



## March 3, 2014 is the date to celebrate Read Across America and the birthday of one of the all-time favorite authors, Dr. Seuss!

You are encouraged to make this a year-long pep rally for reading and read, read, and read some more!

"You're never too old, too wacky, too wild, to pick up a book and read with a child."

About Dr. Seuss: Born Theodor Seuss Geisel, March 2, 1904, in Springfield, Massachusetts, Dr. Seuss is known for his lyrical and hysterical passages. He is certainly one of Dartmouth College's most distinguished alumni. The Cat in the Hat, perhaps one of his most famous pieces was a challenge from a publisher to create an entire book using only 225 words.

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## WHAT IS READ ACROSS AMERICA?

NEA captured the concept of an annual reading awareness and motivation program in May 1997, when a small task force came up with the idea of honoring the birthday of Dr. Seuss by calling for every child in every community to celebrate by reading. In cities and towns all across the United States and world-wide, children spend time focusing on reading for pure pleasure. The whole idea was to begin a movement to motivate and grow student achievement.

Each year there is a theme suggested by the NEA. This year the theme is "Grab your Hat and Read with the Cat". Some suggestions from NEA:

### Seuss-gestions (adapted for DoDEA)

Involve all members. For example, bus drivers can set up a reading challenge; perhaps parents can prepare recipes from your favorite books; and older students and administrators can get involved. All of them can be guest readers.

1. Team up with Read Across America partners for your event. NEA's Read Across America has more than 50 national organization partners from the American Library Association to Youth Service

America. Check out our partners list and find out if there's a local link for you. Don't forget to contact local businesses and organizations. They're great sources of book donations and volunteer readers.

2. Have your post commander, mayor, school board, or legislators issue a proclamation. You can use NEA's [sample proclamation](#) to create your own.
3. Hit the airways and read on the radio. Ask your local radio disc jockey to read or even broadcast from your school. They'll love the opportunity. Contact AFN for opportunities.
4. Aim high. Who says high school students won't get involved? High School students love reader's theater and poetry slams, and middle school students can organize book fairs and read to elementary students, or create blogs to engage their peers.
5. Play the pajama game. Invite parents and students to don their pajamas and snuggle up and read in an overnight readathon.
6. Tip your hats to hometown heroes. Have students write to local heroes and ask them about their favorite books. Showcase these hometown heroes and their choices in your reading celebration.
7. Put reading on parade or hold a book lovers' ball. Invite local authors and illustrators and showcase their books and characters in style.
8. Put on your culture cap. Create a culture cafe and put books on the menu. Your reading recipes can combine food and fiction or nonfiction and offer a taste of reading's great adventures.
9. Make your reading event a multilingual, multicultural affair. Looking for readers? Why not try storytellers from your ethnic minority communities. Their oral traditions are treasure troves for your students. Your Host Countries might enjoy the opportunity to participate and share the culture.
10. Team up for reading. Contact your units and local sports team for guest readers and invite the bands to excite your celebration.