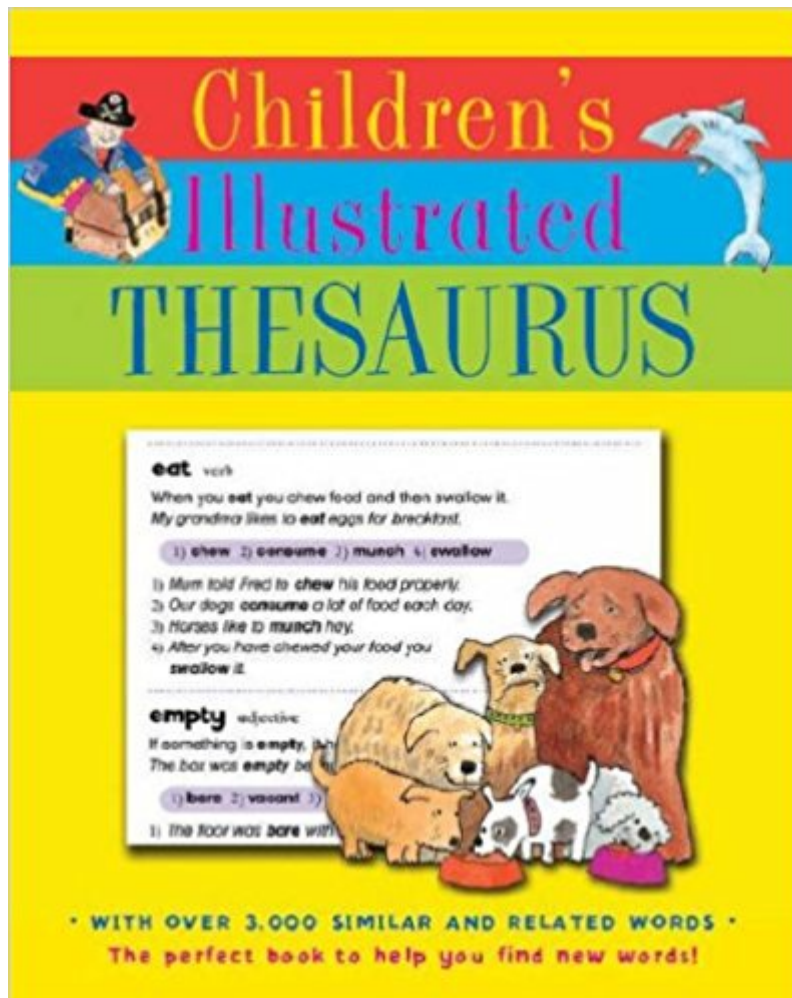


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Children's Illustrated Thesaurus



Synopsis

A comprehensive, illustrated thesaurus created specifically for young Canadian readers and writers, with more than 4,000 entries and authoritative content. Containing over 36,000 synonyms, the more than 4,000 main entries in Children's Illustrated Thesaurus are brought to life through an imaginative mix of illustrations and photography and fun vocabulary features that explore and expand language. The entries are arranged alphabetically and include definitions and sample sentences to help kids understand the meaning and usage of words in context, and antonym features present another layer of vocabulary for children to enjoy. With its fresh and fun design and authoritative content, Children's Illustrated Thesaurus will inspire children to build a rich and vibrant vocabulary and boost their confidence in using and choosing words. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

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Customer Reviews

Like almost every single DK book I've ever seen (and I've seen hundreds and own dozens), this book deserves an award for beautiful design and graceful, easy layout. In fact, this may be one of the best-designed DK books I've ever seen and that is saying something because they are all so nice. I just love the look of this book. There are hundreds of great photos and illustrations and all of them are fun and interesting and beautifully reproduced. I am just continually surprised and pleased by what a great job of choosing and reproducing illustrations DK does. Visually this book is a joy to look at. In terms of content I think DK has also produced a very valuable and useful book. I'm a writer and editor and professionally I try to avoid turning to a thesaurus too often, though there are

three generations of Roget's Thesaurus sitting within arm's reach of my computer because sometimes I get bored with the words I'm using. But I've been writing for 40 years so my vocabulary has been growing all of that time. But for kids, knowing there are alternative words is a very important thing. Kids tend to stick with the same words over and over and, especially in their writing, they tend to dig a verbal rut for themselves. But kids' minds are like sponges and if you exposed them to more language, they will assimilate it quickly and keep it for life, which is a good thing. Each of the entries in this book starts out with a quick definition (example: "Verdict: noun, a decision or opinion on something...") and then is followed by a short list of synonyms. At first I thought the number of synonyms was kind of short, but then began to realize that the book has over 4,000 entries and a whopping 36,000 synonyms and around 250 pages long. If there were many more they'd either have to cut back on the number of entries or make the book longer and this is already a big heavy book (which I loved when I was a kid--I LOVED big books). One of the things that I like most about this book is that there are a lot of really nice two-page and half-page illustrations that relate to the word. For the word "view," for example, there is a really pretty desert illustration. Also, there are alphabet tabs on each page with the letter of the alphabet that each entry begins with highlighted. And, and this is so cool, each letter of the alphabet has its own color of pages which is a great asset for little eyes and hands. Also, as I said above, the photos (and illustrations) that were selected are very interesting, these are not boring choices. For "peek," for instance, there is a photo of a squirrel peeking out of a hollow tree. For "coating" there is a pretty winter pond scene with a coating of ice. If I had kids or grand kids in this age range, I'd surely get them this book and I hope that teachers are able to add it to their in-class libraries. If you don't get kids using books as tools at an early age they'll all turn to their phones or computers and it's just not the same.

This book is so much more than I was expecting. It is beautiful and addictive. True to DK design principles, the layout is eye-popping and beautiful, and the words are a stretch for kids but not out of reach. I love how the book tries to illustrate the differences between similar words by means of pictures; it's so much more helpful than a simple list of words. For example, the synonyms for "unhappy" are illustrated by a series of emojis, in which "crestfallen" looks a little bummed, but "disconsolate" is weeping a flood of tears (more so than the emoji for "sorrowful"), so you can easily see the gradation of the synonyms. In other cases, where the word is not as easily illustrated, sample sentences are given for each synonym, to help put the words in context. For example, the synonyms for "smell" are illustrated by ten typical sentences, so a child will see that "funk" for example, would have a "horrible" connotation, but "aroma" might be something fresh and strong

(and nice). Alas, not all of the entries are illustrated as thoroughly as this, but that does make this more useful, since there are thousands of entries. I would expect this thesaurus to be useful all the way up through middle school, and all the way down to the youngest fluent readers. After I showed this to my eight-year-old daughter, I put it on her shelf, expecting to have to prompt her to use it. Instead, I later found it by her bedside, indicating that she had taken it off her shelf to peruse it on her own. I asked her about it, and she gushed about it, and as she snuggled next to me, she murmured the words with which I headed this review: "Mommy, my new favorite word is 'beloved.'" Indeed. Mine, too.

This is a real thesaurus, including definitions of words, good examples of their use in sentences, synonyms, and antonyms. It's also really for children. The illustrations are appealing and they help to make the meanings of the words clear. Some are arranged in ways that remind me of infographics, using shapes to clarify words and adding fun to the pages. "Angry," for example, shows a bull pawing the ground, surrounded by synonyms like "livid," "irate," "furious," and "fuming." There are 256 pages, most with four columns of words. Each column contains about 5 or 6 words -- that is to say, there are lots of words in here. A thesaurus always has the drawback of offering words that have differences in meaning without making those differences clear. Kids can get the impression that "defective" and "poor" mean roughly the same thing. However, this thesaurus draws a distinction between -- for example -- "bad" in the sense of "poor quality" and "bad" in the sense of "evil." It doesn't imply that "defective" and "depraved" are interchangeable. It's a wonderful celebration of words, fun to leaf through and useful to keep on hand for homework.

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