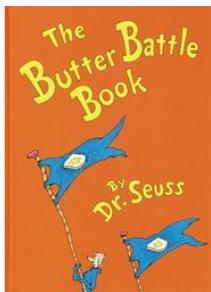


# The Butter Battle Book and the Cold War Literature Circle



The Cold War was "cold" primarily because of the threat of nuclear weapons. The Soviet Union launched its first nuclear weapon in 1949, an event that started an "arms race" between the United States and the Soviet Union. At the height of the Cold War, the combined weapons of both countries were enough to destroy the world six times over. The two "superpowers" used their weapons as a **deterrent** against nuclear war.

## Story parallels

*The Butter Battle Book*

The Cold War

Yooks vs. Zooks

the butter side up vs. butter side down

the wall

parades

building of bigger weapons

Grandpa on the top of the wall at the end

Be critical: Predict, Connect, Question, Visualize, Evaluate, and Clarify  
Think about the main idea, theme, and author's purpose.

What do you think Dr. Seuss is saying about the Cold War?

Possible questions to use at your table groups:

1. What does the author want you to know about human nature?
2. According to the story, what human characteristics seem to be highly valued by the
3. author?
4. Do any of the characters learn a lesson? Explain.
5. Would this lesson help you in your life? Why or why not?
6. The author's purpose is to... I know this because...
7. You can tell from the story that the author thinks...
8. What does the author mean when he says...?

## Extension Activities

1. **Role Play:** Come up with one different way this story could have ended? Get together as a group and perform or write the different ending.
2. **Conduct a World Summit:** Have a summit between the Yooks and Zooks. Each side should have their goals, and reasons for being upset, and demands against the other side. Groups should pretend to have bread to demonstrate how they like to eat with the butter side up and/or down. A mediator may be included that may try to resolve the problem by having them try one another's way of eating.
3. **Choose a side:** Decide if you want to be a Yook or a Zook and defend your reasons. Eat bread with the butter side up or down depending on your choice. Discuss reasons for fighting over your way of life. Discuss how war affects your way of life.
4. **Create a different climate:** Use a Venn diagram to remember the differences and similarities of the Yooks and the Zooks. From the differences and similarities write "I like the way...." statements that could be used from one side to celebrate the other rather than fighting over petty differences. Be sure to write from both perspectives. Act out a meeting of the two sides using the "I like the way you...." statements that you have written.
5. **Spread the Word:** In the story, each side uses propaganda to make their side seem like the right side. Propaganda is the spread of information aimed at promoting a cause or influencing public opinion, often slanting the truth to mislead. A few examples of methods used in propaganda are as follows:
  - a. Testimonials- using famous celebrities or leaders in advertisements
  - b. Name calling-insulting or putting people down
  - c. Fear- using fear to change somebody's opinionsDecide to be either the Zooks or the Yooks and create a banner against the other side using the methods of propaganda.
6. **Storyboard (cartoon) the scene:** Choose a scene from the story that you thought illustrated the significant themes. Then illustrate the scene and write blurbs discussing the themes being represented and what you believe Dr. Seuss is implying.