

Books for Big Kids About (and by) Dr. Seuss

We all know the wonderful children's books written by Dr. Seuss, but how much do you know about the man himself? Here are a few books for readers of all ages that will shed some light on a beloved author.

Cohen, Charles D. *The Seuss, the Whole Seuss, and Nothing but the Seuss: A Visual Biography of Theodor Seuss Geisel* (2004) (j813.52 S496c)

Heavily illustrated, this weighty volume is great for browsing. It even includes diagrams from Seuss's patent for the Infantograph, a camera designed to combine two faces into one (to see what your children might look like). Large, clear type and plentiful color reproductions of posters, newspaper cartoons, and the like make this an appealing choice.

Kemp, James W. *The Gospel According to Dr. Seuss* (2004) (242 K321g)

Seek and ye shall find. . . Kemp, a retired Methodist minister, uses Seuss stories ranging from "What was I Scared of?" to *How the Grinch Stole Christmas!* to illuminate Biblical passages for the masses.

Minear, Richard H. *Dr. Seuss Goes to War: The World War II Editorial Cartoons of Theodor Seuss Geisel* (1999) (940.5400222 M6641d)

More than 200 of Seuss' World War II-era cartoons are included in this fascinating work. The cartoons are arranged thematically rather than chronologically, and the introduction by *Maus* creator Art Spiegelman is an added bonus.

Nel, Philip. *Dr. Seuss: American Icon* (2004) (813.52 S496zb)

A significant contribution to Seussian scholarship, this heavily-documented book focuses almost entirely on Seuss' work rather than his life.

Seuss, Dr. *The Seven Lady Godivas* (1987, 1939) (Fiction Seuss)

This one is not for children! The seven daughters of Lord Godiva are engaged to the seven Peeping sons (including, of course, Tom Peeping). When Lord Godiva is killed in a riding accident, his seven daughters vow not to marry until they each discover a "Horse Truth of benefit to man." And yes, the daughters are naked throughout the book, not wishing to waste time on "frivol and froth."

Seuss, Dr. *The Tough Coughs as He Ploughs the Dough: Early Writings and Cartoons by Dr. Seuss*. (1987) (817.54 S496t)

How to reconcile the familiar style of the illustrations in this book with the decidedly unSeussian content? "The Facts of Life: Or, How Should I tell My Child?" and the series of "educational charts" are again not intended for young audiences – but they are funny.