

Green Eggs and Ham

Written by: Dr. Seuss

Green Eggs and Ham came about when a publisher bet Dr. Seuss that he could not make a book using fifty or fewer different words. Green Eggs and Ham is a classic example of Dr. Seuss using expression, rhyming words and repetition to write a children's



Possible strategies for instruction:

Comprehension:

- **Make a picture or mental image**
 - This story is perfect to use in teaching making a mental picture! Imagine somebody trying to get you to eat a food that had a new unusual color. How would you feel about a person insisting that you try it?

Accuracy:

- **Use the pictures**
 - Do the words and the pictures match? The student can look at the pictures and see the word "house," and "mouse," and then look at the associated pictures to confirm the word.
 - The student can also look at Sam and read what he is saying. Does his body language and facial expressions match the words?
- **Recognize words at sight**
 - Recognize common primary sight words.
 - With the repetitive nature of the Dr. Seuss books, even the beginning reader should be able to sound out and read many of the words.
 - The emergent reader can blend two or three sounds to make many words using this book. Examples are the words; Sam, am, on, and in.
 - The emergent reader should also be able to recognize when two words rhyme such as Sam and am, house and mouse, box and fox.

Fluency

- **Use Punctuation to enhancing phrasing and prosody**
 - This text provides good examples of using exclamation points, and question marks to convey meaning. Sam uses the punctuation marks to make several points that he is **not** going to eat green eggs and ham. Later in the book, he capitalizes the words “ANYWHERE” to emphasize that point to the reader.
- **Read the text as the author would say it, conveying the meaning or feeling**
 - This strategy goes hand in hand with using punctuation to enhance phrasing and prosody. As you explain to students how to use intonation when reading, model the difference between reading monotone and reading with meaning and feeling.

Expand Vocabulary

- **Use pictures, illustrations and diagrams**
 - The pictures show great facial features and other body language clues to convey additional meaning from the book. Examples include: disgust, surprise, anger, fear, and finally, being pleasantly surprised at the taste of the green eggs at the end of the book.
- **Use prior knowledge and context to predict and confirm meaning**
 - If the child is familiar with any other Dr. Seuss book, they will already be expecting short words, many 2–4 letters long, rhyming words and repetition throughout the book.

This text can be used with nearly any strategy on the CAFE menu. The above strategies are a highlighted collection to use as a springboard for further instruction.