

PLOT SUMMARY

A red-and-white striped top hat is on an empty stage when A BOY enters and is drawn toward the magical hat. He begins imagining what type of wonderful person would wear such a hat, when THE CAT IN THE HAT suddenly materializes! THE CAT begins singing about the power of imagination (*Oh, The Things You Can Think!*). Throughout the song, famous Seussian characters are introduced: HORTON the Elephant, GERTRUDE MCFUZZ-the bird with the one feather tail, the WHOS of Whoville-including the MAYOR and his WIFE, MAYZIE LA BIRD, SOUR KANGAROO and the CITIZENS OF THE JUNGLE OF NOOL. As the opening number comes to a close, THE BOY and the THE CAT use their imaginations to transport everyone to the Jungle of Nool for the first adventure (*Horton Hears a Who*).

THE CITIZENS OF WHOVILLE are crying for help as their little planet, the size of a speck of dust, floats aimlessly through the air. HORTON, whose large ears allow him to hear the WHOS, vows at once to help them and places Whoville safely onto a soft clover, just as the SOUR KANGAROO and her baby enter. SOUR KANGAROO thinks HORTON is crazy for talking to and protecting a speck of dust and she lets him and the rest of the jungle know about it (*Biggest Blame Fool*). The WICKERSHAM BROTHERS—a group of mischievous monkeys-join in on the fun of teasing HORTON. The one person who stands up for him, his neighbor GERTRUDE MCFUZZ, is not noticed by anyone, least of all HORTON.

As HORTON is left alone with his 'inhabited' clover, THE CAT, who always seems to be around, throws THE BOY into the story as JOJO, (*Meet Jojo the Who*) son to MR. and MRS. MAYOR of Whoville. HORTON discovers more about the WHOS and their tiny town of Whoville (*Here on Who*). MR. and MRS. MAYOR are both unhappy because JOJO's 'thinks' have gotten him into trouble at school (*How to Raise a Child*). They send him to bed, but THE CAT has another idea (*Oh, The Things You Can Think! - Reprise*). JOJO's mind begins imagining again (*It's Possible*), but the fun is interrupted when the house starts flooding with bathwater. HORTON sits alone guarding the clover (*Alone in the Universe*) and eventually he and JOJO hear each other, realize their imaginations are much alike, and become friends.

In another part of the jungle, GERTRUDE has just written her four hundred and thirty-seventh love song about HORTON (*The One Feather Tail of Miss Gertrude McFuzz*). She believes HORTON doesn't notice her because of her pathetically small and uninteresting tail. MAYZIE appears and offers advice (*Amazing Mayzie*), which leads GERTRUDE to DOCTOR DAKE and his pills for amazing feathers. After taking several pills, GERTRUDE is very happy as her tail begins to grow (*Amazing Gertrude*).

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The WICKERSHAM BROTHERS are up to no good (**Monkey Around**) and decide to grab the clover with Whoville on it. A chase begins (**Chasing the Whos**) and The WICKERSHAMS eventually hand off the clover to VLAD VLADIKOFF, the eagle, who drops it onto an enormous field of clover. HORTON begins looking for the WHOS when GERTRUDE arrives with her new tail, determined to tell HORTON how she truly feels (**Notice Me, Horton**), but he still doesn't notice her. GERTRUDE leaves and we see MAYZIE looking bored, sitting up on a nest (**How Lucky You Are**). She convinces HORTON to sit on the nest for her while she takes a brief vacation (**Mayzie's Exit / Horton Sits on the Egg / Dilemma / Hunters**).

Seasons pass and HORTON is still stuck sitting on the egg, the WHOS are still lost in the clover and GERTRUDE still cannot get HORTON to notice her. HUNTERS suddenly arrive to capture HORTON and the egg (**Egg, Nest and Tree**) and take him to New York where he is auctioned off to the circus.

The circus, now with HORTON, arrives in Palm Beach, where we find MAYZIE under a palm tree complaining about the monotony of vacationing (**Sold / Mayzie in Palm Beach**). She heads to the circus (**Mayzie at the Circus**), where she sees HORTON and decides he would be a better parent for her egg than she could ever be (**Amazing Horton**), so she gives him the egg for good. HORTON accepts the responsibility of caring for the egg (**Alone in the Universe - Reprise**), while still worrying about JOJO and the WHOS, who are heard while HORTON sings a lullaby for the egg (**Solla Sollew**).

HORTON is surprised to learn from GERTRUDE that she went through all kinds of adventures because she cares for him (**All for You**). She also has found the WHOS' clover! HORTON finally notices that GERTRUDE. Just as he begins to talk to the WHOS again, HORTON is put on trial for talking to a speck of dust and sitting on an egg (**The Whos Return / The People Versus Horton The Elephant**). When JUDGE YERTLE, the Turtle, sentences HORTON to the Nool Asylum and the speck of dust to be boiled in oil, HORTON tells the WHOS they must yell to be heard to prove their existence. Suddenly, JOJO comes up with a think: a new word to shout that will be heard by everyone-YOPPI (**Yoppi!**) At last, everyone in Nool hears the WHOS and realize HORTON was right and the WHOS realize what a great thinker JOJO is. Just then, the giant egg begins to crack and out comes an Elephant Bird. HORTON and GERTRUDE agree to care for the creature together (**Alone in the Universe - Reprise**). And they all live happily ever after. (**Oh, The Thinks You Can Think! - Finale**).