



The Rights of the Child

Lesson Plan:
Who Matters?

Grade Level: K-3



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Lesson Plan: Who Matters?

Goal: To understand the concept that all people's human rights are important no matter how small or big or how young or old they are.

Objectives:

- Show comprehension of the lesson of the story through discussion questions.
- Explore the importance of human rights and responsibilities for everyone.

Time Frame: 2 class periods

Age Level: K-3

Essential Questions

- ? Who has human rights?
- ? Do some people deserve more rights than others? Does it matter how big or small you are?

Materials:

- Horton Hears a Who by Dr. Seuss
- Handout: Elephant Construction Pieces
- Child-friendly version of *The Convention on the Rights of the Child*: www.unicef.org/rightsite/484_540.htm

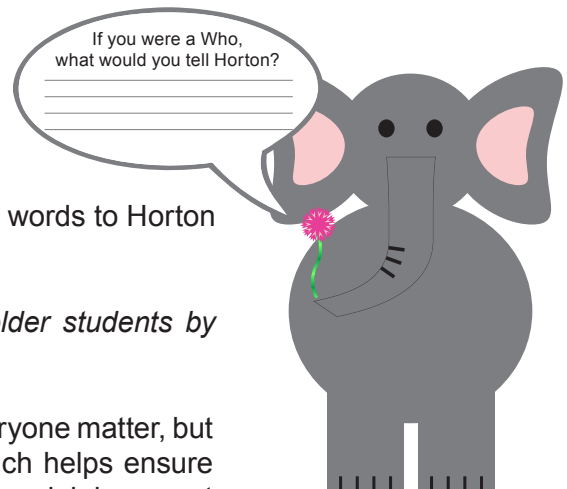


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Procedure:

- 1. Read Aloud.** Have students gather on the rug to listen to Horton Hears a Who by Dr. Seuss. Teachers can prompt the students to participate in the reading by having them complete each line with the correct rhyming word.
- 2. Discuss.** After the story is read, lead the students in a discussion on the lesson of the story: “a person’s a person no matter how small.” As a class, discuss the following questions:
 - What did Horton do that was so important?
 - What would have happened to the Whos if Horton didn’t protect them?
 - What was the lesson of this story? What does, “a person’s a person no matter how small” mean?
 - Are you given the care and respect you deserve? Is everyone?
 - Have you ever met a person like Horton?
 - Why was it so hard for Horton to convince others that the Whos existed and needed to be saved?
 - How can we be friends to others even if we can’t see them?

- 3. Reflect and Create.** After the discussion, ask students to think about what they would say to Horton if they were a Who and have them write it down on the speech bubble in the handout. Ask students to make Horton the elephant using glue and the construction pieces in the handout. Finally, ask students to add the flower and their words to Horton (see illustration).



Note: Teachers can adapt this part of the lesson for older students by allowing them to create their own illustrations.

- 4. Connect.** Explain to your students that not only does everyone matter, but everyone also has human rights, including children, which helps ensure that we are all cared for and respected. There is even a special document created just for the them called the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC). Share a child-friendly version of this document with students (see link on page 2). Read several of the rights out loud to the class.
- 5. Draw.** Have students draw pictures that represent an idea or right from the CRC and post them with the students’ elephants around the room.



Handout: Elephant Construction Pieces

If you were a Who,
what would you tell Horton?

