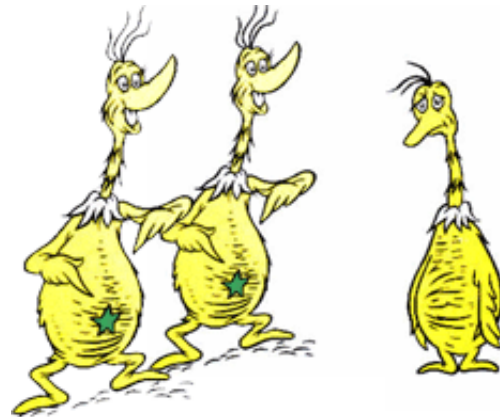


# Sneetches Love Beaches

Dr. Seuss wrote children's books, from "Yertle the Turtle" to "Cat in the Hat", these books are loved and cherished by children of all ages. What is often overlooked, though, is the history and meaning behind the books.

"Sneetches Love Beaches" is a book about creatures with stars on their bellies that live with some of the same creatures that don't have stars on theirs. In the book, the star-bellied Sneetches play the role of 'superior type' while the Sneetches without stars are left out of everything. The starless Sneetches are treated horribly and not thought of as equal. Seuss meant for this to resemble racism and discrimination. The Sneetches only care about what they look like and not who they are; they only care for the way their skin looks.



Now, remember, this book was written shortly after World War 2, shortly after the genocide of millions of Jews based on something they could not control. Not only were Jews discriminated against at that time, but the Japanese, Germans, and Italians were as well. The starless Sneetches were treated almost identically like the Jews, and Seuss wanted to make that clear. He wanted his readers to see exactly what it was people were doing when they discriminated. It should also be noted that the star on the Sneetches was NOT meant to resemble the Star of David that the Jews were forced to wear and that the story was NOT meant to reflect anti-semitism. When Seuss realized that this would quite possibly be misconstrued, he almost threw the book out, but his publisher convinced him to release it.

In the end, after the Sneetches try to change themselves over and over by removing their stars and putting them back on, they realized that it didn't matter if they had a star or not. They realized that they were all Sneetches, all equal, and that they should be treated like it. Seuss wanted us to realize that we are all humans, and all equal, just like the Sneetches.