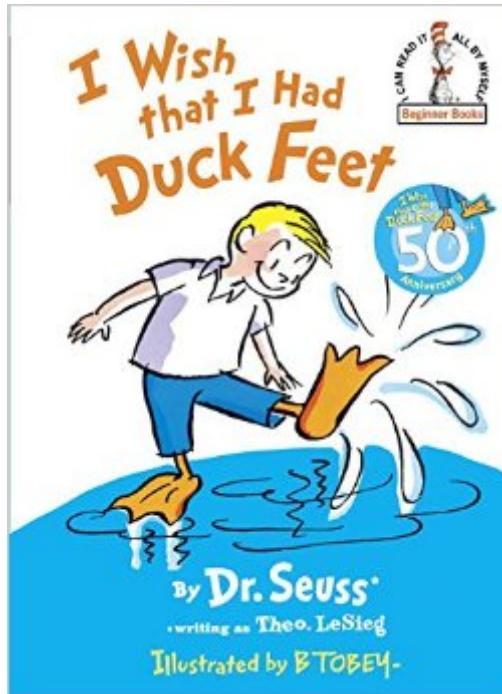


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# I Wish That I Had Duck Feet (Beginner Books)



## **Synopsis**

A young boy weighs the pros and cons of possessing various animal appendages—such as a duck's feet, a deer's antlers, a whale's spout, an elephant's trunk, and a long, long tail—only to decide that he's better off just being himself. A zany, insightful story that beginning readers will wish to hear again and again!

## **Book Information**

Lexile Measure: 0380 (What's this?)

Hardcover: 64 pages

Publisher: Beginner Books/Random House (August 12, 1965)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0394800400

ISBN-13: 978-0394800400

Product Dimensions: 6.8 x 0.4 x 9.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 8.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars—See all reviews (79 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #24,067 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #26 in Books > Children's Books > Animals > Ducks & Other Waterfowl #79 in Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Poetry > Stories In Verse #590 in Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Chapter Books & Readers > Beginner Readers

Age Range: 6 - 9 years

Grade Level: 1 - 4

## **Customer Reviews**

This book clearly deserves more than five stars for being one of the most helpful and interesting children's books of all time! Children have powerful imaginations, and this book provides an outstanding model for helping them to learn how to use their imaginations in more useful ways. In addition, the story is so interesting and compelling that they will be drawn into wanting to reread it often. As a result, they will begin to memorize the sentences . . . and thus have the foundation for identifying the words that go along with their recollections. Unlike many children's books, this one would also be appealing to adult literacy students. The illustrations are particularly good for making the boy's (and your child's) imagination come to life. The book begins with the boy waddling around on duck feet. "You can splash around in duck feet. You don't have to keep them dry. No more shoes!" . . . very good to have them when I play." This is illustrated with the boy getting thules in a

pond while ducks swim by."BUT . . . My mother would not like them." She would not like the wet mess in her clean house.From this sequence, you can see how the book is structured. The child imagines some new feature attached to his body. He then thinks about the advantages of that new feature. Next, he considers the drawbacks. Having looked at both, he goes on to decide whether to keep the feature or not. This is a method that many geniuses have used throughout history to make their great breakthroughs. Sharing this method is a wonderful gift to give your child!Then, the boy goes on to repeat the process."SO . . . If I can't have duck feet,I'll have something else instead . . . .

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If you go by the last line of "I Wish That I Had Duck Feet" then you would be inclined to think that this "I Can Read It All By Myself: Beginner Book" is about building self esteem in small children. But this book, written by Theo. LeSieg (do the last name backwards) and illustrated by B. Tobey, does two other important things as well. As is the case with any and all books from Dr. Seuss, there is an emphasis on the imagination. The young boy who wishes he had duck feet also wishes that he could have deer horns, a long tail, and several other physical features that would make him unique and special.But the most important thing that "I Wish That I Had Duck Feet" teaches beginning readers is the value of looking at both sides of an issue. While the young boy is able to come up with lots of reasons why having duck feet would be a good thing, his mother has at least one very good reason why he would not want them. From that point on in the story the young boy comes up with both the pros and cons for each of the things for which he wishes. Not only does this make the point that kids should think things through first, but it also serves as a reminder that not everything kids wish for is worth having.Still, the ability to see both sides of an issue is an important skill for young kids to acquire (older ones too, for that matter). Besides, parents can use the lesson from this book to good advantage. The next time your kid wishes they could have something and they tell you all the reasons why it would be a good thing to have, you can ask that they come up with reasons for the down side. If they claim they cannot come up with any you can certainly find one and tell them that since they could not come up with the pros and cons the answer is "No.

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