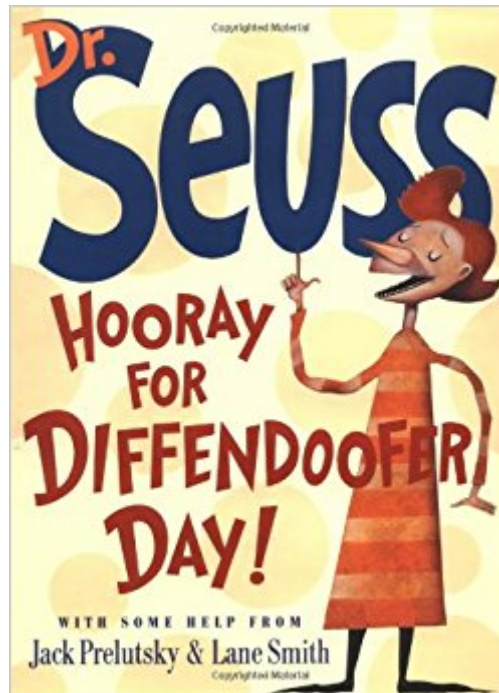




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# Hooray For Diffendoofer Day!



## Synopsis

Started by Dr. Seuss, finished by Jack Prelutsky, and illustrated by Lane Smith, *Hooray for Diffendoofer Day!* is a joyous ode to individuality starring unsinkable teacher Miss Bonkers and the quirky Diffendoofer School (which must prove it has taught its students how to think--or have them sent to dreary Flobbertown). Included is an introduction by Dr. Seuss's longtime editor explaining how the book came to be and reproductions of Dr. Seuss's original pencil sketches and hand-printed notes for the book. A true find for all Seuss collectors! Jack Prelutsky and Lane Smith pay homage to the Good Doctor in their own distinctive ways, the result of which is the union of three one-of-a-kind voices in a brand-new, completely original book that is greater than the sum of its parts. For all of us who will never forget our school days and that special teacher, here is a book to give and to get.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 620 (What's this?)

Hardcover: 64 pages

Publisher: Knopf Books for Young Readers; 1st edition (April 8, 1998)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0679890084

ISBN-13: 978-0679890089

Product Dimensions: 8.3 x 0.4 x 11.2 inches

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

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars 174 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #97,861 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #106 in Books > Children's

Books > Literature & Fiction > Poetry > Dr. Seuss #140 in Books > Literature & Fiction >

Poetry > Anthologies #324 in Books > Children's Books > Early Learning > Poetry

Age Range: 3 - 7 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 2

## Customer Reviews

With the release of *Hooray for Diffendoofer Day!* readers young and old are afforded a dazzling glimpse into the genius of Theodor "Dr. Seuss" Geisel. The book is based on 14 rough drawings and verses Geisel's secretary gave to the author's editor, Janet Schulman, after his death in 1991. In these scribbled sketches and scratched-out lines, we witness the Seussian process in building a story. When brainstorming the name of what resulted in the Diffendoofer School, he jots down

several possible names--"William Wilkins Woofer Junior," "Woodrow Watkins Woofer," "Zoofendorf Elementary," "J. Ebenezer Bomberg Jr."--all of a slightly different cadence and rhythm, which he tests like a composer writing a new concerto. A small collection of Geisel's rough sketches would be plenty to thrill even the Grinchiest of readers, but there's much more to this marvelous book. Renowned children's poet Jack Prelutsky and award-winning illustrator Lane Smith were called to action by Schulman to pull these sketches into a complete story that would make Dr. Seuss fruffulous with glee. Prelutsky's delicious verse is uncannily Seussian, and it is inexplicably sensational when exploring the Diffendoofer School to discover good old Horton, a platter of green eggs and ham, and a few Whos from Who-ville scattered across the surreal and fascinating landscape of Smith's artwork. Lane and Prelutsky have gone above and beyond the call of duty, maintaining the characters and themes Geisel was just beginning to develop, but enhancing them with their own delightful stylistic stamps. Above all, this incredible book is an ode to unorthodox, unusually creative teachers, and the innovative thinking they encourage in young minds. (Miss Twining, for example, teaches "how to tell chrysanthemums from miniature poodles.") It is a noble theme, and one that Geisel surely had in mind when he concocted these preliminary sketches. Both new Dr. Seuss aficionados and those who remember *The Cat in the Hat's* 1957 debut will cherish this book for its message, artwork, and poetry, and most of all, as a tribute to the man who inspired thousands of readers. (Age 3 and older)

Dr. Seuss's name towers over the title on the jacket here, setting up readers to measure the book within?extrapolated from scanty manuscript and sketches?against the late artist's classic works. While such a comparison is almost certain to disappoint, it also distracts from an appreciation of the fruitful collaboration between the ebullient Prelutsky (*The Dragons Are Singing Tonight*) and the innovative Smith (*The Stinky Cheese Man*). Given some rough art and verses and a list of characters that were compiled by Seuss in 1988 or 1989, Prelutsky and Smith fashion a plot, message and visual milieu (see *Children's Books*, Feb. 9). Zesty rhymes, some of them Seuss's own, catalogue the eccentric staff of Diffendoofer School. Then trouble threatens: the students must take a standardized test to prove Diffendoofer's worth, lest the school be closed and everyone sent to Flobbertown ("And we shuddered at the name,/ For everyone in Flobbertown/ Does everything the same"). The valiant Miss Bonkers inspires her troops. Balancing a globe on one finger, she proudly declaims: "We've taught you that the earth is round,/ That red and white make pink,/ And something else that matters more-/ We've taught you how to think." Smith pastes in some Seuss sketches and invites Seuss characters and book jackets into his collages. The look, however, is

very much Smith's; his style is so strong that it subsumes the Seussian elements in evidence (not just the collaged art but the typeface, the colored pages, the tilt of a given character's nose, etc.). Perhaps the richest reward?for adults if not for children?is the absorbing, meaty afterword by editor Janet Schulman, which allows readers a view of Seuss's draft and gives rare insight into the creative process. Ages 5-up. Copyright 1998 Reed Business Information, Inc.

This is a really special book that was written by Dr. Seuss in his living years. I brought him great joy but also great sorrow because he never felt the book was what he wanted it to be and it ended up being an unpublished piece until after his passing. Upon his passing his secretary and a few friends helped get it published. The story is super cute, the ideas are excellent and the fact that they were able to publish one of his works after his passing is great. I love it, I use it in circle time at my daughter's school and they love it.

The book itself is cute, and I love that they included Dr. Seuss's drafts at the end of the book. But the first one I got had wibbled pages, as if it has been in moist air. I returned it, and the second one was the same. Either the publisher used cheap production, or there was a production error, or they'd been sitting in a humid warehouse. Either way, made the book look used and warped.

We gave this to my daughter's first grade teacher as an end of the year, teacher appreciation gift. She loved it. The story is engaging and all about being reassured that you are prepared which is so important given all that first graders learn and have to take with them as they move onto second. We had a very special teacher that encouraged the class in their studies as well as their activities and accomplishments outside of the classroom. She so reminds me of the teacher in the story. I also appreciated the epilogue about how Dr. Seuss started the story but never finished and then moved onto his last work, *Oh the Places You Will Go!* Being a big Dr. Seuss fan, that was nice to read about. I highly recommend this for reading to children and also giving as teacher gifts.

Perfect gift for my student teacher. Classic unreleased Seuss book brought to life by modern author and illustrator. If you haven't read this Dr. Seuss book, definitely give it a try!

This is the 2nd copy I've bought of this book. It makes a great Kindergarten teacher gift!

Love to use this book as part of my Early Childhood Education class!

what a clever book! good find for an end-of-the-year teacher gift.

Kids favorite book!!!

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