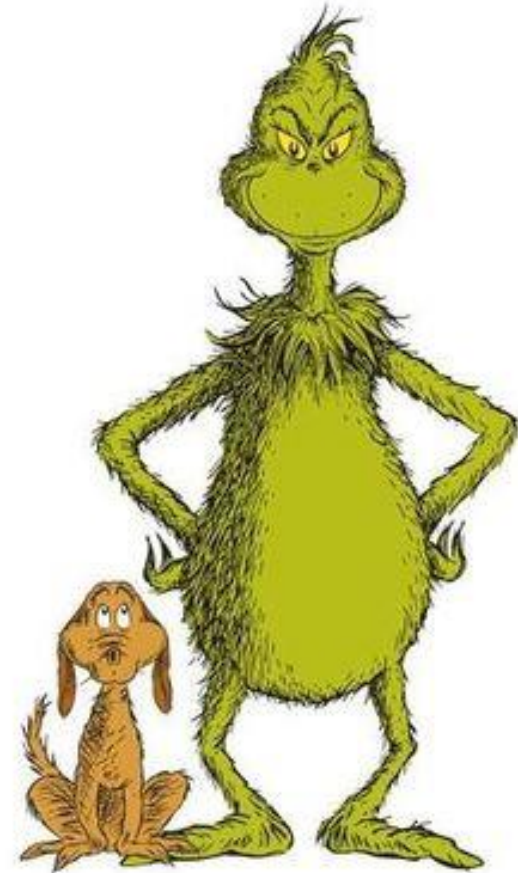


personal english



Character #31 The Grinch

The Grinch is a fictional character created by German-American novelist **Dr. Seuss** (1904-1941). The Grinch is best known as the main character of the children's book ***How the Grinch Stole Christmas!*** (1957). The grumpy, anti-holiday spirit of the character has led to the term 'Grinch' coming to refer to **a person opposed to Christmas time celebrations**. However, the Grinch has since become an icon of the winter holidays – and this despite the fact that its author had meant the character to embody **criticism against the materialism and consumerism of modern and contemporary Christmastime**. The Grinch is depicted as a furry green creature living in seclusion on a cliff overlooking the cheerful and optimistic town of **Whoville**. He scorns the boisterous Christmas festivities and is annoyed by the happiness of merrymakers, which he always attempts to forestall. Aided by his pet dog, **Max**, he disguises himself as Santa Claus and breaks into the Whos' homes to steal their holiday decorations and gifts. Although his plan works out, he is infuriated upon finding the Whos singing cheerfully on Christmas morning in spite of his wicked action. On second thought, though, the Grinch realizes that the holiday must carry a meaning distinct from its decorations and gifts, so he gives back his stolen goods to the Whos, with whom he thereafter celebrates. This **happy ending** notwithstanding, the Grinch is still portrayed as a cantankerous and ill-tempered character in artwork or other media. With the character's anti-holiday spirit followed by the transformation on Christmas morning, scholars have noted similarity to **Ebenezer Scrooge** from Charles Dickens' 1843 novella ***A Christmas Carol***.



Click on the Picture for a **VIDEO** on The Grinch