The Cat in the Hat Is 50!

Put on your (striped) party hats because this month The Cat in the Hat is celebrating its 50th birthday. Since the book was first published on March 1, 1957, The Cat in the Hat has become one of the world’s most popular children’s books of all time.

To celebrate The Cat in the Hat’s birthday, the company that publishes the book has started Project 236. The project is named after the number of words used in The Cat in the Hat. The goal of Project 236 is to get people all over the U.S. reading aloud The Cat in the Hat at 2:36 p.m. on March 2. They chose March 2 because that was Dr. Seuss’s birthday.

Did you read The Cat in the Hat when you were learning to read? You probably read it over and over because it was one of your favorite books. Kids like the story because a funny cat visits two children on a rainy day and does things the kids are not allowed to do.

Dr. Seuss, whose real name was Theodor Geisel, wrote The Cat in the Hat because some people said that children’s books were boring. Dr. Seuss wanted to show he could write a book that a first grader would love to read. He used a list of easy-to-read words to write The Cat in the Hat.

The Cat in the Hat is only 72 pages long, but Dr. Seuss said it took him nine months to write the book. It must be very hard to write a good story with so few words.

MORE FACTS ABOUT THE CAT IN THE HAT

- More than 7.2 million copies of The Cat in the Hat have been sold.
- On the Web, you can go to http://www.seussville.com/CITH_50th to send a birthday card to The Cat in the Hat.
- March 2 is Dr. Seuss’s birthday. It is also Read Across America Day.

THINK ABOUT THE NEWS

Can you write a story with a beginning, middle, and end that has no more than 100 easy-to-read words? Go ahead -- give it a try!