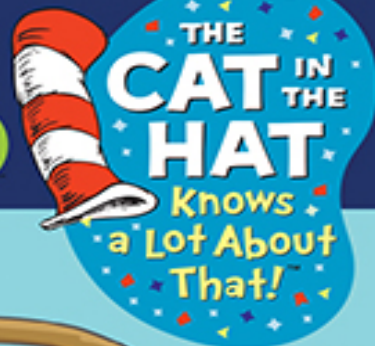


STEP INTO READING®

STEP 3 reading on your own



# A Tale About Tails



by Tish Rabe • illustrated by Tom Brannon

## Dear Parent:

Congratulations! Your child is taking the first steps on an exciting journey. The destination? Independent reading!



**STEP INTO READING®** will help your child get there. The program offers five steps to reading success. Each step includes fun stories and colorful art. There are also Step into Reading Sticker Books, Step into Reading Math Readers, Step into Reading Phonics Readers, Step into Reading Write-In Readers, and Step into Reading Phonics Boxed Sets—a complete literacy program with something for every child.

### Learning to Read, Step by Step!



#### **Ready to Read** **Preschool–Kindergarten**

- big type and easy words
- rhyme and rhythm
- picture clues

For children who know the alphabet and are eager to begin reading.



#### **Reading with Help** **Preschool–Grade 1**

- basic vocabulary
- short sentences
- simple stories

For children who recognize familiar words and sound out new words with help.



#### **Reading on Your Own** **Grades 1–3**

- engaging characters
- easy-to-follow plots
- popular topics

For children who are ready to read on their own.



#### **Reading Paragraphs** **Grades 2–3**

- challenging vocabulary
- short paragraphs
- exciting stories

For newly independent readers who read simple sentences with confidence.



#### **Ready for Chapters** **Grades 2–4**

- chapters
- longer paragraphs
- full-color art

For children who want to take the plunge into chapter books but still like colorful pictures.

**STEP INTO READING®** is designed to give every child a successful reading experience. The grade levels are only guides. Children can progress through the steps at their own speed, developing confidence in their reading, no matter what their grade.

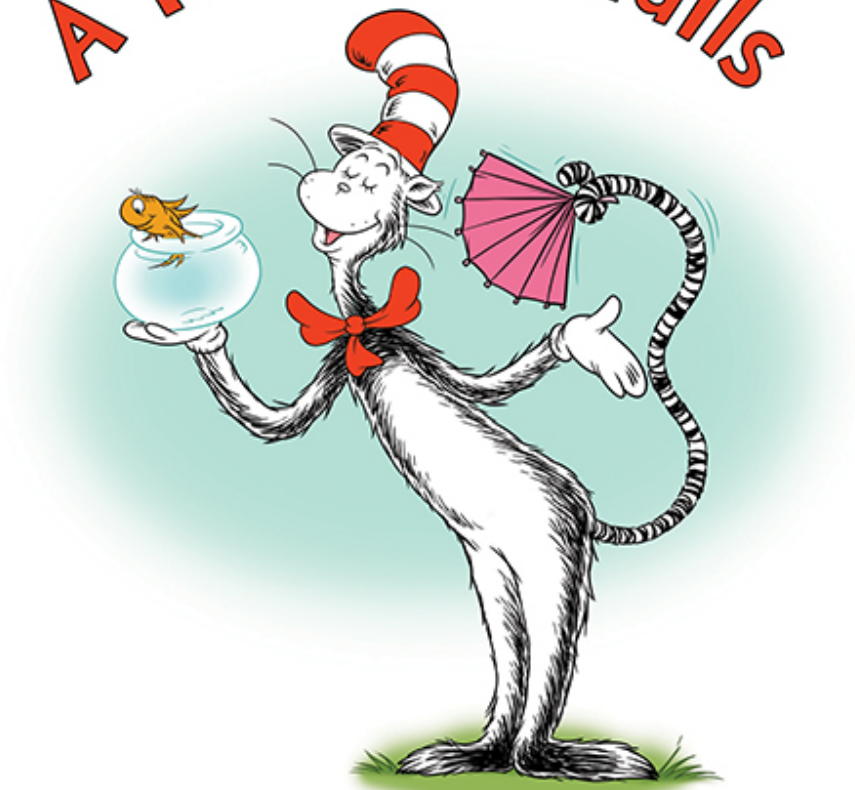
Remember, a lifetime love of reading starts with a single step!



STEP INTO READING®




# A Tale About Tails



by Tish Rabe

based on a television script by Pete Sauder

illustrated by Tom Brannon

Random House  New York



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*Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data*

Rabe, Tish.

A tale about tails / by Tish Rabe ; based on a television script by Pete Sauder ; illustrated by Tom Brannon. — First edition.  
pages cm. — (Step into reading ; step 3)

Audience: 5–8.

ISBN 978-0-385-37117-9 (trade) — ISBN 978-0-375-97185-3 (lib. bdg.) — ISBN 978-0-375-98172-2 (ebook)

1. Tail—Juvenile literature. I. Sauder, Peter. II. Brannon, Tom, illustrator. III. Title.

QL950.6.R33 2014 591.4'1—dc23 2012047694

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# Contents



Title Page

Copyright

First Page



“You did it!” said Sally.

“Believe it or not,  
you taped the tail  
in just the right spot!”

“Paper tails are okay,” said Nick,  
“but how would it feel  
if, instead of paper,  
we had tails that were real?”





“Tails are great!” cried the Cat.  
“Mine helps me beat the heat.  
It fans my back.  
It makes a great seat.  
I use it to jump rope  
and turn out the light.  
It pulls down the shade  
in my bedroom at night.”



“I love my tail, too!”  
said the Fish with a *splish*.  
“I think it’s the perfect  
tail for a fish.”  
“It’s true,” said the Cat.  
“His tail helps him swim.  
A fish-swishy tail  
is the right one for him!”



“A tail,” Sally said,  
“looks like lots of fun,  
but if *I* got a tail,  
how would I choose one?”  
“I’ve got it!” the Cat said.  
“I know what to do  
to find out which tail  
is the right one for you!”



“To the Thinga-ma-jigger!  
And we will set sail  
for the faraway Jungle  
of Wagga-tag-tail.



“The tails you will see there  
you’ll never believe,  
and once we get there,  
you will not want to leave!”



Off to Wagga-tag-tail  
they went, and once there  
they started looking  
for tails everywhere.  
“Tails can be short,  
curly, fluffy, or long.  
First, we’ll meet a monkey  
whose tail is quite strong.”



“Hello!” called the monkey.  
“Up here! Look at me!  
With my tail, I can swing  
branch to branch, tree to tree.”  
“Your tail,” Sally said,  
“helps you fly through the air,  
but we don’t have tails,  
so we can’t get up there.”



“I know,” said the Cat,  
“how to get tails for you.  
I’ll call on the help  
of Thing One and Thing Two.  
You will soon have the best  
tails that you’ve ever seen  
when they build you a . . .





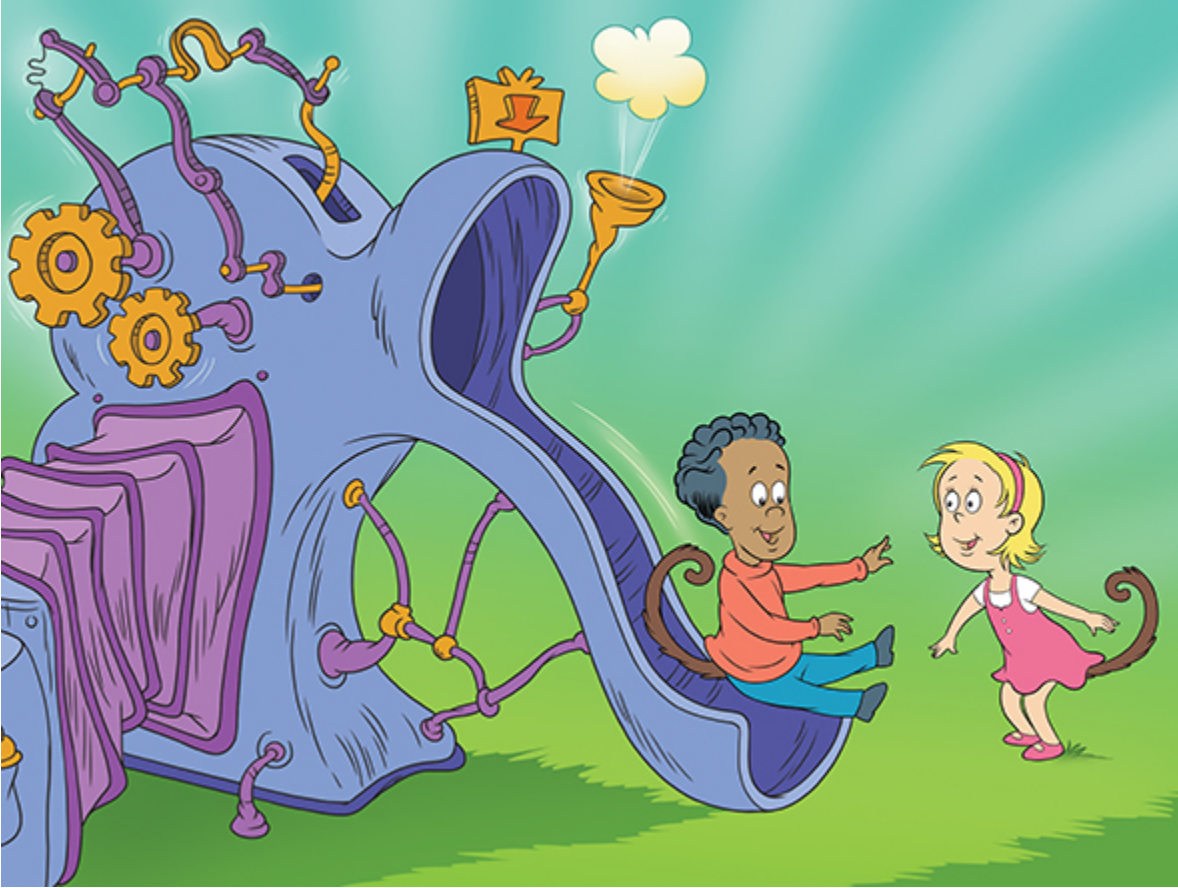
“ . . . Tail-a-ma-fixer machine!  
Just step inside it  
and soon you will see  
you can pick any tail  
and the tails are all free.”



Nick pushed a button  
and said, “Monkey tails, please!  
Sally and I want  
to swing through the trees.”



The Tail-a-ma-fixer  
started to quake.  
Lights started to flash  
and it started to shake.  
“Hold on!” Sally said.  
And the next thing she knew . . .



. . . she had a tail like a monkey’s—  
and Nick had one, too!  
“With our tails,” Sally said,  
“we can swing high and low  
in the trees like a monkey.  
Come on, Cat. Let’s go!”



They were starting to swing  
in the trees way up high  
when they saw a big bird  
that came flying on by.  
“It’s a quetzal,” the Cat said,  
“and take it from me—  
he has one of the prettiest  
tails we will see.”



“His tail is so bright,”  
Sally said to the Cat.  
“Can you get us tails  
just as pretty as that?”



“We have quetzal tails!” Nick said.  
“They’re bright blue and green.  
They’re the prettiest tails  
that I’ve ever seen!”



They flew with the quetzal,  
then suddenly heard  
a sound that they knew  
was not made by a bird.



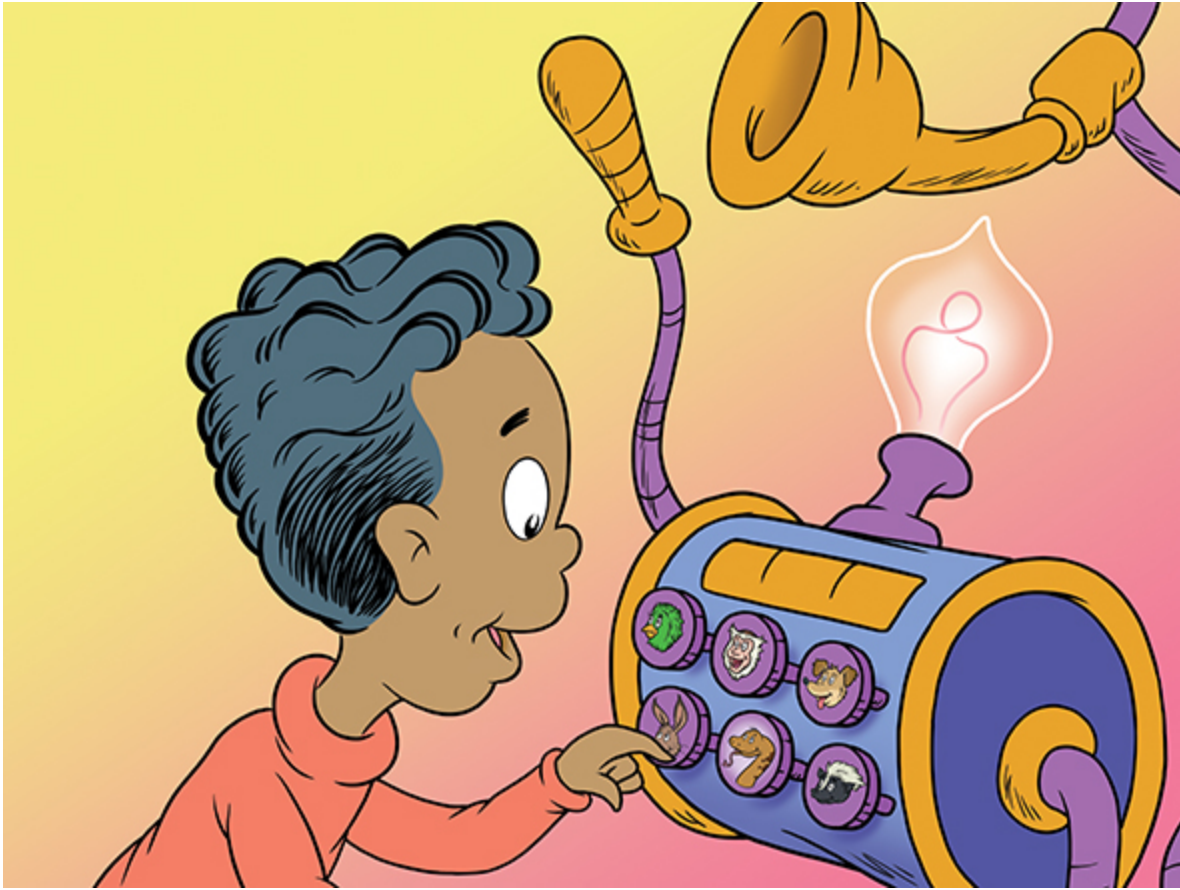


“Did you hear that?” asked Nick.

“I heard *shake, shake, shake, shake.*”

The Cat said, “That sound’s from  
the tail of a snake.

That’s a rattlesnake,  
and its tail makes a sound  
to warn everyone  
that a snake is around.”



“Tails like that could come in very handy,” said Nick.  
“I’ll push the snake button and get us some quick!”



“Come on, Sally, let’s shake  
our tails like a snake.  
It’s easy to do. We just  
shake, shake, shake, shake!”



“We’ve done a tail tour,”  
the Cat said, “and have found  
some are pretty, some handy,  
and some make a sound.  
A monkey’s tail holds on,  
and as you can see,  
he needs his strong tail  
to live up in a tree.”



“A quetzal’s tail looks  
very pretty and bright.  
When he flies through the sky,  
it’s a beautiful sight.



“A rattlesnake’s tail  
makes a sound you can hear.  
It’s this snake’s way of warning  
that danger is near.



“There are all kinds of tails,  
fun, fancy, and fine,  
but the tail I like most  
in the whole world is . . .



“... mine!”

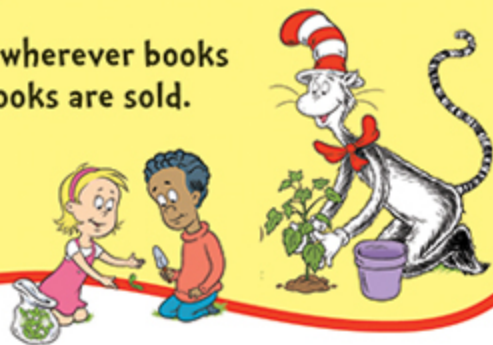




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# STEP INTO READING®

reading on your own

It's time for YOU!  
Pick your favorite  
spot to read.  
This is going to be  
a great book!

What this book is about . . .

## A Tale About Tails

There are all sorts of tails. Some are  
pretty, some are handy, and some are strong.  
Which is best? The Cat in the Hat knows that!



## Learning to Read, Step by Step!



**Ready to Read**    **Preschool–Kindergarten**



**Reading with Help**    **Preschool–Grade 1**



**Reading on Your Own**    **Grades 1–3**

Is your child comfortable tackling new words? Does your child like to read on his or her own? It's time for Step 3.  
**Engaging Characters • Easy-to-Follow Plots • Popular Topics**



**Reading Paragraphs**    **Grades 2–3**



**Ready for Chapters**    **Grades 2–4**

To learn about  
all the Steps,  
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