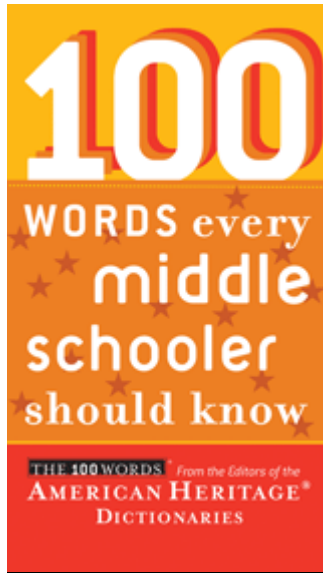


Press Release



[100 Words Every Middle Schooler Should Know](#)
by the [Editors of the American Heritage® Dictionaries](#)

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— **THE 100 WORDS®**

About the Book

Middle school presents students with new challenges as they make the leap from childhood to adolescence and prepare to step into a broader world. The subjects at school are more demanding, teachers have higher expectations, and homework multiplies.

One thing parents can do to help their kids negotiate this often-daunting transition is to equip them with a well-rounded and robust vocabulary. Knowing more sophisticated words—what they mean, how to spell and pronounce them—makes reading easier and writing more expressive.

This book focuses on words that students are sure to encounter in the middle school grades. Each word has a dictionary definition and a pronunciation and appears in at least one quotation. Authors quoted include young-adult favorites such as J. K. Rowling, Lois Lowry, Jerry Spinelli, and Gary Soto. Students will discover why these authors have chosen these words, and will see what a difference the right word can make.

If students are *attentive* and *persistent* in their reading, soon they will be writing with *gusto* and *zeal*! Here is a complete list of the words in 100 Words Every Middle Schooler Should Know:

adversary
apprehensive
attentive
barricade

aplomb
aptitude
banish
bluff

brackish
circumference
concoction
contortion
cunning
defiance
destination
d disdain
dispel
egregious
emerge
exasperation
falter
fragrance
grueling
habitation
headway
illuminate
imperious
jargon
jut
knoll
malleable
meander
misgivings
monotonous
muster
obscure
outlandish
pertinent
precipice
pristine
recluse
replenish
restitution
scarcity
serenity
somber
stamina
swagger
tactic
translucent
unsightly
vigilant
waft
weather

brandish
commotion
conspicuous
counter
debris
deft
diminish
dismal
eavesdrop
ember
engross
exhilarate
foresight
furtive
gusto
hasten
ignite
impending
jabber
jostle
kindle
luminous
materialize
meticulous
momentum
multitude
narrate
ominous
persistent
potential
pristine
quell
recuperate
repugnant
sabotage
scurry
sociable
specimen
subside
swarm
terse
uncanny
versatile
vulnerable
waver
zeal