

# The Higher Critical Method: *Seuss Style*

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**Directions:** Read the selection below individually or in small groups. After reading it, help the class achieve a “greater depth of understanding” of this passage by answering the questions below. *Be creative!*

Be prepared to share some of the key principles and assumptions you used to develop your “creative” understanding of this passage.

## The Foot Book By Dr. Seuss

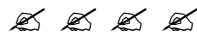
Left foot, left foot, right foot, right. Feet in the morning, feet at night. Left foot, left foot, left foot, right. Wet food, dry foot, low foot, high foot. Front feet, back feet, red feet, black feet. Left foot, right foot, feet, feet, feet. How many, many feet you meet.

Slow feet, quick feet, trick feet, slick feet. Up feet, down feet, here comes clown feet. Small feet, big feet, here come pig feet. His feet, her feet, fuzzy fur feet.

In the house, and on the street, how many, many feet you meet. Up in the air feet, over a chair feet, more and more feet. Twenty-four feet. Here come more and *more* and MORE feet!

Left foot. Right foot. Feet, feet, feet. Oh, how many feet you meet!

Dr. Seuss, *The Foot Book*. New York: Random House, 1968.



### Questions To Consider (Be Creative!)

1. What were the circumstances which caused this selection to be written? Give examples based on “hints” suggested by the text.

2. What type of people, culture, and/or customs influenced this writing?

3. Can one believe the authorship of this piece? Why or why not? Give support for your answer.

4. Were there any unusual “powers” which caused the writer to record this writing? Explain.

5. What words, phrases, or sentences are “original?” Which were added later? How have these alleged changes affected the meaning and application of this writing?

6. Are there any mistakes or unintentional insertions in this writing? What are they?

7. What deletions have occurred in this writing? What caused these deletions?

**Principles And Assumptions Used To Interpret This Writing**

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

***"Higher-Critical Approach"***

This *atheistic* "scientific" approach assumes....

- ? *The Bible is just like any other book*
- ? *The Bible has errors which must be sought out and discovered*
- ? *The Bible was not written by those who claim to be its authors*
- ? *The Bible "evolved" and was shaped by its culture and hearsay*
- ? *The miracles in the Bible never really happened.*
- ? *The Bible is "inspired" only insofar as it is "inspirational" to us*
- ? *One must give up their Christian faith when reading the Bible to properly study it*

**HIGHER-CRITICISM: An Analysis**

THE BIBLE	Higher Critical Position
<p>All Scripture is inspired by God The Bible has no errors</p> <p>God created the world Adam and Eve existed Sin came into the world through Adam and Eve God forbids homosexuality, etc.</p> <p>Jesus was born of the Virgin Mary</p> <p>Jesus rose from the dead</p>	<p>The Bible is merely inspirational The Bible has numerous errors and cannot be trusted The world evolved Adam and Eve never existed There is no such thing as sin</p> <p>Sexual behavior is socially, culturally, and individually determined</p> <p>Jesus was an illegitimate child. We do not know who his "father" really was.</p> <p>Jesus' tomb was not empty--He never rose!!! ....(Is Elvis alive???)</p>

(Source: Christian News, "What's Going On Among Lutherans?" September 8, 1986, p. 28)

**Higher Criticism's Easter Hymn**

I *think* that my Redeemer lives  
What comfort this sweet sentence gives.  
He lives, he lives, who once was dead,  
He lives, but *only* in my head.