

**1st Grade Curriculum Guide Book Summary**

**Book title: *Horton Hatches the Egg***

**Author:** Dr. Seuss

**Main characters:** Horton the elephant, Mayzie the lazy bird, the hunters, the circus people

**Executive summary:** Horton the elephant proves to everyone that he is kind, faithful and true to his word, even when it is difficult and he would rather be doing something else.

**Detailed summary:** Mayzie the lazy bird was tired of sitting on her egg, just waiting for it to hatch. She was bored. She wanted to fly away and play, but she needed someone to sit on the egg for her. When she saw Horton the elephant, she asked him if he would sit on the egg. Horton told her that he was too large to sit on the egg. But the lazy bird talked him into trying it for a while. She lied to Horton and said that she would “hurry right back.” So Horton, who was kind and true to his word, propped up the tree to make it stronger. Then he climbed up to where the nest was and sat down on the egg. There he sat there for a very long time. He sat day and night. He sat through storms and cold, through autumn and winter. Horton kept the egg warm and dry. Meanwhile Mayzie the lazy bird was sitting in the sun on a warm beach in Palm Beach. She decided that she would never return to her egg. But Horton was true to his word. He said he would sit on the egg, and that is what he did. He repeated the words, “I meant what I said and I said what I meant… an elephant’s faithful one hundred percent!” Horton sat there through springtime. The other jungle animals saw him sitting in the tree. They laughed at him and made fun of him. They said, “Old Horton the elephant thinks he’s a bird!”

Continued on Back

***Horton Hatches the Egg,*** Page 2

One day some hunters were in the jungle. They saw Horton. He saw them, but he didn’t run. He just sat on the egg, even when he thought the hunters might shoot him. But the hunters didn’t shoot him. They thought it was so funny to see an elephant sitting in a tree that they captured him to take him back to the United States to sell him. They tied Horton up and dug up the tree and put Horton and the tree in a cage, while Horton still sat on the egg. The hunters dragged that cage out of the jungle and over a mountain. They loaded it onto a boat and sailed for days across the ocean. And the whole time Horton was true to his word, he never stopped sitting on the egg, even when he felt seasick.

When they docked in New York City, the men sold Horton to the circus. At the circus, people paid money to see the unusual sight of an elephant sitting on a nest in a tree. The circus traveled from city to city and hundreds of people would laugh at the elephant sitting in the tree. It made Horton sad, but he stuck to his word. He repeated, “I meant what I said and I said what I meant… an elephant’s faithful one hundred percent!”

One day the circus was in a place near Palm Beach, where Mayzie the lazy bird went on her long vacation from the egg. Mayzie happened to fly over and saw the circus. She decided to stop. She saw Horton and recognized him. He was still sitting on the egg! Then they heard a loud crack. Horton was excited that his egg was hatching, but Mayzie said it was her egg. She wanted it back. She wanted Horton to get out of her nest. But what hatched from the egg did not look like Mayzie at all. It had big ears, a tail and a trunk just like Horton. It was a tiny elephant with wings, an elephant bird. Because of his kindness, his loyalty and faithfulness, after all the time that Horton sat on the egg, it truly was his. The circus people cheered. They were impressed by Horton’s faithfulness to the egg to produce this amazing creature, and they took him home again to the jungle.