Dr. Seuss

There are lots of American folklore heroes. Johnny Appleseed stories are based on the life of a real person. Other folklore tales talk about imaginary characters like Paul Bunyan. We don't know who started the stories about Paul Bunyan but somehow the tales of his adventures became part of American culture as they were recited over and over again.

The Cat in the Hat and the Grinch are among the many imaginary characters invented by Dr. Seuss. Even though Dr. Seuss is an imaginary name, there is a real person who wrote all Dr. Seuss stories. His name is Theodor Seuss Geisel.

Theodor Geisel was born in Springfield, Massachusetts in 1904. His mother enjoyed telling her children rhymes and chants every night as bedtime stories. Theodor fell in love with rhymes when he was just a boy.

When Theodor grew up he became a cartoonist and illustrator. He loved to draw interesting new characters. He enjoyed writing his children's stories as long rhymes. Kids loved listening and reading his rhymes as much as Theodor liked his mother's bedtime stories and rhymes.

Theodor wrote forty-four children's books in all. He used the name Dr. Seuss as the author of the books instead of his real name. Dr. Seuss is a pseudonym, an imaginary name for that an author uses.

Name: _____

Multiple Choice

Circle the correct answer.

1. Which imaginary character was invented by Dr. Seuss?

    a. Paul Bunyan
    b. Grinch
    c. Superman

2. Who told rhyming stories to young Theodor?

    a. His grandmother
    b. His father
    c. His mother

3. What was Dr. Seuss' last name?

    a. Seuss
    b. Geisel
    c. Theodor

4. How many books did Dr. Seuss write?

    a. Four
    b. Fourteen
    c. Forty-four

5. When writer uses a name other than their real name, the new name is called a

    a. Pseudonym
    b. Fiction
    c. Imaginary

Name: _____

Activities

1. Dr. Seuss died in 1991. How old was he when he died?

2. Locate Springfield, Massachusetts on a map of the United States.

3. Who is your favorite Dr. Seuss character? Explain why this character is your favorite.

4. If you were writing a story and you wanted to use a pseudonym, what new name would you choose?

5. Draw your own imaginary character that could appear in a Dr. Seuss story.

6. With a team of your classmates write your own story about an imaginary character.

7. Write a list of ten words that rhyme with bail.

Answer Key

Multiple Choice

1. b.
2. c.
3. b.
4. c.
5. a.

Activities

1. 1991 – 1904 = 87 years old
2. Individual response
3. Individual response
4. Individual response
5. Individual response
6. Individual response
7. Individual response