

Clues for Dr. Seuss

1. Born into to a family in 1904 that loved word play. His mother as a child made up rhymes listing pie flavors for her family- owned bakery. Later she sang these pie poem verses to him at bedtime while his father liked to dream up goofy complicated inventions such as a “ Silk Stocking Back Seam Wrong Detecting Mirror”
2. As a child he regularly visited the Springfield zoo with his sister Marnie and then draw animals on the walls of her bedroom and make up names for them. One of his mother’s favorites was a creature with ears that were 9 feet long called a capital Wynnmp.
3. During World War I, he and his sister were bullied in school because their family came from Germany and America was at war with the Germans.
4. In high school he enjoyed writing jokes for the school newspaper but paid little attention to his schoolwork, except for his English class.
5. After graduation he chose to attend Dartmouth because his English teacher was an alumna. He loved the college and made lifelong friends there. In his junior year was elected editor of Jacko, the school’s newspaper.
6. Graduated from Dartmouth with less than good grades but tricked his father in sending him to Oxford University in England. It wasn’t a good fit and his mind often wandered so he filled his notebooks with doodles about chickens with windmill tails and dogs walking tightropes. Here he met his future wife Helen.

7. Helen cared of him for 40 years. She handled money matters, shielded him from publicity, and went over every line he wrote, answered his fan mail which one time exceeded a 1000 pounds. She passed away in 1967.
8. Left Oxford returned to the U.S. and accepted a job with a humor magazine called the Judge where he was once paid in cases of shaving cream or cream soda and once received 1872 nail clippers.
9. In 1928 he was discovered by the Flit Company who made a popular bug killer and who's sales soared because of his hilarious advertising cartoons.
10. All his rhymes in his picture books are so naturally they look easy, but he said, "Every word is a struggle" and he might write and tear up 500 to 1000 pages for each book.
11. Loved to play practical jokes on his friends, once he sneaked into the kitchen and put a huge plastic pearl in one of the oysters that was going to be served at dinner and another time, he filled a friend's bathtub with Jell-O and goldfish.
12. His first picture book: And to think that I saw it on Mulberry Street was rejected by many publishers but loved by children. This was followed by more than 60 books published in more than 20 languages including Chinese, Swedish, and Spanish.
13. He signed his books Dr. Seuss, but his real name was Theodore (LeSieg) spelled backwards. Finally received an honorary doctorate from Dartmouth in 1955.