

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



children's
theatre
company

2025

2026



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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

An old dog named Max appears, carrying a worn suitcase and listening to distant carolers. As he remembers the songs of Whos long ago, the past comes to life in Whoville at Christmastime. We meet Young Max and his master—The Grinch—who bursts from his icy cave to declare his hatred of Christmas. Through a flurry of memories, we see the holiday as The Grinch sees it: noisy, greedy, and overwhelming. Then he gets a terrible idea—he'll stop Christmas from coming!

While the Whos joyfully shop and celebrate, The Grinch sneaks through town gathering supplies for his plan. Back in his cave, he straps antlers to poor Max, disguises himself as Santa, and races down the mountain to steal Christmas. Slipping into a Who-house, he's caught by young Cindy-Lou Who, whose innocent kindness almost melts his heart—but not quite. He sends her back to bed and steals everything, even the tree.

At dawn, The Grinch waits to hear the Whos weeping—but instead, he hears them singing. Christmas has come anyway! Realizing that joy doesn't come from gifts or feasts, The Grinch's heart grows three sizes. With Cindy-Lou's help, he returns all the presents and joins the Whos in celebration. Together with Max and the people of Whoville, The Grinch finally understands the true meaning of Christmas—love, kindness, and community.

Content Advisories

Language: 0 out of 5 stars ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Silly and made-up language in the style of Dr. Seuss. The Grinch tells his dog, Max, to "shut up."

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: 3 out of 5 stars ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

The Grinch can be loud, grouchy, and even a little scary at times—especially when he's stealing Christmas or having a nightmare, complete with eerie sound effects and stylized projections. Max (the dog) is pushed around by The Grinch and gets dragged by his tail.

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

There will be flashing lights and musical numbers and sound effects may be loud and jarring. Fog, dry ice, and haze will be used. The Grinch comes into the audience.

Potentially Anxious Moments: 1 out of 5 stars ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Actors interact with audience members, and The Grinch comes into the audience. The Grinch is mean to the Whos. Max (the dog) is pushed and dragged by the Grinch.

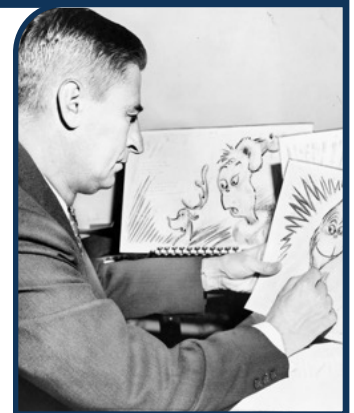
About Dr. Seuss

Born in Massachusetts on March 2, 1904, Theodor Geisel adopted “Seuss,” his mother’s Bavarian maiden name, as part of his pen name. Early in his career as a magazine cartoonist, he began signing his work with the playful, mock-scholarly title “Dr. Theophrastus Seuss” in 1927, shortening it to “Dr. Seuss” the following year.

He published his first children’s book in 1937 and went on to work in advertising, serve in the U.S. Army’s animation and film department, and create political cartoons. After World War II, he turned his focus to children’s literature—writing and illustrating more than 60 beloved books. Through his imaginative art and rhythmic language, Dr. Seuss inspired generations of readers to think creatively, engage with their communities, and help make the world a better place.

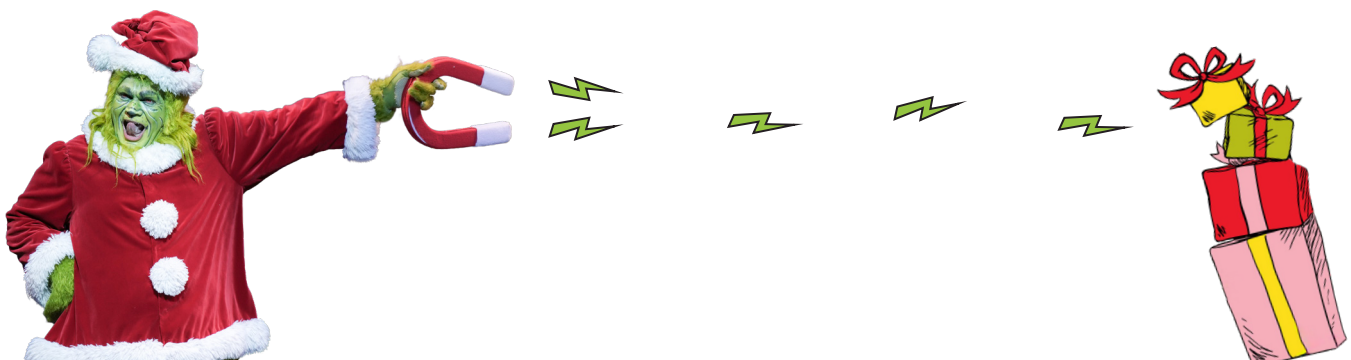
About *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*

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 13th 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 *Disney's Frozen*, 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 sports-related show, that piece might be really useful, and then we don't have to rebuild it.

Photos by Glen Stubbe Photography and Dan Norman

Grow The Grinch's Heart! ❤️

Supplies:

Paper hearts (three different sizes) and tape or sticky notes

A copy of Dr. Seuss's *How the Grinch Stole Christmas* book or you can use this online version: Grinch Reader's Theatre Script –

<https://www.pedagonet.com/quickies/grinch.htm>

How to Play

Before you start reading, cut out **three paper hearts**—a small one, a medium one, and a large one—and tape the small one on a wall, poster, or even your shirt.

As you read the story aloud:

1. Listen for kindness!

Each time The Grinch or someone in Whoville shows a kind, caring, or thoughtful action (for example, when Cindy-Lou Who speaks to The Grinch kindly or when the Whos sing together), pause the story.

2. **“Grow” The Grinch’s heart** by replacing the small heart with the next bigger—one.

3. **Keep going until The Grinch’s heart is three sizes bigger**—just like in the story! Make and add additional hearts if you notice even more kindness.



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

up 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.

Seeing Through The Grinch's Eyes



Even The Grinch has reasons for feeling the way he does! This activity helps us look beyond his grumpiness to understand what's going on in his heart.

Instructions:

1. Draw The Grinch

On your paper, draw an outline of The Grinch (or use the template on the next page).

2. Think about his world

Around the outside of your Grinch drawing, write down things that affect him—like people he interacts with, places he goes, or big moments in the story. (For example: the Whos celebrating Christmas, his dog Max, or living alone on Mount Crumpit.)

3. Think about his feelings

Now, inside your Grinch drawing, write how each of those things might make him feel. Draw lines connecting the outside “factors” to the inside “feelings.”

(For example: “The Whos singing joyfully → makes him feel left out.”)

4. Go deeper

Talk together about why he might feel that way. What might have happened before the story began that made him think or act like this?

5. Make it personal

Chat about a time when you or someone you know might have felt the same way—left out, grumpy, or misunderstood. How did you handle it? Does it help you see The Grinch differently?

Grinch's Outline Template



Learn How to Draw The Grinch

With just a few simple steps, you can create your own drawing of The Grinch, complete with his Santa hat and sneaky smile!



Art Projects for Kids.org

Put *The Grinch* in Order

Supplies:

- Scissors
- Printed lines from *How the Grinch Stole Christmas* (from the next page)

**What You'll Need:**

In this activity, you'll put parts of *How the Grinch Stole Christmas* back in the right order—just like a story puzzle! You'll use clues in the rhymes and the story to figure out what happens first, next, and last.

Instructions:

1. Cut and Mix

Cut out the lines of text from the next page. Mix them up so they're out of order.

2. Read the Lines

Read each line out loud—clearly and with expression, just like a performer!

3. Put the Story in Order

Lay the lines on the floor or table. Use clues in the words, rhymes, and events to figure out which part of the story comes first, second, and so on.

4. Check Your Work

When you think the story is in order, read it out loud from beginning to end. Does it make sense? If not, move a few lines around and try again until it sounds just right.

Try This!

- Once it's in order, read the story again using different voices—quiet, loud, silly, or dramatic!
- Have a grown-up or friend read one of the lines and see if you can guess what comes next.
- For extra fun, act out each line as you read it!

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!"

Mix-Up a Whoville Story

In this activity, you'll use what you remember from *Dr. Seuss's How the Grinch Stole Christmas!* to invent a brand-new story—one only you can tell! You'll mix familiar characters, traits, and settings to spark your imagination and create something totally original.

Instructions:

1. Make Your Lists

On a piece of paper, make three short lists:

- Characters (people or creatures in the story)
- Traits (words that describe how they act or feel)
- Settings (places where things happen)

Examples:

- Characters: The Grinch, Max, Cindy Lou
- Traits: Grumpy, Nervous, Friendly
- Settings: Mount Crumpit, Who House, Whoville Square

2. Write Your Story

Now write your own story using all of the words from your lists! You can make it funny, serious, or completely silly—it's up to you

3. Add a Twist

What if the Grinch were the friendly one this time?

What if Max saved the day?

Have fun turning the story upside down!

4. Share It

When you're done, read your story aloud to a grown-up, friend, or even your pet. Or, act it out—use your best Grinchy voice and big expressions!



Try This!

- Roll a die to randomly pick which characters or traits to use.
- Draw pictures of your story as a comic strip.
- Record yourself reading it like a radio show or podcast!

CTC Theatre Etiquette

At CTC, we encourage audiences to engage with the live theatre experience and react freely. It's okay 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.

Each CTC production includes two Sensory Friendly performances, with their dates noted in the [list of performance dates](#).

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.