

**1st Grade Curriculum Guide Book Summary**

**Book title: *Yertle the Turtle and Other Stories***

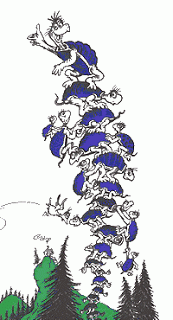
**Author:** Dr. Seuss

**Main characters:** Yertle, the turtle king; Mack the turtle; and other turtles in the pond

**Executive summary:** Yertle, the turtle king’s greed and disrespect for the other turtles in his kingdom (his pond) lead to his downfall.

**Detailed summary:** Yertle, the turtle, was king of Sala-ma-Sond pond. The pond was a wonderful place. All the turtles that lived there were quite happy. Until one day as Yertle sat on a stone looking over the pond that he ruled, he decided he wanted more. If he was ruler of all that he could see, then he needed to sit higher, so he could see more. So he ordered nine turtles to stack up on top of each other, and he climbed up the stack and sat at the top. Now he could see much more. His kingdom was bigger. He could see a cow, a mule, a house, a bush and a cat. All day he sat on the stack of turtles, looking out over his kingdom. Then down below at the very bottom of the stack, he heard a sigh. The sound came from a turtle named, Mack, who said he was in pain. His back and his shoulders hurt. He wondered how long they needed to stay in the stack. King Yertle scolded him and told him to be quiet and stay in his place. For Yertle was the king and Mack was just an ordinary turtle.

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Then Yertle decided he wanted to have even more to rule over, so he called for more turtles from the pond to make the stack higher. Some two hundred more turtles climbed up on the stack. Then Yertle climbed to the top. He was very pleased, because now he could see much, much more. He was king of the butterflies, birds, the trees and the bees. Once again he heard a noise from below. It was Mack. Again Mack pleaded to let him and the others go back to the pond. They were hungry and he feared that their shells might break under all the weight. King Yertle ordered him to be quiet. He boasted that he was the ruler of everything.

Just then as evening approached, Yertle looked up and saw the moon. It made him angry that something was higher up than he. So he yelled out that he wanted more turtles to get on the stack. This time he wanted 5,607 more turtles to pile on the stack.

The plain turtle Mack refused to listen to Yertle anymore. He let out a “BURP!” That disturbed the throne of turtles. The stack wobbled and eventually Yertle fell off and into the pond. That was the end of Yertle’s rule over Sala-ma-Sond pond.