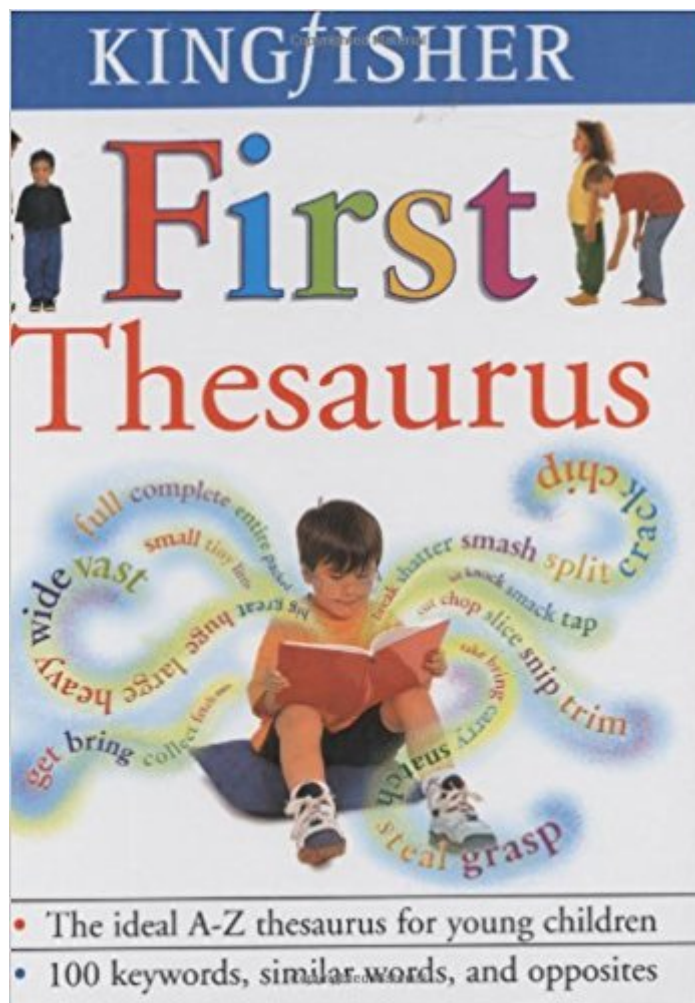


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The Kingfisher First Thesaurus (Kingfisher First Reference)



Synopsis

Now available in paperback for the first time, The Kingfisher First Thesaurus lists over 100 key headwords frequently used by children, along with synonyms, homonyms, antonyms, and sample sentences.

Book Information

Series: Kingfisher First Reference

Hardcover: 144 pages

Publisher: Kingfisher; 1st American ed edition (September 15, 1993)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1856979148

ISBN-13: 978-1856979146

Package Dimensions: 10.3 x 7.6 x 0.9 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.6 pounds

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars 1 customer review

Best Sellers Rank: #2,469,001 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #51 in Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > Reference > Thesauri

Age Range: 5 - 8 years

Grade Level: Kindergarten - 3

Customer Reviews

Another addition to the proliferating number of children's thesauruses, this book has approximately 100 entries. For each entry term are given the part of speech, a definition, and an illustrative sentence. Synonyms are listed with a sentence to exemplify their use. Sometimes additional synonyms and opposites are listed at the end of an entry. In the margins are cross-references from other words in the alphabetical sequence to the synonym under which they will be found. There are double-page spreads on such topics as animals, community helpers, sport, and transportation, often out of alphabetical sequence, apparently for format reasons. Ten pages have quizzes or activities of some kind; the answers are on the last page. Two pages list homophones. Cartoonish line drawings appear on most pages, their presumable function being humor and variety. The book is printed in two colors, green and black. The basic words are appropriately simple for a first thesaurus (e.g., beautiful, leave, sad, work), but the synonyms are often more advanced (e.g., those for noise include racket and din, with hush and silence as opposites). While some sentences are helpful with meaning ("There was such a din, I couldn't hear myself talk"), others are not ("Why are you so

gloomy?"). Some words and sentences seem conceptually far beyond what would be expected in a first thesaurus, ("La Scala in Milan is one of the world's great opera houses"). Only libraries intent on building a collection of children's wordbooks need purchase. This is ineffective as a reference book and too unattractive to invite much browsing.

Publishers Weekly New and updated reference guides for beginning readers aim to improve vocabulary and all-around knowledge. According to PW, Kingfisher First Dictionary by John Grisewood and Angela Crawley sports "a highly accessible design," with its copious illustrations, photos and examples. Kingfisher First Thesaurus by George Beal, illus. by Martin Chatterton, also updated, employs line illustrations over the requisite synonyms, antonyms and homonyms. Games and more in-depth looks at selected topics broaden its appeal. Copyright 2004 Reed Business Information. Tina Dybvik - Children's Literature An introduction gives a basic review of specific word choices and synonyms. It includes directions for using the thesaurus and clearly describes the organization by key words and cross references. A discussion of antonyms and homonyms follows with the promise of games on special topic pages. The games are fun. They provide a challenge above the suggested grade level and answers appear on the final page. Students who like to read will continue to browse the words long after they have finished the puzzles. Chatterton's funny drawings make a huge contribution to the books success, and large size print and light blue sidebars appeal to reluctant readers without insulting the fluent. The cover clearly targets children age eight and under, but the vocabulary is appropriate for older or remedial students as well. It is a valuable reference for school or home, and a lot more fun than the synonym finder in any word processing program. 2004, Kingfisher/Houghton Mifflin, Ages 5 to 8. School Library Journal Gr 1-4-Both of these resources are geared to beginning readers, but the similarity ends there.

Thesaurus offers 100 entries in black type against blue boxes-a concern for new readers. Each entry shows part of speech, definition, and 2 to 6 synonyms with examples of use in a sentence, an approach that fails to convey shades of meaning. Many also include "opposite words."

Unfortunately, many of the definitions and examples are far too difficult for the intended audience (e.g., Big: "Something is called big because it is sizable or important"), and the introduction, written for children, contains extremely sophisticated vocabulary and syntax. Dictionary includes 1500 words or phrases that children hear every day, including both simple terms such as "dry" as well as more complicated ones like "mystery." All definitions are presented in complete sentences, with defined words in bold type, and common dictionary terms are replaced with simpler language; for example, cross-references tell users to "look at" another word. The layout, featuring copious color

illustrations and photos, an excellent use of white space, and a contextual "letter string" down the side of each page, is especially appropriate for this age group. Pronunciation guides appear for words with difficult spellings, but this feature is inconsistent. On the whole, Dictionary, with its limited scope and useful features, is a far better match for the skills and needs of this audience than Thesaurus.-Kathleen Kelly MacMillan, Maryland School for the Deaf, Columbia Copyright 2004 Reed Business Information. Children's Literature It is a valuable reference for school or home, and a lot more fun than the synonym finder in any word processing program. 2004, Kingfisher/Houghton Mifflin, Ages 5 to 8. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

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