

Book Review

What Pet Should I Get?

By Andrew Toelle

What Pet Should I Get? is a picture book written and illustrated by Dr. Seuss. Unlike earlier titles that were published during Dr. Seuss' life, this book was published by Random House earlier last year. *What Pet Should I Get?* was written and illustrated by Dr. Seuss, but the project alone disappeared years before it could be published. This makes *What Pet Should I Get?* an exciting new addition to the classic collection of Dr. Seuss books.

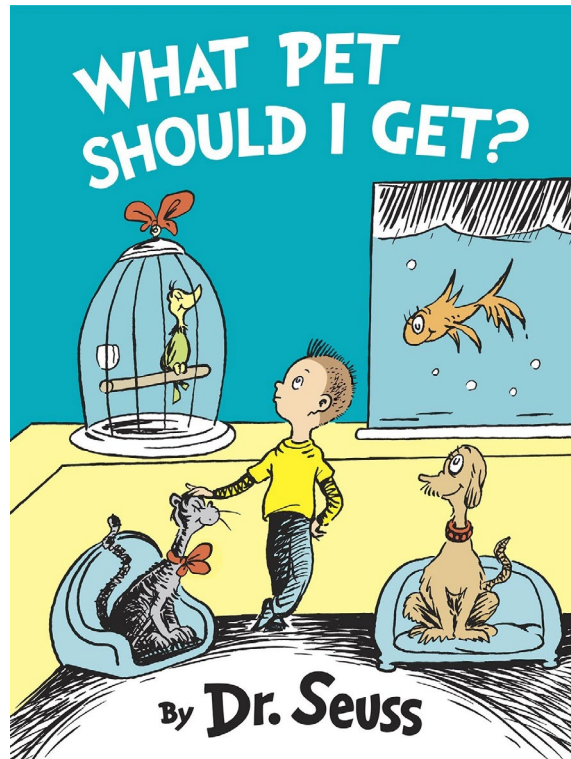
The overall story of *What Pet Should I Get?* features two siblings walking into a pet store, deciding on which pet they should buy. The two kids have until noon to decide what pet they should get. This plot becomes an interactive adventure as the reader reads on. The pictures are fun to look at as they remind older generations of recognizable Dr. Seuss titles: *The Cat in the Hat* (1957), *One Fish, Two Fish, Red Fish, Blue Fish* (1960), and *Oh, the Places You'll Go* (1990.) Typical of Dr. Seuss' writing style, the book was written in rhythmic form, making it an easy book to sit through with kids. *What Pet Should I Get?* also uses expressive illustrations that encourage expression while reading.

The story behind *What Pet Should I Get?* can be seen in the back of the book. Dr. Theodore Seuss Geisel loved animals. The first pet Ted had was a plush, brown dog he got from his mother. When Ted was ten

years old in 1914, his first real pet was a Boston bulldog named Rex. When Ted grew older, he and his first wife Helen adopted an Irish setter from their neighbor in La Jolla, California. Random House publishing says it was their first of many Yorkies over the years. When Dr. Seuss' wife past away, he re-married and continued adopting dogs. It was fun to read that Dr. Seuss had dogs for pets, even when his first best-seller was based off a cat.

When *What Pet Should I Get?* was re-discovered by Audrey and Claudia Prescott, a secretary and friend of Dr. Seuss in 2013. They found original spreads for the project in a collection of drawings Audrey stored away several years ago. Like other projects, the pages for *What Pet Should I Get?* had text taped into position on the original line art says Random House. It wasn't long before friends and family of Dr. Seuss encouraged Audrey to put this book back into production.

What Pet Should I Get? is a new classic. In addition to interpreting a fun subject, *What Pet Should I Get?* is fun to read because of its history. Dr. Seuss' creative writing will leave older readers nostalgic as they share it with kids. The writer from Random House stated that this book has an important moral behind it. Sometimes it's hard, but you just have to make up your mind.



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