



# What's in a Word?: A Dictionary of Daffy Definitions

*Rosalie Moscovitch*

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**Rosalie Moscovitch : What's in a Word?: A Dictionary of Daffy Definitions** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised What's in a Word?: A Dictionary of Daffy Definitions:

Offers unusual definitions using puns and illustrations including "Finite: Lovely evening" and "Beriberi: A double funeral."

From School Library JournalGrade 5-8 Moscovitch has come up with a number of clever, amusing screwball definitions. In many instances, an illustration alone constitutes the definition. Myer's black-and-white drawings are deft and enhance the text. Unfortunately, several of the words toxophily, fulgent, theodicy are so sophisticated that children will be unfamiliar with them. Further, much of this type of humor depends on proper pronunciation or deliberate mispronunciation. Although there is a complete glossary, there is no pronunciation guide. Some of the humor seems a bit strained: "Felonies: prepared to pray." However, for devotees, this outlandishness often increases the fun. The book could inspire language arts and art activities and will help fill requests for joke books. It is comparable to Keller's Daffynitions (Prentice-Hall, 1976) and Rosenbloom's Daffy Definitions (Sterling, 1983). Deborah Vose, Brooklyn Friends LibraryCopyright 2002 Reed Business Information, Inc.