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The Word Collector

Peter H. Reynolds

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Some people collect stamps.

Some people collect coins.

Some people collect art.

And Jerome?

Jerome collected words . . .

In this extraordinary new tale from Peter H. Reynolds, Jerome discovers the magic of the words all around him -- short and sweet words, two-syllable treats, and multisyllable words that sound like little songs. Words that connect, transform, and empower.

From the creator of *The Dot* and *Happy Dreamer* comes a celebration of finding your own words -- and the impact you can have when you share them with the world.

The Word Collector Details

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Author : Peter H. Reynolds

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From Reader Review The Word Collector for online ebook

Addison says

Peter H. Reynolds creates a character, Jerome, who has a special interest in collecting words. In "The Word Collector," Jerome is constantly picking up words to add to his collection. This story is in the fantasy genre and would be best suited for grades kindergarten through third. Within this story there are many exciting words, some that would be familiar to the reader and some that are brand new. Throughout the story, Jerome shows the reader all the many places one can collect words. Just by listening and looking there are words all around us that can be stored in our minds. Words don't have to be in a specific category they can be used together to create something wonderful! Jerome shows the reader this during the story. The illustrations are vibrant and really grab the readers attention. I used this story as a read aloud with my tutoring buddy, and I just watched as she was intrigued by ever word displayed on the page. "The Word Collector" excites the reader about learning new words, especially words they have never seen before. I feel like Reynolds does an excellent job of having a wide range syllable words displayed on the page. An activity that I would like to do with this story is to have my students take out their notebook and their job is to collect words that they see or hear throughout the day. I would give them a certain amount of time each day and we would do this for a week. I think that on the last day students will be shocked to see how many words that they have collected. The words can't just be any words, but words that stick out to them. Then students can use this collection as reference for their writing in the future. Another way that this story could be used in the classroom is for instructional purposes. This would be a great story for a read aloud. It introduces students to new and higher vocabulary words. As we have learned in class this is very important for readers. In addition, I would have students write a fantasy of their own. Students would be the collector and they would choose what item they would want to collect. Throughout the story they would need to incorporate new vocabulary that is associated with this item. They would have to discuss where they would be able to collect this particular item. Since this is in the fantasy genre students can really use their imagination which I feel will create a bigger opportunity for creative words.

"The Word Collector" was a "WOW" book for me because it was a fun way to introduce vocabulary to students, without students realizing that they are being exposed to new vocabulary. I also appreciated the diversity that Reynolds used in choosing Jerome as his main character.

Amy Oberts says

The premise of Reynolds' most recent picture book is intriguing...and older listeners and readers are sure to be captivated by the various words Jerome collects, as well as their pronunciations and definitions. Unfortunately, the second half of the story doesn't quite match the authenticity of its beginning; the parting message is a familiar chorus rampant throughout most of Reynold's tales. The illustrations are whimsical and inviting, inclusive and diverse...but, unfortunately, the story as a whole doesn't come together as a well-planned collection of words.

Ruth Ann says

This is a joyful story about words and the boy, Jerome, who collects them and, ultimately shares them.

At first, he keeps his words organized. One day, he slips and his notebooks of organized words go flying and become "jumbled."

"Words he had not imagined being side by side..."

become poetry and music.

And this is not the end of Jerome's story.

Elisabeth says

I love the worlds (and words!) of Reynolds

Chance Lee says

Same premise as Max's Words by Kate Banks but with more charming artwork and a story that focuses more on poetry and the power of words, not necessarily the creation of stories.

Elaine Bearden says

Want to use to start Write On session - maybe on found poetry? though I think I might have done that one already :)

Karrie says

Reynolds just makes lovely feel good stories. This one centres on Jerome, he collects words, all sorts. I enjoy that the words are not all simple, how else can you learn new ones? Poems, stories and songs are as varied and have power.

Dario says

Words tend to either erect or obliterate boundaries between human beings. Thankfully, this is a book about forming bonds in the most unusual way.

Jerome collected words.

Whereas most of Jerome's peers collect video games, cards, devices, etc., his goal is to collect as many words as he can. The acts of reading and searching for meaning become essential for his growth and well-being because *he* wants them to be like that. He found joy in what others usually perceive as being frivolous, and it genuinely makes him happy.

Perhaps the key moment of his journey is when he slips and the words "become jumbled". He doesn't cry

over them, nor does he give up; he simply strings them together and uses them to recreate the sources which he drew the words from in the first place, as well as create something new out of them.

He also finds the simplest words to be incredibly effective in uniting people. The book itself gains the reader's attention using simplistic illustrations, colorful pages... and words. Lots and lots of words. You never know which one will help you make it through the day.

A definite must-read!

Jana says

This clever picture book would be great to share with young readers who love learning new words. And for those children who maybe aren't particularly interested in vocabulary, this book certainly would inspire them to read and listen a little more closely. The little boy in this story loves collecting all sorts of words. He organizes them and makes special boxes and scrapbooks for them. When an accident mixes the words up, Jerome sees an opportunity to create new stories, poems, and songs. This could be a terrific mentor text to inspire young writers to find their own words and use them to make their own unique creations.

Rita Shaffer says

The power of words! Cute story to show the importance words hold.

Alicia says

A book that gives you the warm and fuzzies particularly when you are a word collector yourself. Who doesn't love words and their meanings and sounds and significance? Jerome is such a boy and when he collects, they get jumbled up in a fall, but then he realizes there is nothing better than releasing them for everyone else to enjoy.

It's heartwarming and illustrated with an appreciation for words and the character. Plus the colors are to die for. I'm certainly adding a few to my HS collection.

Anna Louise says

A beautiful story about the power of words. The illustrations are so wonderful and so welcome to see the main character as someone who is brown and is valued in the story (it is so sad how infrequent this is). I love this story, the words, the bright colorful clothes the characters wear, and the engaging imagery the illustrations tell. I also love the last page of the book and the question it poses to the reader.

Barbara says

In this picture book, Peter H. Reynolds does for words and literacy exactly what he's accomplished with his previous titles on art, he makes them cool and wraps them in a clever, philosophical package.

Jerome collects words, and he even organizes them into categories. But an accident leads to the realization that sometimes words that seem to have no relationship to each other actually gain new meaning when placed by different, unrelated words. Not only does he start to realize the power of words to express feelings, to move an audience or to make others feel understood, but he also realizes that he need not keep those words squirreled away. Instead, he should give them away. I loved how, after all this build up, the book concludes with these lines from the boy who loved words so much: "Jerome had no words to describe how happy that made him" (unpaged). Since he's shared all his words with others, he literally has no more words to give, but he also would be hard pressed to explain his feelings. This book is perfect for youngsters just learning new vocabulary but also for those who gravitate to words that simply sing on the tongue or feel in the mouth or are interesting just because of their shapes. As they will know, there are words that simply lead us into new worlds and those that seem perfect for what they represent. Ah!

Julia says

I loved this book! We got it from the library but I'll be buying a copy to keep on my daughter's bookshelf. Peter H. Reynolds is just great and this book is all about the joys of language. It was the perfect title to read during Poetry Month.

Jillian says

I really loved the beginning of this book - and even the middle! (Get this kid a magnetic poetry set, stat!) I love that he started stringing words together and making poetry and songs.

But then... it got a little....preachy? It became much less a story about a "real" boy who liked to learn new words and more about an allegorical boy who changed the world, one word at a time. Which... if it had *started* like that, it wouldn't have annoyed me at all. But as written, it was a little jarring.
