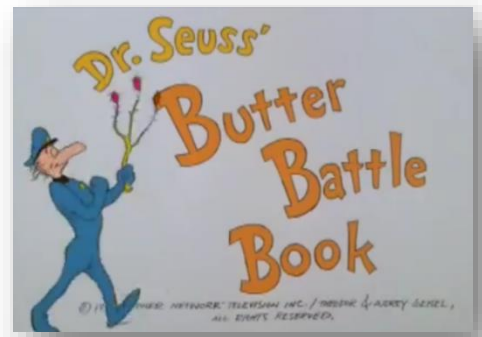


## The Butter Battle Book

**Background:** Theodore Geisel (Dr. Seuss) was not only a highly accomplished writer of children's books, but also was active in creating pro-American World War Two propaganda. The *Butter Battle Book* was written in 1984, a time when Cold War tensions were still apparent. The book was one of Geisel's last, and served as a satire on the nuclear arms race and the Cold War. Although Geisel was very much opposed to fascism in Italy, Germany and Japan, he was less willing to criticize communism during the Cold War. In fact, he found the communist witch-hunts of the 1950s Red Scare to be much more threatening.

Watch the television adaptation of the book at:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C5FR\\_cuQsrc](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C5FR_cuQsrc)



- 1) In the story, who are the Yooks and who are the Zooks?
- 2) In this story, for what is butter-spreading a metaphor?
- 3) What weapon(s) do you think should be added to the book to make the analogy more accurate to the arms race? Explain why.
- 4) In exactly 12 words (no more, no less), what is the message of the book?
- 5) What does this book reveal about Dr. Seuss?