneapolis Institute of Art) entrance. Then turn left just inside the entrance and go up the flight of 28 stairs to get to the lobby. Or you can use the elevator to the LEFT of the entrance doors. The balcony is accessed by going up another flight of 18 stairs. There is no elevator access to the balcony level.

An Accessible/All-Gender restroom is located next to the elevator on the 2nd floor in the Red Lobby. Additional restrooms are located down one floor near the entrance to the theatre.

Quiet Room/Sensory Sensitivities

The Quiet Room is located at the rear left side of the main floor of the UnitedHealth Group Stage. There are 3 stairs to get to the seating in the Quiet Room. The Quiet Room is separated from the audience by a glass window, so patrons can verbalize freely. Those utilizing the Quiet Room can still see and hear the performance. The performance is also live streamed in the lobby. Please feel free to come and go from the Quiet Room as you need to throughout the show.

Please let an usher know if someone in your group would benefit from a fidget, ear plugs, noise canceling headphones, or coloring/activity sheets during your visit.

Assistive Listening Devices

Please let an usher know if you would like to use an assistive listening device. These devices come equipped with an over-the-ear earpiece. This earpiece can be unplugged, and other devices, such as cochlear implants, can be plugged into the receiver using the 1/8" jack. If you will be plugging in your own device, please bring the appropriate cord as CTC does not have these on hand.

Sign Interpretation and Audio Description

Each CTC production has a sign interpreted and/or audio described performance for each production. These performances are noted in the [list of performance dates](#).

Prayer/Private Nursing Space

During your visit, please ask a member of our staff to use our private space for nursing, pumping, prayer, or other needs.

