



Where Words Come from (Watts Reference)

By Jack Umstatter

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An alphabetical exploration of various words, both proper and slang, explaining their origins, meaning, and changes in usage.

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Grade 4-8 Filled with excellent-quality color photographs and fascinating facts, this book takes readers on a whirlwind tour of some 375 etymologies. The author defines the words, both formal and slang, and discusses their evolution into different meanings, often using popular culture references, sometimes with humorous results. The alphabetically arranged entries, from "Adidas" to "hip-hop" to "Zip code," are standouts in a large, multicolored font, and, whenever the word is mentioned in the descriptive text, it is italicized. For example, "Interestingly enough, an airhead and a blockhead, though seemingly antonyms because one is empty and one is filled, essentially mean the same thing. Even an airhead might understand that!" The layout is pleasing to the eye and makes for easy reading. Quotations from famous people demonstrate the uses of some words. Students should not give away their dictionaries, but those who think that the study of word origins is boring might see things in a different light after reading this book. -Linda Wadleigh, Oconee County Middle School, Watkinsville, GA
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Users Review

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