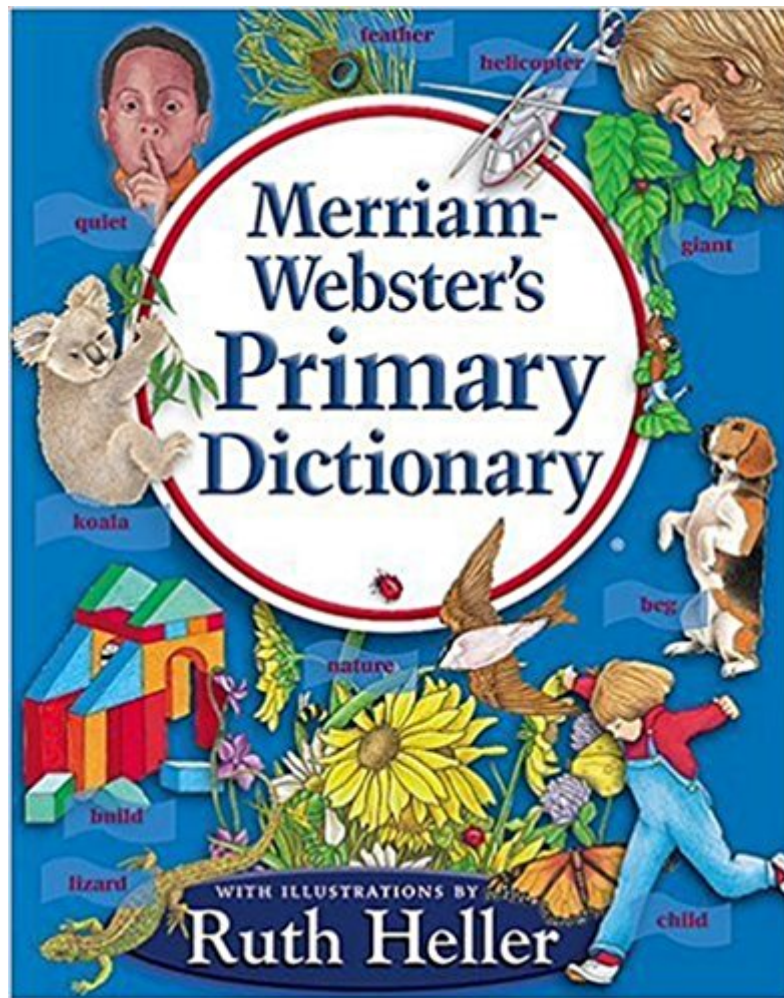




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# Merriam-Webster's Primary Dictionary



## Synopsis

New title! A beginner's dictionary written for children in grades K-2, ages 5-7, featuring hundreds of captivating illustrations by celebrated children's author Ruth Heller. Introduces young readers to almost 3,000 words, using nearly 1,000 entries. Covers basic dictionary skills such as alphabetization, spelling, pronunciation, use of synonyms and antonyms, and using words in context. Packed with jokes, poems, and fun facts to foster and develop a child's language skills.

## Book Information

Hardcover: 448 pages

Publisher: Merriam-Webster (June 1, 2005)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0877791740

ISBN-13: 978-0877791744

Product Dimensions: 11.1 x 8.5 x 1 inches

Shipping Weight: 3.3 pounds

Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 stars 15 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #685,126 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #131 in [Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > Reference > Dictionaries](#) #6956 in [Books > Reference > Dictionaries & Thesauruses](#)

Age Range: 5 and up

Grade Level: Kindergarten and up

## Customer Reviews

Kindergarten-Grade 3—This work, which displays an extraordinary level of care in its presentation, includes almost 1000 entries, each used in a sentence. Many of the main entries have bonus words, e.g., related terms or derivations, and some offer basic information on etymology. Jokes and puns that highlight entries are set off in blue banners. The more than 750 large and colorful drawings, most by Heller, add clarity and interest. The design is excellent: large print, lots of white space, lots of visuals, and the use of icons all work together to present words and language in ways that will enlighten and engage children. Unfortunately, the introductory section lacks an explanation of alphabetical order. John Grisewood and Angela Crawley's *The Kingfisher First Dictionary* (2004) is also aimed at this audience but its definitions lack consistency, and some readers may find the layout confusing. *Primary Dictionary* has many uses: for children and parents to peruse together, for instruction, and for children to browse through and mull over. A gift to

budding wordsmiths. Æ Ellen Loughran, Library Consultant, Brooklyn, NY Copyright Æ © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

This dictionary for ages four to seven is crafted in a lighthearted style that can only be described as entertaining. Unlike typical early reader dictionaries of one-syllable and four- or five-letter words, this one has entries for concepts such as the words worry and terrible in addition to the usual nouns and verbs. Each page generally has three or four definitions and almost as many illustrations. Font size is large enough to keep early readers interested. Headwords are highlighted in a contrasting color from the definitions. Definitions include the elements one expects to find in a dictionary (though not necessarily one for this level)--parts of speech, synonyms, antonyms, usage examples, cross-references to related words, and word histories. The entry for the word fairy includes historical roots from Old French and Latin. In addition, there may be stories and poems. The Sleeping Beauty story is condensed to two sentences, each using the word fairy. The definition of science includes information on different branches of sciences; for example, "Chemistry is the science of what things are made of." There are dozens of corny word jokes and puns that children love scattered randomly through the book, such as the well-worn "Why are fish so smart? They travel in schools." A "How to use the dictionary" page for readers is followed by a two-page preface for parents and educators. The back of the dictionary contains a section called "Spelling Words and Word Functions^B." A two-page time line describes the evolution of the English language, ^B referring to words in the dictionary by highlighting them in bold print. Children will want to skim the pages just to read and amuse themselves and will learn the mechanics of a dictionary without even realizing it. There is not a hint of condescension to the reader, and for that reason, the dictionary would work well in the special classroom for older children who may have reading delays. This is a charming work that has been put together with care and purpose. Recommended for public and school libraries. Terri Tomchyshyn Copyright Æ © American Library Association. All rights reserved

I bought this for my first grader. The print is nice and large, and there are beautiful illustrations by Ruth Heller (amazing artist!) on each page. The definitions are perfect for pre-K to 2nd grade students, and the vocabulary used is simple enough for young students to read independently. I had seen these dictionaries in our school library, so I knew that some more advanced words might not be found in this dictionary. I bought it anyway, because this dictionary offers so much more. It includes jokes, synonyms/antonyms, facts, and idioms that engage kids. My daughter reads this dictionary for the jokes, etc, as often as she uses it to look up spellings/meanings of words. So, in

short, if you are just looking for a dictionary that has words for kids to look up for homework, etc, the M-W Elementary Dictionary (or the Scholastic Children's Dictionary, which we also have) might be better suited for that purpose. But if you are looking for a fun dictionary that will engage young children and allow them to explore words/language, I can't imagine that there's a better dictionary available than this one.

As a teacher of kindergarten and first grade, I heartily recommend this dictionary for the primary age group. This dictionary is aimed at 5 - 7 year olds and is a wonderful resource. It has around 2000 entries, but does not pretend to cover the complete vocabulary of children this age. It is, however, rich in content and appealing in format and appearance. (The illustrations are by Ruth Heller, one of my favorite illustrators for children's books.) The entries include fascinating facts about the origins of words. This dictionary includes figurative meanings, idiomatic expressions and language oddities. It is an excellent resource for introducing the use of dictionaries.

For pre K and Kindergarten. I thought it was for K-5.

It is a great beginner dictionary for children ages preschool to 2 grade. I like that they use the words in a sentence. It gives a better understanding of the word.

Best elementary dictionary I've seen in a long time

I chose this dictionary for the use of and eight year old. This pictures and definitions are helpful for vocabulary study.

Excellent condition!

This dictionary is perfect for a young child, especially a child with English as a second language. The pictures are colorful and life-like. The words and definitions are easy to read.

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