



# The Boy Who Loved Words

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Words. Selig loves everything about them--the way they tast on his tongue (*tantalizing*), the sound they whisper in his ears (*tintinnabulating!*), and--most of all--the way they stir his heart. And he collects them *voraciously*, the way others collect stamps or seashells.

But what to do with so many *luscious* words? Surrounded by doubters, Selig journeys forth and discovers that there is always someone--a poet, a baker, maybe even YOU--searching for the perfect word...a word that he can provide.

## The Boy Who Loved Words Details

Date : Published March 28th 2006 by Schwartz & Wade

ISBN : 9780375836015

Author : Roni Schotter , Giselle Potter (Illustrator)

Format : Hardcover 36 pages

Genre : Childrens, Picture Books, Fiction



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# From Reader Review The Boy Who Loved Words for online ebook

## Tatiana says

Part of our first grade High Ability curriculum. A story about Selig, a young boy with a love for words, and his journey to find a purpose for his wordsmith ways. I honestly thought it could have been more...wondrous. I got my hopes up when Selig was visited by a Yiddish genie, and then again when he helped a poet (perhaps William Wordsworth to mirror Selig's nickname?). But overall, it was ho-hum. Even one of my students predicted an ending that would have been far more impactful! It is a good resource for vocabulary development, though.

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## Sunrise says

25% = 1 Star

I've been trying to figure out how this book went wrong, because I too LOVE words. This should have been a favorite of mine, and the fact that I found it horribly dull and lifeless bothers me. The 6 year olds I read it with didn't like it either, at all. They didn't learn anything, there were no smiles, or laughter, just a great idea that didn't get up and fly around as great ideas should.

Anyway, my review begins and ends with a confused look on my face.

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## Cierra Garrison says

My first thought after finishing this book how many different ways you could take it! This would be a fantastic read aloud for grades 1-3. For first graders, each student can pick a more advanced word from the story (ex: tantalizing, earnest, obligation, ect) look up the meaning of it, where it originated from, and give an example of how it could be used in a sentence. Then the students can present their findings to the class. For 2nd or 3rd graders, since the little boy in the stories hobby was collecting words, they could spend a week "collecting" their own words from the stories they read and then at the end of the week, everybody can put their words on the board and the students can give definitions for the words they know, and the words remaining can be looked up and defined to broaden their vocabulary.

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## Ashley Meyer says

I didn't like this book. It talked about what every kid is curious about, words and vocabulary. I didn't like how he just heard a word and then wrote it down. He didn't find out what it meant. Students are going to need an explanation on what the word means and they are going to have no idea by just hearing a funny word

and then writing it down. I would not share this book.

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## **Jen says**

I've been going to the library lately looking for childrens' books about word worship or library love. I find all kinds of books that seem to be just what I am looking for and then I get them home and read them and they are just blah. Eh. Good idea. Not so great execution of idea. This book is a classic example. They could have done much better, although the short part about the boy sharing his collected words with a poet with writer's block was okay.

Where is the whizzbang wonder? There are plenty of books about art and music that seem to "bang the gong" (to borrow some words from Jack Grapes)but I can't find anything that explains the power and awe and respect I have for libraries, librarians, and the written word.

Perhaps I should just write my own odes to libraries and words and read them to my children. But they get enough of that already, I think. Momma's silly songs and odes are starting to get the dreaded eyerolls. I wanted to prove that I wasn't the only one that felt this way about those subjects but maybe I am. Oh well.

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## **Manybooks says**

Now considering that I have always loved words and have advanced degrees in German literature, I was really expecting to absolutely adore Roni Schotter's The Boy Who Loved Words (as while I might not collect them like Selig does, I do have a weakness for word based games, vocabulary lists and simply reading dictionaries for fun). However, while I have to a certain extent and indeed mildly appreciated certain aspects of The Boy Who Loved Words (mostly the detailed glossaries at the back), I have personally (and on an entirely emotional level) rather majorly disliked one part of Roni Schotter's presented narrative so much that I can really only consider a one star ranking. For while I have already and rather frustratingly found the author's text, the printed and presented narrative as an entity, as a whole a bit artificial and contrived, for me, as a person of German background, the emergence of that dream genie depicted as speaking with an obvious German/Yiddish accent and in such a heavy and to and for me in one's face and mocking fashion, well this has not only angered me immensely, it has also and unappreciatively brought back far too many remembrances of ignorant students and even some of my teachers making fun of my accent, imitating my German way of especially pronouncing V and W sounds (and in very much the same manner as the genie speaks in The Boy Who Loved Words) that I am just left fuming and growling (and although I more than readily assume that Roni Schotter likely does in no way mean to be insulting or disparaging, this does not change the fact that the genie's accent and how prominently it seems to be featured has pretty much and totally rubbed me the wrong way).

Combined with the fact that Giselle Potter's accompanying illustrations, while indeed colourful and expressive, do once again and as usual depict human faces as strangely stagnant and one dimensionally old (in other words, that even Potter's child characters look to my eyes like old men and old women and that Selig as a boy actually looks in especially his face considerably older than either his father or mother), I have most definitely and sadly been very much disappointed with and by The Boy Who Loved Words and to the

point that I almost wish I had not read the book, as especially the scene of the genie speaking with that heavy accent has bothered me for a couple of days now (and although I do feel a bit guilty ranking The Boy Who Loved Words with but one star, I cannot and will not pretend that the book has not bothered and infuriated me).

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### **Michaela says**

Summary: The main character, Selig, is passionate about collecting words. While his peers enjoy playing and hanging out with friends, Selig prefers writing down words that interest him on slips of paper that he carries around with him. Although Selig is made fun of by his peers, he receives affirmation from a genie who appears to him in a dream and counsels him to seek a purpose to match his passion. Selig then makes the world a better place by traveling and literally "spreading the word"--his words from his profuse collection.

Characteristics that Support the Genre: Roni Schotter's book is full of whimsical illustrations that establish its setting.

Mentor Writing Traits: The plot is simple, but clearly developed. The theme is relevant and understandable for children, and the words are carefully selected to set the mood, create vivid images, and convey the theme. This would be a great mentor text to teach students word choice as part of a writing workshop session. The book can show students how to improve their writing during the revision stage of the writing process by adding more interesting and meaningful words.

Classroom Integration: This book could be used to introduce new vocabulary and get lower elementary students excited about learning new words. Reading this book to students is a great jumping off point for in-depth word study.

Other Suggestions: Encourage students to start their own collection of words. They could decorate a box to store words written on slips of paper.

Grades: PreK-2

Guided Reading Level: Q

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### **Michelle (In Libris Veritas) says**

This was alright. I love the idea of it and certain aspects make it really neat, like the focus on the more interesting and unique words out there as well as the accompanying glossary in the back. However, the story itself seemed a bit lacking in...something, though I'm not sure what. The illustrations were pretty at times but not a favorite.

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### **Rida says**

I fell instantly in love with his book! Great, Super, Amazing, Incredible, Exquisite! I'm speechless! It's a joy. I Love Words and I in fact do collect them in my good words document. I feel so appreciated by this book. I bet Selig would be the best person to help me make my novel come to life! Sigh.

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## **Lisa Vegan says**

Maybe this isn't a five star book (I had to get used to the way people were depicted, and its attempt at diversity fell short, and even some short parts of the story rubbed me the wrong way, just a tiny bit) but I'm a sucker for books such as this, and 5 stars it is. And, I do this it's an excellent book.

This book takes a long, long time to read if all the words are read. In addition to the story, there are many words on most pages. (They reminded me of the magnetic poetry kits' words.) If reading it with a child, it could take an incredibly long time to get through the book because there will be many "What does this mean?" questions.

Selig is a boy who loves words, and he collects them, and he finds a way to use them, and others find a way to use them. He's called an oddball but makes his interest in words work for him. It's a wonderful book for readers who love words and for children who enjoy learning new words. There is a glossary in the back, but I think it includes just the words in the story, not the extra words that are on just about every pages, including the inside front and back covers. I loved the words, even though I knew them all. Seeing all of them reminded me of how much I enjoy words/language. In this sense, this book reminded me just a bit of The Phantom Tollbooth. Advanced words are used, not just as separate entities, but also within the story proper.

I ended up really appreciating the illustrations and I loved the ones that include trees.

This is a fabulous book to read with children who enjoy increasing their vocabulary, or for independent readers who like doing the same. It's a wonderful story for anyone who writes or who appreciates words, and it's also a terrific book for oddballs anywhere, including collectors or those who have unusual interests, not that being interested in words is all that unusual.

I'm definitely not doing this book justice in describing it, and I should have brought out the thesaurus and used every esoteric, beautiful, unusual, advanced, amazing word in it for this review.

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## **Kathryn says**

A wonderous ode to the beauty of words. The boy in this story loves words and collects them as some people would collect rocks or stamps or baseball cards. But when he finds himself overloaded with words, he must find a way to free up his mind and his pockets. In a delightful bit of serendipity, he learns that he can do great things for people by sharing his words.

A charming and clever tale for budding logophiles, I thoroughly enjoyed this book and I think I would have loved it as a child since I was always fascinated by the magic of words. I'm not sure that I was a fan of the style of illustrations for the humans, but I did love how the words were interspersed in the illustrations. (And there's a dictionary in the back if any of the young wordsmiths need to look up the definitions.)

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## **Ann says**

I kept waiting for this book to be about someone who really lived (an author, poet, etc.) and it wasn't - so, I think had I known that for sure prior to reading I would have enjoyed the book even more.

That said, I like the way this book was written, and especially liked that all the complicated words were explained in the back for those curious to know their definitions.

The arc of the story wasn't anything amazing, but I appreciated what the book set out to do, and how children who revel in words will most likely gobble this up!

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## **Michael Fitzgerald says**

Contrived and lame.

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## **Braelyn Carwile says**

The boy who loved words is about a boy named Selig who collects words he writes words down on a scrap piece of paper. One day on his way to find his purpose, the words he carries get too heavy so he put them in a tree. This leads him to share his words with other people.

I enjoyed this book, but it might be difficult to for beginner readers. I found myself having to look at some of the words more closely in order to pronounce them correctly. I really liked the words in the illustrations and how they matched what was going on in the picture. I also appreciated having a glossary in the back so you could see which words they used. It is a nice story and you can take a lot from it. It touches on a lot of topics so it can be used in a variety of ways.

Obviously this can be used for when your students want to or are not using interesting words. I think it would be fun to have my students do their own version of this book. I would have them come up with their own story, but then have them use a thesaurus to describe more of what they mean. They would include their own glossary so if they shared them with the other students in the class, they could know what the words mean.

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## **Caitlin Barclay says**

This is a book all about a boy that loves words! I would say that this is an inspirational book that encourages readers to find purpose in what they enjoy doing. The fact that this boy loves words and the words that the author includes makes me want to write a poem! The book includes a glossary of the words used because some of them I have never heard before! I would like to have this in my classroom to help students see what can be done with their dreams and with words!

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