

# Malden Reads retelling of Horton Hears a Who!

by Dr. Seuss

Inspired by "Horton Hears a Who!" is a reminder that every vote counts" by Joan Wickersham (The Boston Globe, September 24, 2020)


## A reminder that every vote counts

This is an amazing story of a special elephant named Horton.

A truly **enormous** elephant noticed a sound coming from a tiny speck of dust. Of course, Horton is such a persistent, caring, special elephant that he has to check out these sounds. All of his neighbors thought that he was being foolish because they couldn't hear anything. Let's see what happens to Horton and the Whos.

When Horton was **splashing**, he looked to find the sound. He didn't see anyone, but heard a **tiny voice** calling for help. Horton offers to help him, but asks,

**"WHO are you? Where are you?"**

He looked and looked, and could only see a **tiny speck** of dust blowing around. He thought that there must be a very **tiny creature** on that speck of dust — too tiny for Horton to see. However, Horton decided that he had to save him. Because a **person's a person, no matter how small**. So Horton picked up the dust speck and placed it down safely  on a very soft clover.

The kangaroos saw Horton doing this and said "HARUMPH, we don't believe there is anyone there. We think Horton is a fool!" Horton said he heard someone or maybe a whole family, so he wanted to make sure that no one would disturb them. Then the kangaroos splashed into the pool, so Horton picked up the Whos and ran away to protect the very small persons.

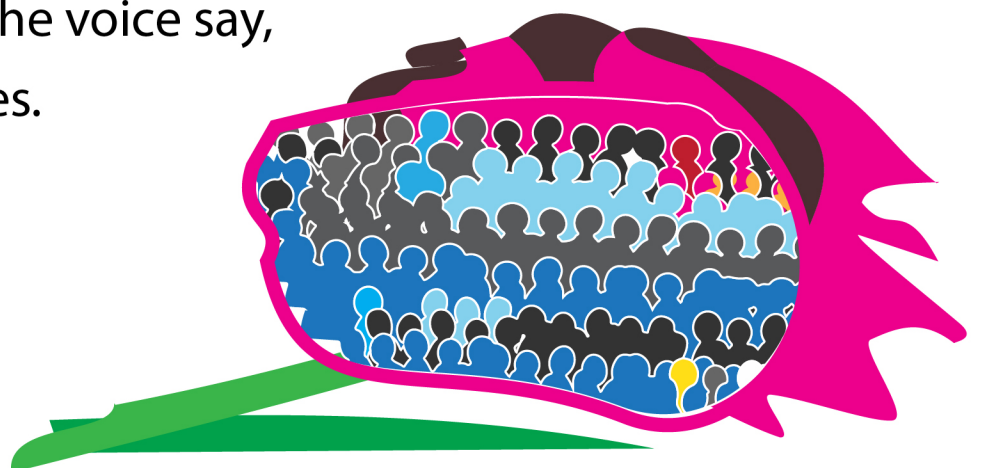
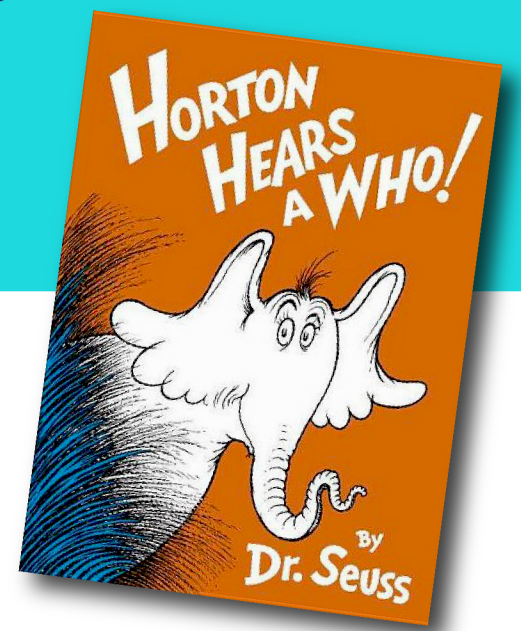
All the animals found out that Horton was holding a speck of dust on the flower, but he would not put it down, no matter what any of the animals said.

**No matter even what the monkeys said!**

All of a sudden, Horton heard a voice from the speck of dirt, even though it was so soft and hard to hear! Horton heard the voice say, "Friend, you have saved all of us and our homes. We're from a town called **Whoville**, and I'm the mayor. We want to say thank you."

Again the monkeys shout to Horton that there aren't any Whos and there is no mayor!

They took the speck of dust on the clover, and had the eagle take it to get rid of it.





# You must open your mouth, JO JO, for every voice counts!

Horton chased it, and the eagle said "I'm going to hide it, and you won't ever find it." The eagle dropped it into a patch of clovers that was 100 miles wide.



As you know, our elephant Horton is persistent, kind, and caring. He picked up every single clover to find the special one (which was the millionth flower!). He yelled, **"Hooray, friends! I found you! Are you well?"** The mayor said that they had troubles ever since the eagle dropped them; many things had broken. The mayor asked Horton to please help the Whos. Horton told the mayor and the other animals that he's faithful and he would stay.

But, the animals did not believe Horton when he said that the speck of dust was a city full of people. **Horton needed to have the mayor and people prove that they were on the speck of dust by shouting.**

The Whos shouted out, **"We are here! We are here!"** The animals could not hear them; only Horton did. The animals were not kind or nice to Horton.

Horton said to the mayor, **"Don't give up! I believe in you all!** A person's a person, no matter how small!" Let's try again...

The Whos banged cans, blasted toots, and more. The mayor asked, **"Can you hear us?"** Horton could, but the sound wasn't strong enough for the animals to hear.

The mayor rushed to make sure everyone was beeping...but he found very tiny, little boy Jo Jo bouncing a yo-yo, but not making a sound.

The mayor picked up Jo Jo and said to the boy, **"You must open your mouth, JO JO, for every voice counts!"** Jo Jo then shouted with the others, and finally, finally, all the other animals heard the community of Whos!

Horton was so happy because he showed that no matter how small one is, **the whole world can be saved by the smallest of them all...just as YOUR VOICE needs to be heard now by voting or telling your moms and dads to vote!**

**Let's hear your special voice!**

