

How the Grinch Stole Christmas

Second Reading: Text & Vocabulary

As you read, stress the rhyme and the rhythm. There are cool new words such as “fuzzle” to enjoy saying and determining their meaning. Remember to use extra stress on words in special type, such as italics and words in ALL CAPITALS. Dr. Seuss loves to use ellipses (...) and exclamation marks to dramatize the text. The ellipses mean an extra long pause to indicate the sentence isn’t finished, or it is interrupted.

*Read the pages before any discussion.

Pages 1 - 5:

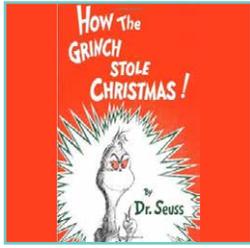
- On page 3, Dr. Seuss uses **idioms** (phrases that take on special meanings), such as: his head screwed on right. Discuss the meaning of this **idiom**. (This idiom means that his brain isn’t working properly. His thinking is strange or incorrect.)
- Could his heart really be two sizes too small? (This is another idiom, meaning that his heart doesn’t have enough love in it.)
- On page 5, **sarled with a sneer**: Dr. Seuss uses repetition of beginning sounds to enhance his rhyme.
- Find evidence of his fingers nervously drumming in the illustration.

Pages 6 - 11:

- After reading these pages, list the three things that the Grinch hated about Christmas. (noise, feasts, and singing)
- How does Dr. Seuss use the text to show that the Grinch didn’t like these three things? (He repeats these words and uses special type and exclamation marks to emphasize the Grinch’s annoyance.)

Pages 13 - 17:

- What is a WONDERFUL, AWFUL IDEA? (another example of Dr. Seuss’s love of word play: an oxymoron [two opposite words used together])
- On page 15, **scarce**: not very many, rare. Why might reindeer be **scarce**?
- Why would the Grinch load empty bags and sacks on his sleigh?
- On page 16, **ramshackle**: loosely made, shaky. Why might the Grinch’s sleigh be described as **ramshackle**?



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Pages 18 - 27:

- On page 23, **slithered** and **slunk**: **Slithered** means to move in a sliding motion. **Slunk** means to move in a slow, sneaky manner. Can you think of other words besides **slithered** and **slunk** to describe how the Grinch moved through the house?
- **chimbley**: a Dr. Seuss creation. Discuss that it means chimney, but has to rhyme with nimbly.
- On page 25, **icebox**: the old-fashioned name for refrigerator. Why might the Grinch be emptying the **icebox**?
- On page 27, **glee**: great pleasure and joy. Why might the Grinch be feeling such **glee**?

Page 28 - 35:

- On page 31, **fib**: a lie. Why might Dr. Seuss have used **fib** instead of lie? (He loved to repeat sounds: **fib** and fooled.)
- On page 35, why does the Grinch have a smile on his face instead of a frown?
- Has the Grinch stolen Christmas from the Whos?

Pages 37 - 43:

- On page 37, **trappings**: ornaments and decorations. What **trappings** had the Grinch taken?
- On page 38, **grinch-ish-ly**: meanly. Say, "Pooh-Pooh to the Whos!" **grinch-ish-ly**.

Pages 44 - END:

- Why are the Whos singing?
- Did the Grinch steal Christmas? Explain your answer.
- What caused the Grinch's heart to grow three sizes that day? (He was filled with the true spirit and understanding of Christmas.)