

Dr. Seuss'  
**HOW THE GRINCH**  
**STOLE CHRISTMAS!**<sup>TM</sup>



PENGUIN YOUNG READERS

**Dr. Seuss'**  
**HOW THE**  
**GRINCH**  
**STOLE**  
**CHRISTMAS!™**

**Taken from the Junior Novelisation  
adapted by Louise Gikow**

**adapted by  
Coleen Degnan-Veness**

**Based on the motion picture screenplay written by  
JEFFREY PRICE & PETER S. SEAMAN  
Based on the book by Dr. Seuss**

**Level 4**

**Series Editor: Melanie Williams**



I am the Grinch. If someone has to tell this story, it must be me.

I live in a cave on Mount Crumpit, just north of Who-ville with my dog, Max. It's a great place – dark, wet, cold, and horrible.

It's three days before Christmas. The Whos are delighted. Do you know what their favorite hobby is at Christmas?

Christmas shopping.

They love shopping.

It's sick!





"Come on, Cindy-Lou!" Lou Lou-Who shouted. He pulled his five-year-old daughter through the crowd.

"We've got to keep shopping. This is my favorite day of the year!"

Lou was buying a lot of things.

"Isn't this too much?" Cindy-Lou asked.

Just then, they met Drew and Stu, Cindy-Lou's brothers.

"What happened to you?" Lou asked.

"We saw the Grinch on Mount Crumpit!"

"What's a Grinch?" Cindy-Lou asked.

"Did somebody say, "GRINCH?"

Everybody looked.



“Oh hello, Mayor,” said Lou.

“Were your boys up Mount Crumpit?”

“No, not my boys,” said Lou.

“NOBODY in Who-ville visits the Grinch!”

Then he smiled and said, “This Christmas is the 1000th Whobilation, Who-ville’s happiest day! And to celebrate, all stores will be open one more hour!”



“But they’re open 24 hours a day already,” said one Who.

“Days will be 25 hours long from now on!”

Drew and Stu ran to the stores.

"Dad, who's the Grinch?" Cindy-Lou asked when the mayor left.

"Time for school, Cindy-Lou," said Lou.

At school, Miss Rue-Who said, "Think about your Christmas projects, children, and start collecting information. Cindy-Lou, what'll you do for your project?"

"I want to find out about the Grinch and why he hates Christmas."

The teacher ran to the phone and called Cindy-Lou's father. He went to the school.

Miss Rue-Who said, "NOBODY talks about the Grinch here!"

That evening, Cindy-Lou was listening to some Christmas music in her room, but she wasn't happy.

"Time for bed," said her mother, Betty-Lou.

"But I'm working on my school project... on the Grinch."

Betty-Lou and her husband looked at Cindy-Lou in surprise.

Then the phone rang. Lou answered it. "Hello? What did you say? Is my refrigerator running? Yes."

"Then you'd better go catch it!" shouted the Grinch. He put down the phone and laughed.





That's one of the oldest tricks, but it gets them every time. I like playing tricks on the Whos! They don't like me, and I don't like them!

I'm going to make this Christmas the worst Christmas in Who-ville. Yes, I feel bad. But nobody phones me. Nobody visits me. That's OK. I don't need anyone to talk to! Do I?



Hello? Anybody there? Did you hear anything, Max? Max? Max! ██████████



The next day Cindy-Lou visited Clarinella and Rose Who-Biddie. Cindy-Lou wanted to ask them some questions for her project.

“What do you know about the Grinch?”

“We gave him a good home. We sent him to school. He had Miss Rue-Who for his teacher. And Martha-May Who-vier was in his class.”

Next, Cindy-Lou visited Martha-May.

“The Grinch? Maybe I went to school with him ... I don't remember.”





Wait! I must say something. How cruel!  
How can she not remember? She liked me!  
I know it! I remember what she said to me.  
'You know Christmas is my favorite day of  
the year. I just love the colors, the red and  
the green!'

She touched my arm when she said, 'the  
green!' And you know what color my fur  
is!!! Even May-Who was jealous! He has  
always liked Martha-May but she liked me!



And that's not all. I even cut off my hair for her. She was always saying I was hairy because I already had a beard when I was eight. So I cut it off. I looked terrible. And all the students laughed at me. Martha-May too! Well, I showed them. Stupid Christmas. Stupid presents! Their Christmas was a disaster when I got finished. And I moved to Mount Crumpit and never went back to Who-ville.



Mayor May-Who started the celebrations by asking, "Who will be Cheermeister, the leader of our celebrations? Who is our favorite Who?"

Everyone thought.

A small voice said, "The Grinch."

All the Whos looked in horror at Cindy-Lou.

The Mayor opened the *Book of Who* and read, "If at Christmas a Who is not full of cheer, 'GRINCHY' is the word for that poor dear... Does that sound like OUR Cheermeister?"

Everyone waited for Cindy-Lou's answer.





She answered, "The *Book of Who* says, 'It's not important how different a Who may appear, he'll always be welcome with holiday cheer.'"

The crowd cheered. She was right!

Cindy-Lou left the celebrations and went up Mount Crumpit.

"What do you want?" asked the Grinch.

"I came to invite you to be Cheermeister."

"Cheer what?"

"Please say yes to this award. You are the winner."

"Award? I won? Some Whos are losers? Interesting..."



"The Mayor wasn't happy," Cindy-Lou said.

The Grinch made a sad face.

"Martha-May will be there," said Cindy-Lou.



"Oh she will, will she? And she'll see me the winner?"

"Will you come?"

"Why not? This Who-bilation could change everything."

"You'll come?"

"No!" he shouted.

The Grinch suddenly opened a hole in the floor under her feet. She disappeared with a cry.

"Did you see that?" the Grinch shouted to Max.



Max didn't think it was very clever and,  
to be honest, neither did I.

But how do they think I can go down there  
just like that? I need time. What would I wear  
if I went? Maybe I can find something.

Yes, these! I don't look half bad. I look ALL bad!

Maybe I'll drop in for a minute, eat their  
cookies, then leave.

No! Max! Don't open the hole! No! A...a...ah...!



Cindy-Lou dropped down in the middle of Who-ville.

"Oh, there you are," said her father. "Come on. It's time for the lighting of the Christmas lights."

Cindy-Lou looked back at Mount Crumpit and thought, "Will he come?"

When they got to their street, the whole town was there. Mayor May-Who was saying, "Who has the best Christmas lights this year? Who will win the contest this Christmas?"

"Betty Lou-Who or Martha-May Who-vier? OK, Betty."

Cindy-Lou's mother turned on the lights and their whole house lit up.

"And now Martha?"

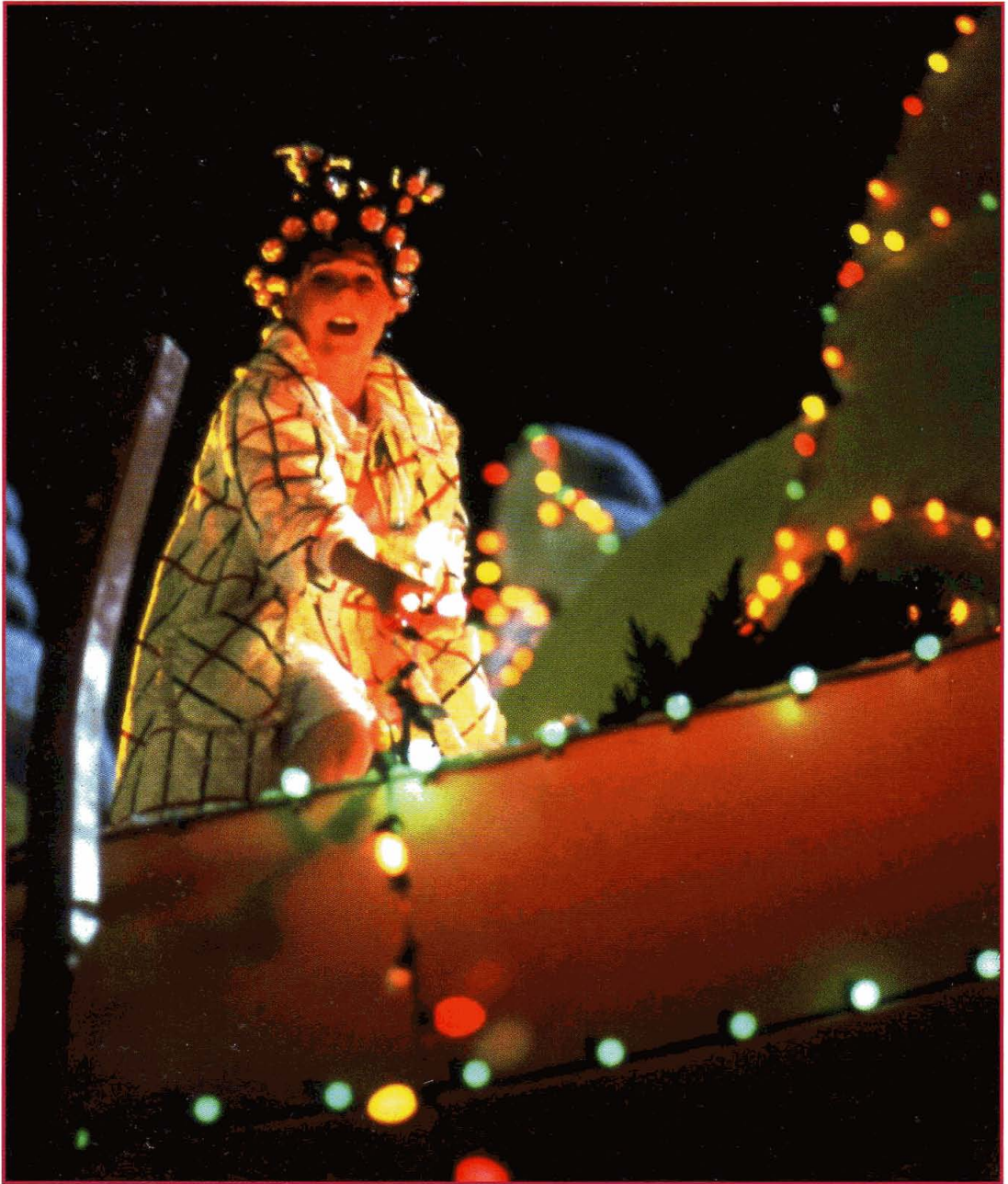
Martha-May turned on her Christmas lights and everybody cheered loudly.

"Well, Martha it looks like you won again... but look at this!" said Betty-Lou.

She turned on more lights. They were the most beautiful lights anyone had ever seen. The Mayor, who wanted to marry Martha-May, opened the envelope.

"The winner is... Martha-May!"







Then Mayor May-Who said, "It's time to give this award to our... Cheermeister."

He looked at the empty chair.

"He's not here? Then, the award goes to the next in line."

The Mayor smiled.

"That's right," said Who-Bris. "The award goes to a man who is handsome, a man who is mayor of..."

The Grinch suddenly bounced down from Mount Crumpit.

Cindy-Lou was happy to see him, but May-Who was not.





"Time for the cake contest!" said the Mayor. They pushed cakes into the Grinch's mouth.

"Now, presents!" Mayor May-Who shouted. Everybody was giving presents, but the Grinch hadn't brought a present for anyone.

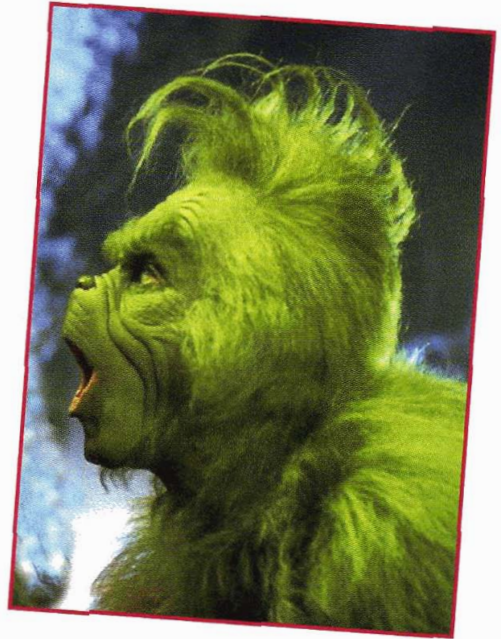
"He's got nothing!" the Mayor shouted happily.

Mayor May-Who gave Martha-May a giant diamond ring and asked, "Will you marry me?"

"Presents! I hate them," shouted the Grinch. "That's what YOUR Christmas is all about!"

He turned to go.





“Mr. Grinch! Don’t go!” cried Cindy-Lou.

“Wait! I’m a terrible Cheermeister. I forgot the most important thing, lighting the Christmas tree!”

The Cheermeister always lights the tree. But the Grinch suddenly had a nasty idea...

He set the tree on fire!

“Do something...” shouted Mayor May-Who to Who-Bris as the fire trucks appeared, “...to the Grinch!”

The Grinch ran away. And the Whos ran after him. But, they couldn’t catch him.



I'm back home now. But I'm going to stop Christmas if it's the last thing I do. I know! I'll steal Christmas!

Come here, Max. Put on these antlers.

I look just like Santa in these red clothes – if you're five miles away!

I can make a sleigh and we'll fly down to all the houses in Who-ville, Max! You can pull the sleigh and it will look just like Santa's.



And that's what he did... But at Cindy-Lou's house, Cindy-Lou woke up.

"Santa!" she said. "What are you doing with our tree?"

"Go to bed," the Grinch said.

"Santa, what's Christmas about?"

"Presents."

"I was afraid of that," she said sadly.

The Grinch took her back up to bed.

"Don't forget the Grinch. He's mean, hairy, and smelly ... but sweet."

"You're a nice kid," he said.

Then, he went back to Mount Crumpit and watched.







I had fun. I took all the presents from under the Christmas trees. I took the Christmas trees, too. I even stole the Christmas presents in the Who children's dreams.

I took food from their refrigerators.

I put something under Mayor May-Who's bed. He's going to have a big surprise when he wakes up!

Martha-May looked beautiful in her sleep.

In the morning, the Whos woke up and saw that Christmas had disappeared. They went into the streets. Mayor May-Who came flying out the window of his bedroom (remember the Grinch put something under his bed?).

“Do you want to know who did this?” the Mayor shouted.  
“He’s up there!”

He pointed to Mount Crumpit.

The Grinch smiled.

“You’re wrong,” said Cindy-Lou. “It was Santa. I saw him!”

“This is your fault!” shouted the Mayor.





Cindy-Lou was going to cry.

Her father stood and said, "Cindy-Lou was right. I'm glad the Grinch took our presents... that is not what Christmas is about... presents, contests, and fantastic lights. It's about being together – with our families!"

Cindy-Lou smiled. "Merry Christmas, Dad," she said and kissed him.

"I don't need presents," Lou said happily.

"I have nothing more to give you!" he said to Betty-Lou. She smiled. They kissed. Then everybody kissed!



Look, Max! The Whos are kissing one another. What's going on in Who-ville? I've taken all the presents... all the Christmas trees... all the food. They can't have Christmas! I've taken it!

Or have I?

Maybe Christmas isn't about these things.  
Maybe it's about... a feeling.



Oh no! Max, help me! I... I think... I'm feeling! What's happening? I'm all warm inside! Oh Max! I love you!

Max, you're kissing me!



Then, the Grinch saw the sleigh... it was going to fall off the mountain!

"Oh no! The sleigh... the presents... Christmas!"

He ran and tried to stop it.

"Hi, Mr. Grinch."

He looked up and saw Cindy-Lou on top of the sleigh.

"Cindy!"

"I came to see you. Nobody should be without friends on Christmas."

Her smile made him feel strong. He picked up the sleigh and put it down on the mountain.



"You saved me!" said Cindy-Lou.

"Saved you? I saved you? Yes, I think I did!"

The next thing he knew, he and Cindy-Lou and Max were flying down the mountain in the sleigh.

"How are you going to stop?" Cindy-Lou wanted to know.

"Don't worry?" I cried happily. "It's Christmas!"

Luckily, Betty-Lou and Martha-May saw them.

"Take these lights! We can stop them!" Betty-Lou shouted.

The string of lights stopped the sleigh.





Policeman Who-lihan walked up and said, "What's this?"  
He saw all the presents, the food, the trees, the...  
"I am the Grinch who stole Christmas," the Grinch said.



"I'm sorry."

"Take him away!" shouted Mayor May-Who.

"He said he was sorry... and it is all here."

"But look what he did to Christmas!" Mayor May-Who shouted.

Martha-May said, "Mayor May-Who, this is for you."

She gave him his ring back.

The surprise knocked him over.

The Grinch spent the next few hours putting everything back. Then he lit the Christmas tree. It was beautiful.

The Christmas celebration was the greatest any Who had ever seen.

"You had the nicer Christmas lights," Martha-May told Betty-Lou.

Martha-May sat next to the Grinch at dinner.

"Merry Christmas, Mr. Grinch," said Cindy-Lou and she kissed him on the cheek.

"Your cheek is... so..."

"Hairy?"

"No...warm!"

"Merry Christmas,  
Cindy-Lou"





# Activities

## Before you read

1. Look at the cover and the pictures in the book.
  - a. What is strange about this Christmas story, do you think?
  
  - b. Who likes the Grinch in this story? Find three pictures that show he is liked and explain how you know this.
  
2. On what page do you see:
  - a. lights page \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. a Mayor page \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. a Who-bilation page \_\_\_\_\_
  - d. antlers page \_\_\_\_\_
  - e. a sleigh page \_\_\_\_\_

Use your dictionary to check meanings of new words for a, b, d, e.  
For c, look up 'jubilation'.



**After you read**

**3. Which of these characters change in the story? How?**

- a. the Grinch
- b. Mayor May-Who
- c. Lou Lou-Who
- d. Martha May-Who-vier
- e. the Whos
- f. Max

**4. Write a letter to Mayor May-Who and tell him your ideas for next year's Who-bilation.**

Give ideas about




shopping days and times

contests

Cheermeister

awards

presents



and anything else you can think of to make next Christmas the Best Christmas in Who-ville!





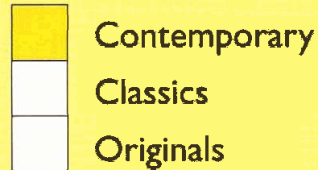
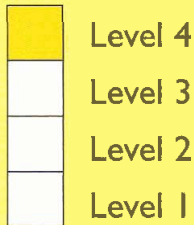
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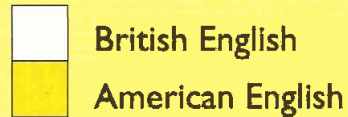
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