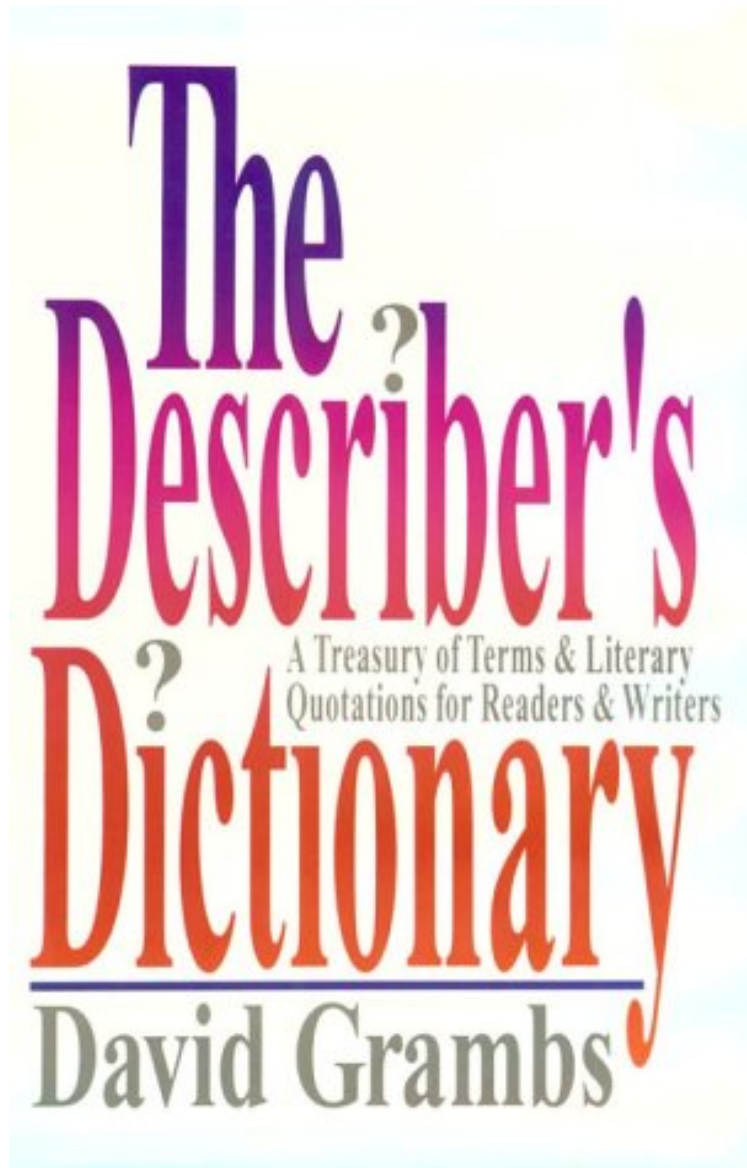


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The Describer's Dictionary: A Treasury of Terms and Literary Quotations for Readers Writers

David Grambs

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This book is useful tool for a writer seeking to bring his imagined characters and scenes into descriptive words and phrases creating visual images.
The book is organized into categories of things, animals, places, and people for easy reference. It is especially helpful for a beginning writer by providing in each category short examples of descriptive writing taken from the works of successful authors. For example, if an author was seeking to describe a certain character, he would find in this book suggested words and phrases to use in describing that character's physical appearance from hair to hands, from beard to boots, from eye brows to elbows--everything from physical characteristics and age to clothing, manner of walking, general bearing and emotional disposition. On the pages opposite those words and phrases the author would find brief paragraphs quoted from published works showing how established authors effectively approached descriptions of certain characters.
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A dictionary of the observable world features definition-first organization; passages from the writings of James, Updike, and others; and words concerning shapes, textures, colors, terrain, and more.

From Library Journal
Having previously assisted wordsmiths with his Random House Dictionary for Writers and Readers (LJ 11/1/90), Grambs now focuses his attention on precision of description. His new work boasts more than 5000 entries not found in most thesauruses or dictionaries, the majority of them visually descriptive of the physical world and highly adjectival in form. Using reverse dictionary format, Grambs provides access by definitional phrases within the broad categories of "things," "earth and sky," "animals," and "people." Subdivisions (e.g., "heads," "eyes," "jaws," etc.) simplify the reader's search for the perfect word, but one can still spend ample time thumbing through such delights as the approximately 100 entries under "patterns and edges." Some suggested adjectives are questionable, such as vaccine for cow-like. Most verso pages contain examples of descriptive passages by well-known writers that are almost more helpful than the definitions themselves. Recommended for general collections.- Cathy Sabol, Northern Virginia Community Coll., Manassas
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