Text analysis:  *The Cat in the Hat*

1. Who tells the story? Summarize it in a few lines. Is the theme of the story accurate for a child audience? Why?
2. Discuss the characters in the story. Is there any nonsense creature?
3. What is distinctive about Seuss’s illustrations?
4. Are illustrations literal or do they add new elements and meaning to the story, interpreting and enhancing the text? Give examples.
5. What does Seuss say about the vocabulary used in beginners books in his 1960 interview “Dr Seuss talks to parents about learning to read and what makes children want to do it”? What about his use of vocabulary in *The Cat in the Hat*?
6. What does Seuss say about the purpose of rhyming in this interview? Give examples of his use of rhyme in *The Cat in the Hat*.
7. Discuss the ending of the story.
8. Would the story be different if it was told by the cat?
9. How different is the “Fun with Dick and Jane” text from *The Cat in the Hat* in terms of story, illustrations, characters?
10. Explore the Dr Seuss website. Do you find it useful? It provides some activities for class use. Think of some other ways to use the story in the classroom.

Photograph: “Cat in the Hat”. (c) cambodia4kids.org, 2005. In flickr with cc licence.