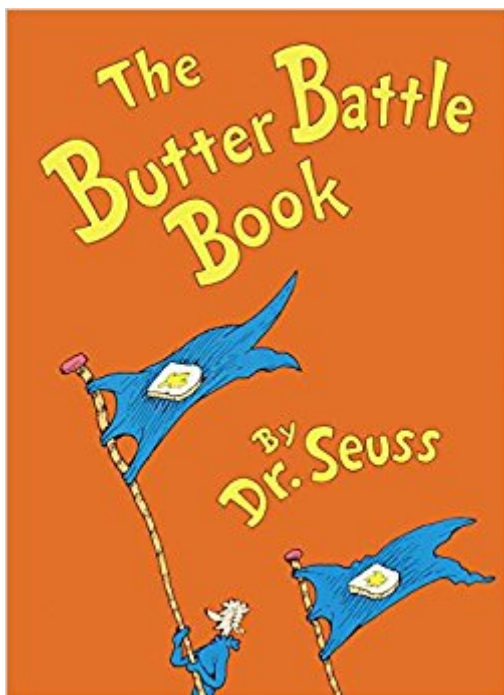


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# The Butter Battle Book: (New York Times Notable Book Of The Year) (Classic Seuss)



## Synopsis

The Butter Battle Book, Dr. Seuss's classic cautionary tale, introduces readers to the important lesson of respecting differences. The Yooks and Zooks share a love of buttered bread, but animosity brews between the two groups because they prefer to enjoy the tasty treat differently. The timeless and topical rhyming text is an ideal way to teach young children about the issues of tolerance and respect. Whether in the home or in the classroom, The Butter Battle Book is a must-have for readers of all ages.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: AD710L (What's this?)

Series: Classic Seuss

Hardcover: 56 pages

Publisher: Random House Books for Young Readers; First edition (January 12, 1984)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0394865804

ISBN-13: 978-0394865805

Product Dimensions: 8.2 x 0.4 x 11.4 inches

Shipping Weight: 12 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars 223 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #8,869 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #26 in [Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Poetry > Dr. Seuss](#) #60 in [Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Poetry > Stories In Verse](#) #196 in [Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Chapter Books & Readers > Beginner Readers](#)

Age Range: 5 - 9 years

Grade Level: Kindergarten - 4

## Customer Reviews

A cautionary Cold War tale (first told by Dr. Seuss back in 1984), The Butter Battle Book still has a lot to teach about intolerance and how tit-for-tat violence can quickly get out of hand. Explaining the very serious differences between the Zooks and the Yooks, a Zook grandpa tells his grandchild the unspeakable truth: "It's high time that you knew of the terribly horrible thing that Zooks do. In every Zook house and every Zook town every Zook eats his bread with the butter side down!" He then recalls his days with the Zook-Watching Border Patrol, as he gave any Zook who dared come close "a twitch with my tough-tufted prickley Snick-Berry Switch." But when the Zooks fought back, the

switches gave way to Triple-Sling Jiggers, then Jigger-Rock Snatchems--even a Kick-a-Poo Kid that was "loaded with powerful Poo-a-Doo Powder and ants' eggs and bees' legs and dried-fried clam chowder." With lots of fun and more-than-fair digs at the runaway spending and one-upmanship of U.S.-Soviet days, *The Butter Battle Book* makes a chuckle-filled read whether you're old enough to get the historical references or not. (And with all the Bitsy Big-Boy Boomerangs still in service, this book's message is far from obsolete.) (Ages 4 to 8) --Paul Hughes

"Dr. Seuss chronicles the feud between the Yooks and the Zooks from slingshots through sophisticated weaponry, until each side has the capacity to destroy the world. The language amuses, the drawings are zesty and humorous, and the demand for this book will be large."--School Library Journal. "Provocative, packs an allegorical punch. The parade of increasingly elaborate (and ridiculous) armaments makes a telling point."--Booklist.

Dr. Seuss takes one of the most historic eras of the twentieth century and transforms it into one of life's lessons that may appeal to young and old. *The Butter Battle Book* was first published in 1984 during the latter part of the Cold War of the mid 1980s. The story involves two communities, the Yooks and the Zooks, and what can they possibly be in conflict with? The right and wrong of spreading butter on a piece of bread, the Yooks argue that butter should be spread on top of the bread while the Zooks believe it should be spread on the bottom side of the bread. What arises after each cannot come to a consensus? The entire premise of the story involves building new inventive concoctions to deter the opposing group. As all of this is going on within each side, the Yooks and the Zooks simply cannot see an end to the conflict. Instead, they continue to build and build bigger walls and massive machinery with the attempt that one will give up. However, neither side gives in. And as one reads the story, one of the resolutions that neither side even attempted, a peaceful means of negotiation through communication and speaking with each side rather than producing more unnecessary inventions that simply have not worked. So where does the story end? Where it began. *The Butter Battle Book* is one of Dr. Seuss's classic stories that falls within the same vein as other controversial storylines that speaks to the masses and offers a lesson, *The Lorax*. This story also leaves much room for further discussion almost twenty years after it was written as well as within the present day.

Oh, how can you not love a good Seuss? If you liked *Sneetches* or *Yertle*, this will be up your alley. Interesting kind of social commentary, but with the awesome inventiveness of Seuss. It's a little

violent- talking about blowing each other up and stuff... it is a book about battle, after all. But I think it's valuable. It's a pretty long story for Seuss. Maybe stick to others for preschool aged children based on reference to violence and length, but you'll know what's right for your family. And if you are just looking for another Seuss to add to your collection? Do it.

This book is amazing. Great message, great delivery. The people who have reviewed this saying that the message is for adults don't seem to understand how you teach values to children. No child would read this and be concerned about what a deep message was in it. But the deep message that it does deliver can help to show children early how war is not the answer.

Really, it's my 3-1/2 year old grandson who loves it and asks to have it read to him over and over again. Interesting ending that has provoked a fair amount of discussion with him... Who does win? Does anyone? Is there such a thing as really winning in this situation?

Most people know Dr Seuss for his light-hearted children's books. Fewer people know that he wrote highly political commentaries into some of his children stories. The Butter Battle Book is a commentary on the Cold War, though it could be applicable to other wars, too. Very good book. It is extremely entertaining to read aloud. The lilt and flow of the poetry is admirable and entertaining. One of my favorite by Seuss.

This is hands down my favorite Dr. Seuss book. I raved about it so much to my students that when one of my students graduated he gave me a copy. I have since given this book to all the little kids in my life. The drawings are topnotch and the whimsical names for things are classic Dr. Seuss. But that isn't why it is my favorite book. The Butter Battle Book manages to distill the ridiculousness of the Cold War and mutually assured destruction into terms a child could understand. Perhaps if more adults read this book back in the day it wouldn't have taken until the 90's for the Cold War to end.

Even I was kind of stumped that the book doesn't have a neatly tied together ending. Only because I was reading it to my 4 and 6 year old, and an ending like that, open-ended, was a bit of a reach for them. The 4-year old just walked away, didn't seem to care. My 6-year old up until that point had never really experienced a book that doesn't have a traditional "ending" so mostly had a lot of questions as to what happens next, how do we know...versus really thinking about the subject matter. She and I did engage in a brief discussion about that, but still it was a bit over her head. It

was tough explaining about bombs and destruction, she still isn't aware about what war is, the history of the world, that sort of thing. Neither child has asked to read it again. So...I don't know, it really isn't a grabbing story, not my fave Dr Seuss book, but because I do think it's clever and teaches a very important and deep idea to kids, I gave it 4 stars. I like that it isn't really dumbed down.

We love all the books that Dr Seuss puts out. They are fun to read and the kids like reading them too.

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