

# THE BUTTER BATTLE BOOK

## Dr. Seuss

Learning Objectives: Students will:

1. Use context clues to create a timeline about Theodor Seuss Geisel's life and writing career.
2. Analyze the conflict in *The Butter Battle Book* by Dr. Seuss.
3. Apply Dr. Seuss thinking and creativity to a new conflict situation.
4. Use problem-solving skills to create a story about a real-life conflict and solution.

TEKS: SS 3.11A, 17E, 4.21C, 23B, 5.24C, 26B; LA 3.5A, Figure 19D  
4 – Figure 19D; 5- Figure 19D

Materials Needed: Timeline cards (Attachment 1), *The Butter Battle Book* by Dr. Seuss

Vocabulary: conflict, chronological

Teaching Strategies:

1. Announce to students that to celebrate Dr. Seuss' March 2 birthday, the class will learn about his life and read one of his best books.
2. Distribute the timeline cards randomly to the class. Students with the cards should come to the front of the class and read the cards. (At this point they will not be in order.)
3. After the class has heard all the facts included on the cards, ask students still seated to help place the students with the cards in the correct chronological order, based on the context clues of the cards.
4. After the cards are in the correct order, each student holding a card will read his/her card again, to make sure the events are in the right order.
5. Ask for student comments/responses to any events listed.
6. Allow students to return to their seats.
7. In preparation for reading *The Butter Battle Book*, ask students to recall a time when they had a difference of opinion with someone. Perhaps the conflict was resolved, grew larger, or was ignored. Ask for suggestions for possible solutions to the conflict mentioned or how the conflict was resolved.

8. Tell students that the book you are going to read is about a silly conflict that grew into a war, complete with bigger and better weapons. Read *The Butter Battle Book* to the class.
9. Guide a discussion of the book using the following questions:
  - a. What did the Yooks and Zooks disagree about?
  - b. How did this difference change their community?
  - c. At what point do their disagreements get out of control?
  - d. Could anyone win this argument?
  - e. If this book had one more page, what do you think would have happened?
  - f. What kinds of differences do we have that cause problems?
  - g. What can we learn from this book?
10. Apply the lesson learned in this book to an everyday situation by asking pairs of students to identify one disagreement that is common at home or at school.
11. After they have identified the problem, ask them to think like Dr. Seuss, giving characters involved funny names, then escalating (to the ridiculous) the disagreement much like the Zooks and Yooks in the book.
12. Allow each pair of students tell their story briefly.
13. Assign students to write a story about a real-life kid conflict (not exaggerated) and a sensible solution to solve the problem before it escalates. Allow students to illustrate their stories, if time allows.

Extension for G/T:

Students will discuss the various characters in the Dr. Seuss books. A trip to the library or a website might be necessary to get a complete list of books. A Dr. Seuss National Memorial was opened in 2002. Students will create a list of Dr. Seuss characters in the order of their popularity and therefore worthy of special recognition in the Museum Sculpture Garden. Students should be able to defend their choices. After creating their own list, students will go to <http://www.catinthehat.org/memorial.htm> (Dr. Seuss National Memorial) to compare their list with the Seuss characters that are actually included in the sculpture garden.

## Dr. Seuss Time Line Cards

Theodor (Ted) Seuss Geisel was born in 1904 in Massachusetts.

When he was a child, his mother chanted to him in rhymes.

While he was a student at Dartmouth College he wrote his first book, but it was not published until later.

He met his future wife, Helen, while he was a student at Oxford.

His father wanted him to be a college professor, so after he graduated from Dartmouth, he enrolled in Oxford University.

He dropped out of Oxford and toured Europe instead.

After returning to the United States, he went to work for the Saturday Evening Post drawing cartoons.

Dr. Seuss got so good at drawing cartoons that he was asked to draw the illustrations for a book.

Dr. Seuss' first book was *And to Think I Saw it on Mulberry Street*.

By the time he died in 1991, 200 million Dr. Seuss books had been sold.

The book that made him famous wasn't his first book, but was *The Cat in the Hat*.

Dr. Seuss wrote and illustrated a total of 44 books, plus TV specials and movies