

# Horton Hears A Who!

By Dr. Seuss

(A lesson in self worth, respect, and community/teamwork)

Objective: To facilitate discussion and activities related to community, acceptance, and self worth, (and any number of other themes that could be considered culturally relevant/responsive)

Teachers can use this short story to introduce lessons focusing on the value of each human being regardless of race, religion, size, etc. Students can share personal ideas connected to the themes.

The possibilities are endless, depending on how involved a group may get and how far a teacher wants to take it.

Grade Level: All

Length of Time: Any-depends on teachers and students and desired extensions of subject matter

Materials Needed: copy of Horton Hears A Who by Dr. Seuss

## Lesson Description:

Teacher reads aloud Horton Hears A Who. Teacher may choose to have copies for students to read individually or in groups. Facilitate class discussion. Initiate activities.

- Students discuss the themes of community and teamwork.
- Students complete activities to emphasize the importance of working together.
- Students analyze applications of these themes in their own communities and personal lives.
- Students discuss the importance of differences.

*Some possible themes to use for upper grade essay writing:*

- A person's a person's no matter how small (Horton's oft repeated line in the book)
- Don't give up on your beliefs, even in the face of adversity
- Do what you believe is right, even if everyone around you is telling you to do otherwise.
- Fighting for what you believe in the most important task in life.
- A person's value has more to do with who they are inside and what they do than what they present on the outside.
- You can overcome great obstacles and accomplish amazing feats when you fight for what you believe in.

*Some possible activities for younger children, (or not):*

1. Begin with a ball of yarn and ask one person in the circle to throw the ball of yarn to someone else in the circle without letting go of the end of the yarn. Students say what he or she likes best about the person who caught the ball of yarn.
2. Continue around the circle until everyone gets the ball at least once, making sure students never let go of their piece.
3. If a student drops their piece of yarn, make note of how the intricate web falls apart without everyone's teamwork. 4. Once everyone has gotten the yarn, have everyone carefully lay down their piece and see what they have created as a team.

The Hula Hoop game - Students stand in a circle holding hands. They begin with a hula hoop around two students linked hands. They then must work together to move the hula hoops over and around each student as fast as possible, helping each other find fast ways of working together. This just another activity that demonstrates a very similar message as the web activity, in an interactive and fun way.