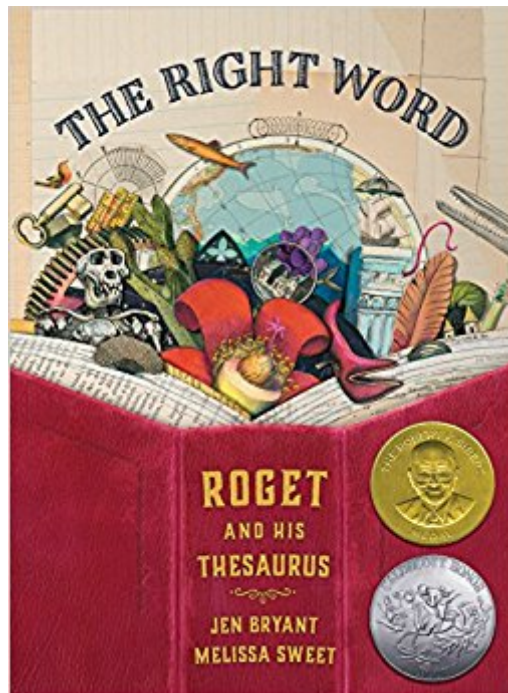




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The Right Word: Roget And His Thesaurus



Synopsis

2015 Caldecott Honor Book 2015 Sibert Medal Winner For shy young Peter Mark Roget, books were the best companions -- and it wasn't long before Peter began writing his own book. But he didn't write stories; he wrote lists. Peter took his love for words and turned it to organizing ideas and finding exactly the right word to express just what he thought. His lists grew and grew, eventually turning into one of the most important reference books of all time. Readers of all ages will marvel at Roget's life, depicted through lyrical text and brilliantly detailed illustrations. This elegant book celebrates the joy of learning and the power of words.

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 590 (What's this?)

Hardcover: 42 pages

Publisher: Eerdmans Books for Young Readers (September 15, 2014)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0802853854

ISBN-13: 978-0802853851

Product Dimensions: 8 x 0.4 x 11 inches

Shipping Weight: 1 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars 61 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #68,555 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #149 in Books > Children's Books > Biographies > Historical #531 in Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > History

Age Range: 7 - 18 years

Grade Level: 2 - 5

Customer Reviews

Gr 2-5 • Those who have relied upon a thesaurus (meaning treasure house in Greek), either in print or through the tool menu of word processing software, will gain a greater appreciation for the reference tool in this beautifully designed picture book biography of its creator, Peter Roget. Bryant describes bibliophile Roget, taking him from a timid, studious child who was always compiling lists to an accomplished doctor who by 1805 had compiled the beginnings of the first thesaurus. Busy and exuberant, Sweet's charming watercolor illustrations, layered over collages of vintage images and fonts, capture Roget's passion for classification while also providing readers new opportunities for discovery (Latin translations of animal names, mathematical terms,

and a plethora of synonyms). Expertly researched and well written, Bryant's narrative not only details the creation of the thesaurus; it also conveys a sense of Roget the man: his shy nature, his keen intelligence, and his passion for knowledge. There truly was a particular blend of artistry and intellect that went into Roget's book, as evidenced from a reproduced page from the original thesaurus. The book contains extensive back matter, including an incredibly detailed time line that goes into the man's other inventions (the slide rule, the pocket chess set) and an author and illustrator's note, as well as Roget quotations that are sure to inspire if not a love of language then at least a search for the perfect turn of phrase. An excellent illustrated biography. — Joanna K. Fabicon, Los Angeles Public Library

-- Publishers Weekly (STARRED Review) "Sweet envisions Roget's work as a shadow box crammed with the wonders of the natural world, adorned with exuberant hand-lettered typography. Together with Bryant's sympathetic account, Sweet's gentle riot of images and words humanizes the man behind this ubiquitous reference work and demystifies the thesaurus itself."-- Kirkus Reviews (STARRED Review) Bryant's prose is bright and well-tuned for young readers. . . . Sweet tops herself -- again! -- visually reflecting Roget's wide range as a thinker and product of the Enlightenment. Injecting her watercolor palette with shots of teal, scarlet and fuchsia, Sweet embeds vintage bits (ledger paper, type drawers, botanical illustrations and more), creating a teeming, contemplative, playfully celebratory opus. In a word: marvelous!"-- Booklist (STARRED review) "In brilliant pages teeming with enthusiasm for language and learning, Bryant and Sweet joyfully celebrate curiosity, the love of knowledge, and the power of words."-- School Library Journal (STARRED review) — "Those who have relied upon a thesaurus . . . will gain a greater appreciation for the reference tool in this beautifully designed picture book biography of its creator, Peter Roget. . . . Busy and exuberant, Sweet's charming watercolor illustrations, layered over collages of vintage images and fonts, capture Roget's passion for classification while also providing readers new opportunities for discovery. . . . Expertly researched and well written, Bryant's narrative not only details the creation of the thesaurus; it also conveys a sense of Roget the man. . . . An excellent illustrated biography. — The Horn Book (STARRED review) "Apt language and ingenious imagery. . . . both decorous and warm."-- Capitol Choices "From its busy end pages this lively book brings to life a creator and the words he was fascinated by."New York Times "Spirited portrait of the Swiss-born Victorian who found an ingenious way to help people say what they mean."Washington Post "Young readers will see that each page of this book, like each page of 'Roget's Thesaurus,' contains multitudes."The Bulletin of the

Center for Children's Books "Encourages a sense of wonder. . . . Myriad visual temptations luring viewers into a fine browsing experience."Midwest Book Review "The Right Word: Roget and His Thesaurus is a fabulous illustrated junior biography, celebrating the richness and power of words, and the wonderful story of the man who organized and listed words to make them accessible to all who are literate. Through the Looking Glass Children's Book Reviews "In this remarkable book Jen Bryant's lyrical text is paired with Melissa Sweet's wonderful multimedia artwork to give young readers a compelling story about a man whose book of words, and their meanings, is now a valuable tool used by writers of all kinds.

I need Roget's Thesaurus to think of enough adjectives for this amazing book. Jen Bryant can certainly write a great children's biography, engaging, poetic, and fun! My daughter and I enjoyed Six Dots: A Story of Young Louis Braille but this book is even better. We love words at our house so this book is even more meaningful. As an adult I am especially pleased when I also learn new facts from a children's book and it turns out I really did not know much about Dr. Roget at all. Jen's writing style is fabulous and her words flow off the tongue when reading this aloud. My favorite sentence just from the standpoint of an amazing impact on the reader- "Baby Annette slept in Mother's arms, a small pink blossom against a wall of black." I can visualize the scene perfectly from that one sentence. You can feel it even. You just know that Peter's mother must be in mourning because his father died. On the next page you find that is exactly the case. The entire book is amazing like that. I read one beautiful passage and then my daughter wanted to read it as well. It really is fun to say the beautiful words out loud! In addition to Bryant's inspired prose, Sweet's art is also fabulous. I am not sure how to describe it, maybe scrapbook style? There really are a lot of interesting things going on in the pictures that's for sure. So, we loved both reading and looking at this wonderful book. We highly recommend it!

One of my favorite books of 2014, The Right Word, takes a look at the creation of Roget's Thesaurus and the man who created it. Not only are the illustrations remarkable (which I would expect from Melissa Sweet), the text is beautifully integrated with them to present a striking book that is both informative and appealing. This book would be a great tool for helping children learn how to use a thesaurus and to develop an understanding of the power of having just the right word to use. Roget strikes me as a rather interesting man to study with his word fascination as well as interest in many aspects of science so I found the author's and illustrator's notes at the end

thoroughly intriguing. The list of references and resources is also helpful and indicates the large amount of work that went into making this book. It was also really interesting to see a copy of one of the pages from Roget's notebook. A great book and a great resource and very possibly a soon to be award winner.

I love words and I love art that plays with words. ABC books, abecedarian novels, lipograms, everything and anything that plays with the art of words is art right up my alley. And so having adored Jen Bryant and Melissa Sweet's glorious Caldecott Honor *A River of Words*, I was agog with anticipation waiting for their latest, *The Right Word: Roget and His Thesaurus*. And now that I've seen it, let me tell you • it was worth the wait. Bryant again captures the essence of a complicated individual in spare and beautifully crafted text. Having now written a book about a real person myself, I'm all the more in awe of anyone who takes on a full biography for children, managing to economically pull out just what is needed about that person's life for young readers to best appreciate his accomplishments. Roget was clearly one brilliant man who loved all sorts of things, words among them. Bryan elegantly presents Roget's lifelong passion for word lists as well as much more. She communicates beautifully just why such lists are so worthwhile by having Roget answer his mother's questions with a single word and then mull over what better ones there might be. She suggests the darker parts of his life, but mostly she shows readers a person who was a passionate learner, passionate creator of word lists, and someone who figured out how to put those passions together to create a unique and wonderful book, the thesaurus. Words, words, letters and numbers and then more words float through this book. In the text, through the perfect design and, most wonderfully, through Melissa Sweet's art. These marks of language are everywhere in this book, those of Roget's lists dance across one page, march down another, and flit throughout in magical ways. On every page, Sweet's assemblages of paintings and collage are an exuberant delight; the realistic paintings celebrating different parts of Roget's life are often layered one above another; here's one with an elegant file folder border; there's another with paper scraps of lists peeking out behind it. Page after page words drift through, around and in the paintings via speech bubbles, book covers, cards, signs, maps, labels, diagrams, and more. Color and texture are used to brilliant effect, at times repeating within and without an illustration. Most of all it is Sweet's playful use of language through her lovely realistic watercolors of Roget and his experiences, her glorious assemblages of

meaning, that bring Bryan's words, Roget's life, and this book to an ethereal place of pleasure. All in all, The Right Word is an spectacularbrilliantmarveloussuperbmagnificentdazzlingwork of art.

This book is a feast of beauty. Beautiful to touch and hold, beautiful to look at, and beautiful to read. The story of Dr. Roget's life was amazing and gave me a whole new appreciation for his thesaurus and the rest of his contributions to the world. I bought this as a Christmas gift, but I'm pretty sure I must keep it for my own collection. I'll buy another copy to give away.

I love this book -- and last night I had the pleasure of watching a nine-year old boy lose himself in it. He read it to himself, slowly (explaining that he wanted to really look at the pictures). He laughed when Peter said, "Mama, I'm fine." And when I looked over to see what had made him laugh, pointed to that and the black cloud over Peter's head in the next picture. His only comment at the end was that they really knew how to make it interesting to kids. They did. They do -- and rarely if ever have I seen a picture book biography in which the words and the art become one whole in this way, even when the same person did them both. I wish *I* could think of one right word for this book -- beautiful, moving, funny, well-written, how did they do it? And get so much into 40 pages? If I had to pick just one word, though: ILLUMINATING. After I read the book (and I am still reading it, over and over and over) I bought Roget's Thesaurys, the 1933 one with the words still arranged his way. Thank you Jen Bryant and Melissa Sweet!

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