

Revisit the Grinch

December 22, 2009



There's no better time of year to sit with your kids and read or watch *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*, the beloved classic tale by Dr. Seuss.

The Christmas-hating Grinch tries very hard (but unsuccessfully) to steal Christmas from the Whos of Whoville. As the story unfolds, both the citizens of Whoville and the Grinch realize that Christmas is in their hearts and not found wrapped up under the Christmas tree. The cleverly constructed rhymes teach the value of making amends for misdeeds — and gently question the commercialization of Christmas.

When To Do

Find an hour or two over the holiday break (there is usually a live broadcast of the animated version, but it tends to air early in December).

What To Do

Watch the TV or movie version and/or read the classic illustrated story with your kids. We've gathered basic information on the two screen versions and the book. Any one (or all three!) will give you and your family plenty of enjoyment and open the door to interesting conversation this holiday season.



DVDs

1966 Version:

Title: *Dr. Seuss's How the Grinch Stole Christmas*

Released: 1966

Rated: NR

Starring: Boris Karloff (narrator), Thurl Ravenscroft (singer)

Duration: 29 minutes

Summary:

This half-hour television cartoon introduces kids to the green and mean face of the Grinch; his long-suffering dog, Max; and of course the adorable Cindy Lou Who. Your kids will be singing along to great songs like "You're a Mean One, Mr. Grinch." This movie version is great for a first-time introduction to the traditional tale.

Talk about it:

Do your kids think they act like the Whos? Why or why not? Would they enjoy Christmas as much without lots of presents? How might your family make Christmas special even without presents?

2000 Version:

Title: *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*

Released: 2000

Rating: PG; includes scenes with mild peril and some crude humor

Starring: Jim Carey, Jeffrey Tambor, and Christine Baranski

Duration: 105 minutes

Talk about it:

Ask you kids what part of the film was their favorite? Why? Who was their favorite character? Why is the Grinch so different than the people in Whoville? His looks? His size? His color? The Grinch sometimes does things that he thinks will make him feel better. Do they work? Do they help him forget that he is lonely? Why not? Did your kids like the ending of the story? Why did they like it?

The Book

Title: *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*

Author: Dr Seuss

Illustrator: Dr Seuss

Pages: 54

Released: 1957

Read aloud: ages 4 to 6; read alone: ages 6 to 8

Summary

This classic Christmas read-aloud features one of the funniest rascals in kids' literature. The bad-tempered Grinch just plain hates the holidays — apparently because of the Yuletide hullabaloo. Kids will love hating his villainous deeds and cheering his redemption. Whimsical illustrations and witty rhymes keep kids mesmerized. The true spirit of Christmas leaps off the double-page spread of the Whos holding hands, even after all their presents and decorations have been stolen. If you notice, Dr. Seuss uses the same illustration he used at the beginning of the story to show that their spirit has not changed.

Talk about it

Talk about your family traditions or customs. What traditions do your kids look forward to when the family celebrates the holidays? Would the holidays be as meaningful if they did not have some of the store-bought decorative elements?

What You Will Need

Movie DVD or book to share with your kids