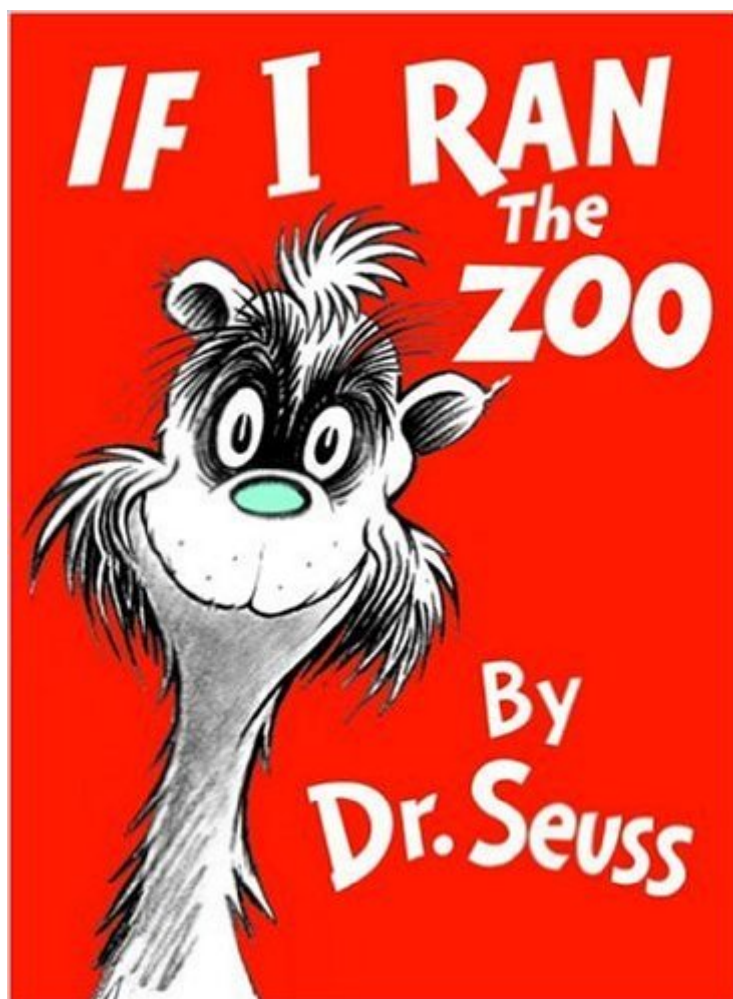


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If I Ran The Zoo (Classic Seuss)



Synopsis

Animals abound in Dr. Seuss's Caldecott Honor-winning picture book *If I Ran the Zoo*. Gerald McGrew imagines the myriad of animals he'd have in his very own zoo, and the adventures he'll have to go on in order to gather them all. Featuring everything from a lion with ten feet to a Fizza-ma-Wizza-ma-Dill, this is a classic Seussian crowd-pleaser. In fact, one of Gerald's creatures has even become a part of the language: the Nerd!

Book Information

Lexile Measure: AD1000L (What's this?)

Series: Classic Seuss

Hardcover: 64 pages

Publisher: Random House Books for Young Readers; n edition (October 12, 1950)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0394800818

ISBN-13: 978-0394800813

Product Dimensions: 8.2 x 0.4 x 11.3 inches

Shipping Weight: 14.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars See all reviews (138 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #8,323 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #13 in Books > Children's Books > Animals > Zoos #32 in Books > Literature & Fiction > Poetry > Regional & Cultural > United States #37 in Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Poetry > Dr. Seuss

Age Range: 5 - 9 years

Grade Level: Kindergarten - 4

Customer Reviews

Young children will love this foray into a child's imagination as he imagines the wonderful creatures that he would bring into the zoo if he could only be allowed to run it. Anyone familiar with Dr. Seuss will not be surprised at the fantastical creatures which populate the imaginary zoo and delight young readers. Some children may be confused, however, when at the end of the book the child reverts to reality and his spectator role, sadly watching a pedestrian zoo run by a plump, adult zookeeper.

Let's face it. The world has changed a lot since the prolific genius Suess (aka Theodore S. Geisel) penned this classic tale in 1950. The expanse of time, however, has not rendered this rhymed story any less fun for the younger set than it was then. True enough, young Gerald McGrew complains

that the lions and tigers in a pretty good zoo are "awfully old-fashioned"---before dreaming about catching new ones in an equally old-fashioned way. But most readers---in fact, all but the biggest of stuffed shirts---will quickly forget the politically incorrect aspects of the cages and trap-doodles McGrew imagines taking to the wild mountains of Zomba-ma-Tant and Tobsk, not to mention Motta-fa-Potta-fa-Pell and Hippo-no-Hungus. The machines are pretty amusing--including the Skeegle-mobile, the Bad-Animal-Catching-Machine and the Cooker-mobile. Travelers through these pages also encounter the gol-darndest lion, with ten feet; topknot hens, an Elephant-Cat, a Gusset, a Gherkin, a Gasket, a Tufted Mazurka, a Nerkle, a Nerd, a Bippos-no-Bungus---the list goes on and on---and a Seersucker too (get it?). If he ran the zoo, Gerald would make a few changes, that's just what he'd do. But changes to this book would totally destroy it. "What this zoo must be worth!" Gerald imagines crowds cheering. "It's the gol-darndest zoo/ On the face of the earth!" Got that right, young master Gerald.---Alyssa A. Lappen

In "review" of the current online reviews - y'all just don't get it. Dr. Seuss' books are about using one's imagination, not just the environment (which y'all seem to take literally), but how we treat, and take life (ALL life) in general on a day to day basis. Relate the "animals" in "If I Ran the Zoo" or "If I Ran the Circus" to someone you know (or read about). Learn from them. Enjoy.

This is a really imaginative great book. I think kids would really enjoy reading it and looking at the crazy traditional Dr. Seuss drawings. Be warned that this book was written in 1950s and things that were acceptable then are not necessarily politically correct today. How he describes some ethnicities in this book could be considered racist.

I first read this children's book when I was much, much younger. And, I still enjoy it. It is about a boy who, if he ran the zoo, would replace all the animals with very unusual species, all of them quite fanciful and imaginative. This book is another illustration of how much the author loved children's imagination and how important it is to develop that imagination. The book was a 1951 Caldecott Honor book (i.e., a runner-up to the Medal winner) for best illustration in a children's book.

This is another great whimsical Dr. Seuss story, except that in a few places Dr. Seuss indulges in the temptation to draw upon the stable fanciful of racial and ethnic caricatures in American culture to add humans to the menagerie of odd creatures here. If you are of Asian, African, Russian, or Iranian descent, you might feel offended at these depictions. If I were a school librarian, I might re-catalog

these out of the children's section, into a "mass culture examples of ethnic stereotypes" section, if such a category exists.

I used to read this to my sister when she was younger. I have looked in stores off and on for a lot of years (not saying how many) for this particular Dr. Seuss book. When I received the book, I quickly opened the box and read the entire thing from cover to cover!!! It was all I had remembered and more. When I told my sister that I had gotten the book, she said she didn't remember me reading it to her. Kind of surprised me since she couldn't read but would go through the book and know what each page said. I will get together with her and read it to her again soon. I was disappointed my sister didn't remember the book, but not disappointed in the book itself. Dr. Seuss never gets old, no matter how old you are!

"If I Ran the Zoo" is my absolutely favorite book by Dr. Seuss! This book is an instant childhood classic. I cannot remember how many times I begged my grandmother to read it to me. By far one of the Doctor's most imaginative stories.

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