

# 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*.

## NEWS WORD BOX

aloud allowed  
celebrate striped  
popular company  
publish project goal

*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](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!