

**1st Grade Curriculum Guide Book Summary**

**Book title: *Horton Hears a Who***

**Author:** Dr. Seuss

**Main characters:** Horton the elephant, the Whos, Kangaroo and her baby, The Wickersham Brothers and the other jungle creatures.

**Executive summary:** When Horton hears tiny voices on a speck of dust, he fights to protect them because “a person is a person no matter how small.” A person has inherent worth, not because of their appearance or where they live, but because they are a human being.

**Detailed summary:** As an elephant named Horton baths in a cool pool of water in the jungle, he hears a voice. He doesn’t see anyone else around. The only thing he sees is a small speck of dust. Perhaps it is because of his big ears that he can hear the small voice on that small speck of dust. Because Horton cares about all people no matter how small, he worries that the dust might fall into the pool, and the small people on the dust might be hurt. So he carefully places the speck of dust on top of a clover flower. When a kangaroo with its baby in its pouch hops by Horton, they make fun of him for worrying about a speck of dust. They call him a fool. Then they intentionally make big splashes in the pool. Horton grabs the flower with the speck on it and runs through the jungle looking for a safe place to put it. News quickly spreads throughout the jungle that Horton is talking to a speck of dust. Others immediately label him as crazy. But Horton is determined to protect these tiny people. Even though others can’t see or hear them, these people deserve to be treated humanely. Horton repeats that “a person is a person, no matter how small.” Continued on Back   
  
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A tiny voice, whom Horton discovers is the Mayor, tells Horton of his community, called Whoville, with houses and churches and stores. Then two monkeys named “the Wickersham Brothers” snatch the clover with the speck on it and give it to an eagle. That eagle flies away with the flower in its beak. Horton follows the bird through day and night, desperate to protect the tiny Whos in Whoville. Then the eagle drops the clover in a field full of clover, each flower identical to the one holding the tiny Whos.

Anxious to find his friends, Horton picks the flowers, one by one. Finally after picking millions of flowers, he finds the one that holds the speck of dust with the Whos. The Whoville mayor tells Horton of the troubles they’ve endured. He begs Horton to continue to protect them. Then Kangaroo and her little kangaroo, along with others from the jungle again accuse Horton of being crazy, talking to people who aren’t there. Again they snatch the clover and threaten to boil it in oil. Horton begs them not to hurt the Whos, and he encourages the Whoville Mayor to get all the Whos to make noise, so the others can hear them too. But the other jungle animals still cannot hear the Whos.

They tie Horton up and beat him. Horton doesn’t think of himself, he thinks of the Whos, and pleads with the Whoville Mayor to make sure everyone is making as much noise as possible. The Whos play instruments and bang on cans and kettles. Horton can hear them, but the kangaroos and the Wickersham Brothers cannot. So the Mayor runs through the town to make sure every one of the Whos is making some kind of noise. He finally finds one small Who not making a sound. The Mayor grabs the small Who and climbs up to the top of a tower. He holds him in the air, and the small Who yells, “Yopp!”

This time the kangaroo hears it. The little kangaroo hears it too. Everyone hears it! They realize that Horton was telling the truth. There were small beings living on the dust speck on that flower. And the kangaroos and the other jungle creatures all vow that they too will protect the Whos. Because the Whos are people too, no matter how small.