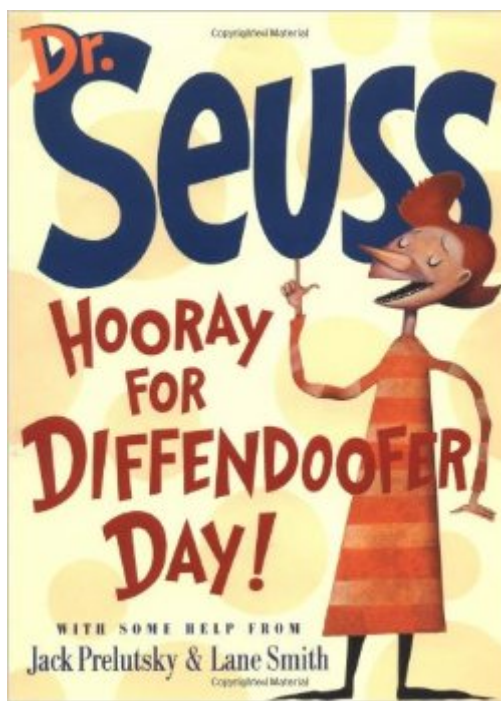


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# Hooray For Diffendoofer Day!



## 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: 750 (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: 8.4 x 0.4 x 11.3 inches

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

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars. See all reviews (154 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #52,337 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #56 in Books > Literature & Fiction > Poetry > Anthologies #91 in Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Poetry > Dr. Seuss #365 in Books > Children's Books > Early Learning > Beginner Readers

Age Range: 3 - 7 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 2

## Customer Reviews

I loved Dr. Seuss as a kid, but I have to admit, I don't always like reading him aloud now that I'm a parent. Don't tell my kids, but I know how *Green Eggs and Ham* ended up behind the sofa. Mom and Dad hid it there after they'd been forced to read about boxes and foxes and sockses too many times in a row one night. This new book, based on notes and sketches found among Dr. Seuss's papers after his death, might escape the fate of *Sam-I-am*, at least in our house. There are some

definite funny moments. Discussing the cafeteria workers, the narrator says, "They make us hot dogs, beans, and fries, / Plus things we do not recognize." Although the food may resemble that found in some educational institutions, the philosophy does not. Instead of teaching the students the traditional canon and rote memorization, the teachers at Diffendoofer teach an eclectic mix. Extolling the virtues of his teacher, Miss Bonkers, the narrator says: She even teaches frogs to dance. And pigs to put on underpants. One day she taught a duck to sing -- Miss Bonkers teaches EVERYTHING! Of all the teachers in our school, I like Miss Bonkers best. Our teachers are all different, But she's different-er than the rest. Most of all, the teachers teach their students how to think. This works great, until the day of the dreaded standardized test. If the students at Diffendoofer School don't pass with flying colors, they'll be forced to go to Flobbertown, where everyone does everything the same. Amazingly enough, the test covers all the things the Diffendoofer teachers have been teaching -- and for those questions on material they haven't covered yet, the students use their thinking skills to come up with the right answers. Lane Smith's illustrations pay tribute to Dr. Seuss.

Oh, no! It's a terrible thing as Dr. Seuss takes a look at conformity versus freedom! Dr. Seuss created Hooray for Diffendoofer Day!, and Jack Prelutsky finished this story while Lane Smith did the illustrations. A picture book for children ages 4 to 8. My Take The kids will love this! There are lots of opportunities for laughing and coming up with ideas for other kinds of classes besides the ones that Miss Bobble and Miss Fribble teach among others. There's Miss Clotte's overzealousness and Mr. Plunger's inventiveness. Yep, lots of opportunities to be imaginative with the kids! It's also a chance for the kids to imagine what classes in smelling, tasting, and listening would teach. A chance for parents to come up with unique ideas to get the kids to do what you want them to and good luck with that one! I do love the colors, they're so softly funky with weird angles to buildings and people and lots of stripes and polka dots and swirlies and whirlies. Smith was definitely influenced by the modern art of his day, lol. I swear, you could spend one day for each spread of pages, stretching the imagination, exploring the bits floating throughout. The blurb calls it "a joyous ode to individuality, starring an unsinkable teacher named Miss Bonkers and quirky little Diffendoofer School, which must prove it has taught its students how to think." The individuality is more implied and only becomes obvious [to me!] when Flobbertown comes up. About half the book (at the back) is devoted to explaining how Hooray for Diffendoofer Day! came to be. It includes Seuss' original drawings, which are very Seuss-like. Quite different from the characters Smith did, and I think I like Smith's better??!

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