Annotated Bibliography for Kids and Teachers Who Love Words

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Describes how the English language has evolved through history and additions from other languages and explains the background of certain words’ origins.

Describes how many words are rooted in Greek and Roman mythology and explains how the words have become a part of today’s language.

Rhyming text follows a fly through the alphabet as he lands in places only to be shouted away.

Gaylen seeks to find the food that best defines the word delicious and avoid civil war throughout the kingdom.

An easy-to-read introduction to the origin and meaning of familiar compound words.

Discusses how language is developed and learned and presents an overview of several languages, such as French, Japanese, and Hebrew.

Explains what languages have in common yet how they are unique to each culture, country, or area.

Cameron, Polly. “*I can’t,“ said the ant: a second book of nonsense*. New York, N.Y., Coward, McCann & Geoghegan, c. 1961. unp. pt. col ill
The rhyming text tells the tale of how a tiny ant comes to the rescue of a fallen teapot.

Animal friends, Frank and Ernest, take a temporary job driving a truck and must learn the language and CB terms used by drivers.

Animal pals, Frank and Ernest, become the temporary managers of a minor-league baseball team and must learn the lingo of the game.

A little boy accompanies a bear to Berryland where together they have fun picking all types of berries. Story is told in rhyming text.

Introduces onomatopoeic words associated with animals, people, and machines in a rhyming text.

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A little girl imagines the things her parents discuss at the dinner table, such as a chocolate moose, a gorilla war, the undertoe in the ocean.


A teddy bear introduces each letter of the alphabet and describes himself in rhyme.


The bold and bright illustrations show verbs of all kinds and explains their use in rhyming text.


The rhyming text with colorful illustrations presents the meaning and function of adjectives.


Rhymed text explains the difference between types of nouns.


In a rhyming text double negatives, superlatives, and irregular adverbs are introduced. A continuation to the series on language usage.


Alphabetized entries for each letter of the alphabet include “ant” somewhere in the word.


Paintings of everyday objects found throughout a city present the letters of the alphabet. A Caldecott honor book.


Cowgirl Fare Thee Well must find the “real cowboy, among many suitors. A western adaptation of “The princess and the pea.”


A witch’s hat causes problems after it falls in her brew and begins to take on other forms. A rhyming text.


Explain’s a “simile” and gives many examples in
rhyming text.

Milo, after driving through the phantom tollbooth, becomes involved in the return of princesses Rhyme and Reason to settle the rivalry between King Azaz of Dictionopolis and the Mathemagician.


Alliterative text to present the adventures of animals from A to Z.


Shows the development of the English language by explaining how individual words evolved through history and usage.


Discusses the origins and derivation of certain words, idioms, and slang expressions of the English language.


Rhyming words describe the activities of best friends at summer camp.


Examples of named groups of animals, people and things are illustrated.


The letters of the alphabet are turned and twisted to become a part of a word that begins with that letter.


Compound words are introduced throughout the story as a family goes on a train trip.


Fourteen two-word rhymes, along with color photographs show the fun of a small boy at the beach.


Two school children demonstrate the three degrees of comparison: positive, comparative, and superlative.


The letter Z, feeling unappreciated, leaves the rest of the alphabet and tries to start a new one where she'll be the leader.


Using letters from the word hippopotamus to make new words five children search the jungle and find their way to the library.


When Mr. Rogers takes Amelia Bedelia out to practice her driving her literal interpretations cause some problems.

Parish, Peggy. The *Amelia Bedelia series*, including *Amelia Bedelia; Amelia Bedelia and the surprise shower; Amelia Bedelia goes camping; Amelia Bedelia's family album; Come back, Amelia Bedelia; Good work, Amelia Bedelia; Merry Christmas. Amelia Bedelia; Play ball, Amelia Bedelia; Teach us, Amelia Bedelia; Thank you, Amelia Bedelia*. Various illustrators and publishers.

This series is based upon humorous situations that result from young Amelia's literal interpretations of English colloquialisms.


Mrs. Toggle and her primary class mistakenly expect a new student joining the class will be a dinosaur.


Primary grade teacher Mrs. Toggle is trapped in her winter coat when the zipper sticks. Everyone in the school attempts to free her. The characters' names match their occupations.


References words that are commonly confused; such as pig-hog, melody-tune, violin-fiddle, backdate-postdate. Arranged in dictionary style.


Traces common words and phrases of American-English throughout history.
Schurr, Cathleen. *Cats have kittens - do gloves have mittens?* Illustrated by Marjorie Auerbach. New York, N.Y., Alfred & Knopf, c.1962. unp. pt. col ill

The rhyming text names the parent and young of many animals and compares them with objects that are big and small.


Presents examples of folk speech used in the U.S. from 1815 to 1950.


With these alphabetical entries the first object suggests what it will finally become. Example: E is for campfire—tomorrow's embers.


Rhyming story of five sheep joy riding in a jeep. By the end of their trip they must advertise jeep for sale—cheap.


Five sheep turn a local shop into a shambles as they search for a birthday gift. The story is told in rhyme.


Five sheep wreak havoc as they stop at an old fashioned tea shop for lunch. The story is told in rhyme.


Five sheep set off for a hike, get lost, and finally retrace their trail by following snagged pieces of wool. The story is told in rhyme.


Gives readers a chance to create homographs in more than seventy riddle sentences.


Readers have an opportunity to create homographs by solving many riddles.


Explain the origins of over 100 eponyms — words derived from the names of people or places.


Discusses the true meanings and origins of idioms and gives more than two dozen examples.


Explains over 100 English idioms, in categories of animals, body parts, colors, feelings, food, and bats.


Explains about 100 idioms which mean something different from the separate words in the phrase. All have to do with some form of motion.


Explains the origins and meaning of over 100 unusual words, such as fuzzy-wuzzy, flip-flop, can-can.


Introduces homographic homophones, words which look and sound alike but have different meanings. There is no story, just a picture illustrating the words in context.


Using phrasing and words of the Cajun culture the story tells how little Feliciana sneaks away to go alligator hunting with her grandfather.


A beginning reader introduction to the origins of some common words.


Whitefish Will, retired sheriff, is called back to corral Bad Bart and his gang.