

Prompt: *What children's book should be included as a mandatory part of the Central York kindergarten curriculum? Identify the book and explain why it should be included.*

Despite the fact that we rarely discuss them and usually keep them covered, feet are an extremely important aspect of the human body. Feet move us from place to place, provide a solid base on which we can stand, and can even display our fashion sense through the use of pedicures, toe rings, tattoos, and cute shoes. In his illustrated children's book, The Foot Book, Dr. Seuss uses rhythmic and rhyming language to explore the world of feet. The Foot Book should be a mandatory part of the Central York kindergarten curriculum because it provides several life lessons that would benefit young children. The Foot Book teaches children tolerance and acceptance of those who are different; it teaches children to appreciate life, and it helps children to develop an understanding of poetry.

One reason why The Foot Book should be included in the kindergarten curriculum is because it teaches children to be tolerant of those who are different from them by celebrating all different kinds of feet. Seuss writes, "Red feet Black feet" and "Small feet Big feet." These passages show characters who are different colors and sizes. The book makes it clear that all of these characters are valuable and accepted, so children will learn that they should appreciate all people regardless of personal characteristics. Seuss also writes, "His feet Her feet Fuzzy fur feet." It doesn't matter whether someone is a male, a female, or an animal; they should all be accepted equally. At an age where girls and boys often refuse to play with each other, the lesson that boys and girls are equal is extremely important. By showing his acceptance of all kinds of feet, Seuss teaches children to value each other.

Another reason why The Foot Book should be included in the kindergarten curriculum is because it teaches children to appreciate life. The book begins, "Left foot Left foot Right foot Right... Feet in the morning Feet at night." Accompanying the text are pictures of a very happy monster. Children can clearly see that whether they are using their left foot or right foot, and whatever time of day it is,

they should feel happiness. The book continues, "Wet foot Dry foot Low foot High foot." A happy monster is shown in each of these pictures. From this, children can learn that whether they are wet, dry, low, or high, they can be happy. If The Foot Book is added to the kindergarten curriculum, children will be able to receive the powerful lesson about appreciation and contentment that is present in the book.

Finally, The Foot Book should be included in the kindergarten curriculum because it helps children develop an understanding of poetry. Throughout the book there is a powerful rhythm in passages like, "Left foot Right foot Feet Feet Feet... How many, many feet you meet." These words create a verbal drum beat that children can feel. Although they might not know the name of the sound techniques present in the book, the feeling of a beat will help children develop the ability to hear different meters and rhythms in poetry. Later, Seuss writes, "Slow feet Quick feet Trick feet Sick feet." The text contains rhyme in addition to rhythm. Kindergartners can begin to understand how rhyme works in poetry to develop repeating sounds that strike the listener's ear. Through multiple readings of The Foot Book, children will grow in their ability to respond to poetry.

One book that should be a mandatory part of the Central York kindergarten curriculum is The Foot Book by Dr. Seuss. It provides lessons on tolerance and acceptance, life appreciation, and poetic understanding. Children who have the opportunity to read this book will find their lives enriched with these powerful lessons. The Foot Book should be an indispensable part of every classroom.