

First Place

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11th grade, Shawnee High School, Shawnee Local Schools, Lima

Title: *My Laws of Life Came from Books I was Read*

All my "Laws of Life" came from books I was read,
By my mother and father as they put me to bed.
At only age three I learned of Dr. Seuss
Who wrote about elephants, Sneeches and moose.

Dr. Seuss taught all the things that a young person needs,
He taught me about tolerance, and patience and greed.
Seuss taught me to be peaceful, and to deal with strife,
He taught me of kindness, and of trust, and of life.

In each one of Dr. Seuss's books there is told,
Some lesson I have learned, or some value I hold.
The Lorax taught me to be kind to the Earth,
Horton showed me just how much a true friend is worth.

The Sneeches showed me how cruel people could be,
Because physical differences were all they could see.
But they also showed me that they had good hearts,
And down on the inside, you can't tell us apart.

The Grinch showed me that people could forgive and forget,
If a person seems bad, there may be good in him yet.
Do unto others, and they will do unto you,
Thus was the lesson taught by Cindy-Lou Who.

From Horton the Elephant we learned responsibility,
And helping others to the best of our ability.
He taught us that we should always show kindness towards others,
And even love strangers like our sisters and brothers.

Dr. Seuss helped me learn to use my imagination,
And my dreams' only limits were my mind's creations.
Seuss taught me to use and create whole new words,
And not be held back by life's a snig-snaggles and snurds.

Dr. Seuss taught me to set my goals high,
To never give up, or let my dreams die.
To pick myself up after each time I fall,
And to never say never in spite of it all.

And finally the Doctor, he taught me of greed,
Of the Lorax, the Once-Ler, and the making of Thneeds.
In a very sad story about the last Truffula Tree's fall,
And of how ultimately greed is the ruin of all.

I try to live life by the lessons Seuss taught,
And try to make life the way that it ought.
His books shaped my life, and taught me to be me,
If we all followed Seuss what a great world this would be.

So start showing some kindness, it's not too late to start,
People judge not by your actions, but by the size of your heart.
Like we learned from the Sneeches, it is too hard to hide,
We are all just the same, way deep down inside.