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Hats Off to Reading!

Principals eat fried worms. Some teachers color their hair green. You might even be served green eggs and ham for lunch. Why? It's Read Across America Day!

Read Across America Day is on March 2 each year. It celebrates the birthday of the famous children's author, Theodor Seuss Geisel. You probably know him as Dr. Seuss. Lots of schools hold contests on this day. Sometimes students dare their principals to do crazy things. Many kids dress like characters from Dr. Seuss books.

How will your school celebrate this year?

Hats Off to Reading *(cont.)*

Directions: Answer these questions. You may look at the article.

1. What do we celebrate on Read Across America Day?
 - a. We celebrate funny books.
 - b. We celebrate the birthday of Dr. Seuss.
 - c. We celebrate our favorite singers.

2. What do some students do to celebrate the day?
 - a. They dress like characters from Dr. Seuss books.
 - b. They visit a museum.
 - c. They color their hair purple.

3. Why do some schools serve green eggs and ham on that day?
 - a. Green eggs and ham are the most popular lunch at school.
 - b. Green eggs and ham are part of a school contest.
 - c. Green eggs and ham are served in a famous Dr. Seuss book.

4. What is something else you could do to celebrate Read Across America Day?

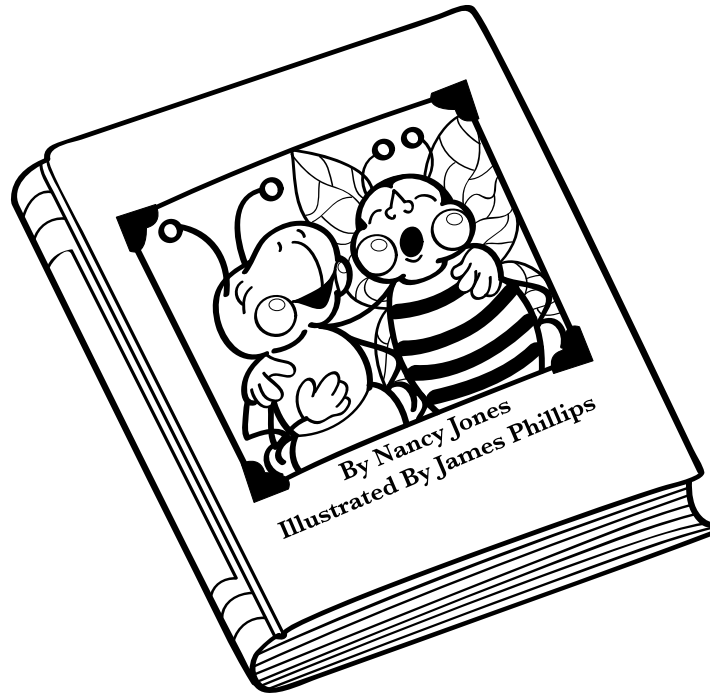
5. What is your favorite Dr. Seuss book? Explain why this book is your favorite.

6. Why do you think so many kids love Dr. Seuss books? What is it about his stories that make them fun to read?

7. What other favorite books or authors do you think should have a special day? How do you think we should celebrate their days?

Hats Off to Reading *(cont.)*

Directions: Look at the picture. Answer the questions.



1. Look at the drawing on the front of this book. What do you think would be a good title?

2. What do you think the story might be about?

3. Who is the illustrator? What does the illustrator do?

4. If you were writing a book about an animal, what kind of animal would you choose?
Write the first sentence of your story.

Jan Brett Has a Blast!

Author and illustrator Jan Brett aims high for her art. She visited a space lab to research her new book, *Hedgie Blasts Off!* "It's the little details that make the book real," Brett said.

In the story, Hedgie the hedgehog wants to be an astronaut. He is on the cleanup crew at Star Lab. Hedgie's dream seems distant until he is sent on a special space mission.

"At NASA, everyone from the scientist to the janitor is important. Everybody works to accomplish the mission," Brett says.

Jan Brett Has a Blast! *(cont.)*

Directions: Answer these questions. You may look at the article.

1. Who illustrated *Hedgie Blasts Off*?
 - a. NASA scientists
 - b. an astronaut
 - c. Jan Brett

2. Where did the author go to research her book?
 - a. She visited a space lab.
 - b. She went on a space shuttle mission.
 - c. She visited a zoo.

3. What happens in the book?
 - a. Hedgie goes to school.
 - b. Hedgie goes to a space lab.
 - c. Hedgie goes on a space mission.

4. Why do you think the author wanted to visit a space lab?

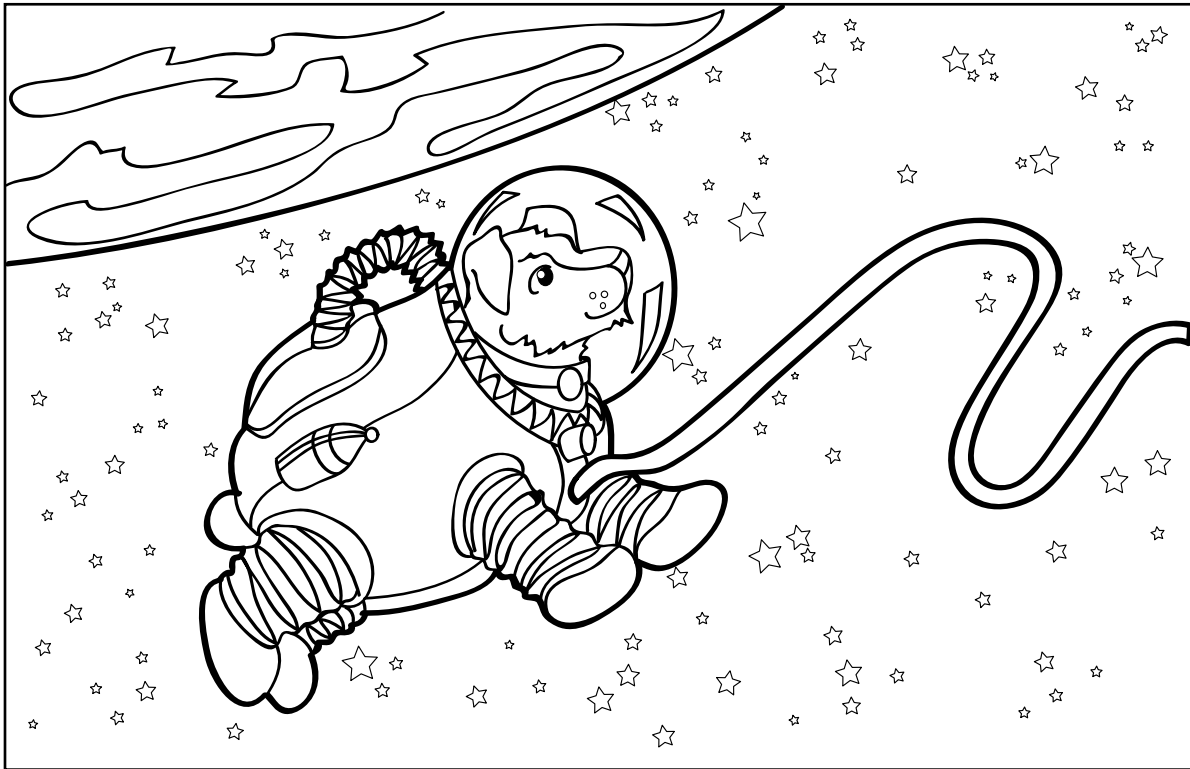
5. Write down two details Brett could have added to the story after her visit to the space lab.

6. What else might the author have studied before writing her book?

7. What do you think Hedgie might look like? On a separate sheet of paper, draw a picture of how you would draw a hedgehog astronaut.

Jan Brett Has a Blast! *(cont.)*

Directions: Look at the picture. Answer the questions.



1. Where do you think this dog is going?

2. Why do you think scientists might want to send animals into space?

3. What kinds of things would an animal need during a space flight?

4. Would you ever allow one of your pets to go on a space mission? Why or why not?
