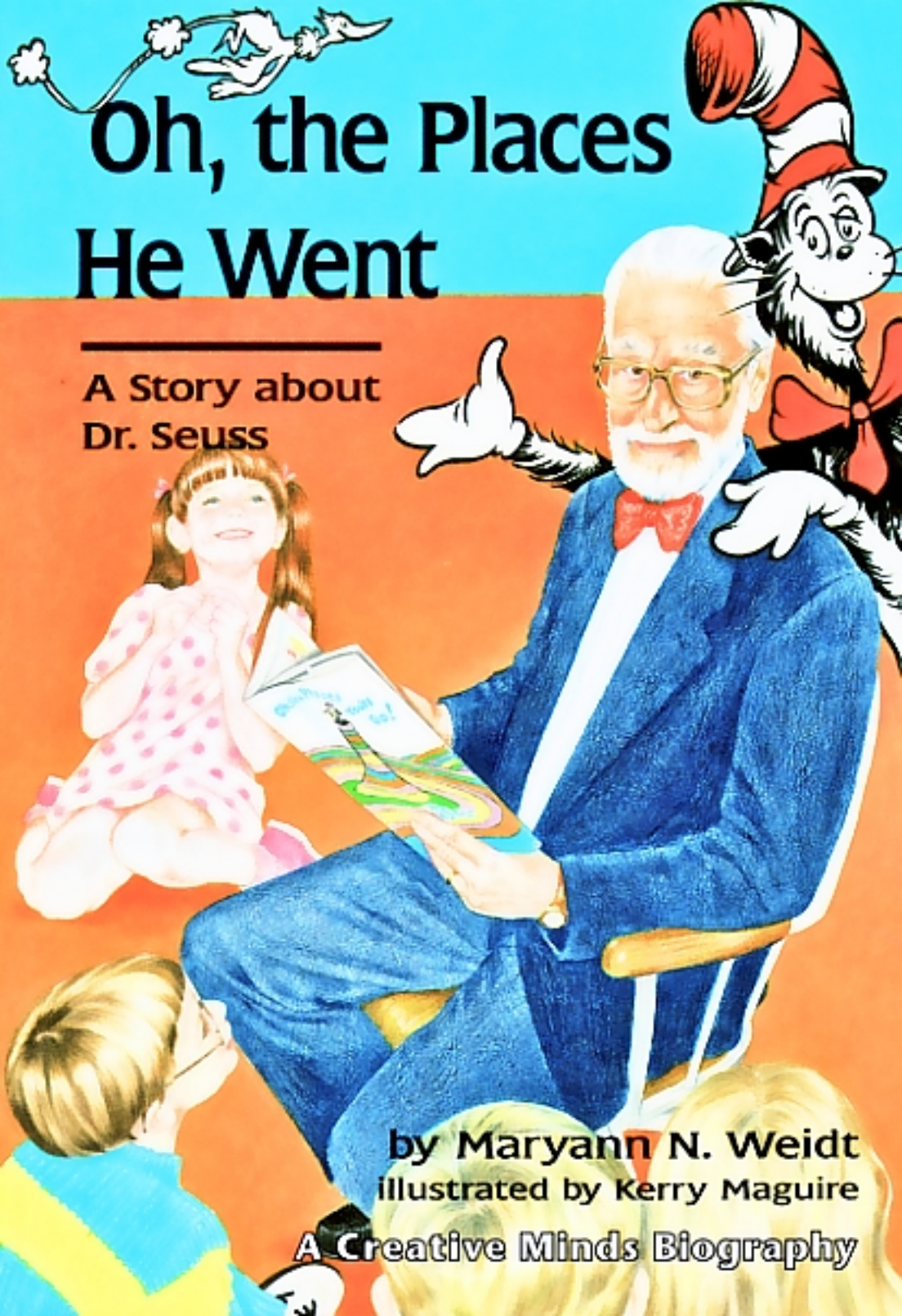




Oh, the Places He Went

A Story about
Dr. Seuss



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A Creative Minds Biography

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On Fairfield Street

The grandfather clock in the hall chimed twice. Theodor Seuss Geisel, who was called Ted, lay on his bed in his house on Fairfield Street, in Springfield, Massachusetts. He listened. He heard the wind blow softly through the elms and maples in the backyard. Then came the sound he had been waiting to hear—AWOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOO.

It was the wolves. But Ted was not frightened. Many nights he had been awakened by their howling. They lived just six blocks away, at the Forest Park Zoo.

Four-year-old Ted sat up and peered out his window at the fields behind the house. One lonely farmhouse stared back. His sister Marnie, who was two years older, had said the place was haunted.

Ted didn't know if he should believe Marnie or not. She was always making up stories and words. In fact, she even invented her name. Her real name

was Margaretha, but when anyone asked her, she would say, "Marnie Mecca Ding Ding Guy." Soon everyone was calling her Marnie.

In that year, 1908, the Forest Park Zoo was part of a 700-acre park. Ted's father, who was named Theodor *Robert* Geisel, was a volunteer park commissioner. In the summer, Ted and Marnie chased each other up and down the grassy hills and around the lily ponds. They would also try to catch polliwogs. In the winter, they skated on the frozen ponds and raced down snow-covered banks. But for Ted, the best part of the park was always the zoo.

When Ted got home from his visits to the zoo, he would try to draw pictures of the monkeys and lions and wolves he had seen. Ted's mother, Henrietta Seuss Geisel, encouraged him. Sometimes she would even let him draw on the attic walls. But she usually gave him wallpaper scraps to use.

Ted's creatures did not look at all like the animals at the zoo. One of his beasts, a WYNNMPH, had ears three yards long. Ted's mother loved it.

When Ted was almost five, his eighteen-month-old sister, Henrietta, caught pneumonia. She coughed and coughed. There was no medicine to save her, and she died. Ted and Marnie missed her badly. Now it was just the two of them.

Their parents worked hard to make them feel happy and loved. Each summer, they took the children to a beach cottage near Clinton, Connecticut. They spent hours together, digging for clams or frolicking in the sand. Ted's father loved to fish. Sometimes he let Ted and Marnie pull in his catch. They often had to remind him to come in before the tide got too high. Then he would carry Ted and Marnie, one under each strong arm, through the rising tide back to shore.

Back in Springfield, the Forest Park Library, which was three blocks from their home, was a favorite place for family outings. Ted would choose stacks of books for his parents to read to him.

By the time he was six years old, Ted was reading stories for himself, some of them by Charles Dickens and Robert Louis Stevenson. One of Ted's best-loved books was *The Hole Book*. In it, a boy plays with a gun, and it goes off. The bullet flies through the house and pierces a water boiler, causing rooms to fill with water. The bullet keeps going, putting holes in everything in its way. Finally, it travels to the kitchen, where it hits a cake that is so hard that it stops the bullet.

Ted loved this book, and he pored over it until he knew it by heart.

Dr. Seuss is known as the creator of some of the most beloved children's books of all time. Journey to the fantastic world he created in this appealing story about the author/illustrator whose magical, rhyming characters have delighted children of all ages.

"A lively, straightforward overview of Theodor Geisel's life and work." — *School Library Journal*

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A Story about Louisa May Alcott

Bold Composer

A Story about Ludwig van Beethoven

Demanding Justice

A Story about Mary Ann Shadd Cary

Discovering Nature's Laws

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Farmland Innovator

A Story about Cyrus McCormick

Father of the Constitution

A Story about James Madison

Fighting for Equal Rights

A Story about Susan B. Anthony

First Son and President

A Story about John Quincy Adams

Go Free or Die

A Story about Harriet Tubman

A Hunger for Learning

A Story about Booker T. Washington

I Have Not Yet Begun to Fight

A Story about John Paul Jones

Jazz Age Poet

A Story about Langston Hughes

Living with the Senecas

A Story about Mary Jemison

Maker of Machines

A Story about Eli Whitney

Musical Genius

A Story about Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

Oh, the Places He Went

A Story about Dr. Seuss

Voice of Freedom

A Story about Frederick Douglass

Voice of the Palutes

A Story about Sarah Winnemucca

Words of Promise

A Story about James Weldon Johnson

Writing for Freedom

A Story about Lydia Maria Child

