

Why You Should Have a Dictionary

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ONE OF THE MANY facts I have discovered in my study of the dictionary is the wide dissimilarity in weight and binding of the various types. To many people, perhaps this would not mean anything. But to me it suggests an amazing field for speculation. Just to think of the many differences in size and color of dictionaries is exciting. To chase for a few moments the thought of how the size of a dictionary might have changed the world is, in a sense, perfectly idiotic. And yet, in your spare time, it can be great fun.

Think, if you will, what talent might have been given to the world if little Johnnie had had a large unabridged dictionary. With such an aid he might have been able to reach the piano keys. But no, his family had no such helpful device. Alas, he had no way to reach those beautifully noisy keys, and instead of becoming a great, although underpaid, musician, he had to lay bricks and amass great wealth in later life.

Or imagine what might have happened to poor Mr. Jones if his wife had had such a wonderful weapon as Webster's "Unabridged" instead of that miserable rolling pin. The last time he came sneaking in after a late poker party, she might have been able to collect on his insurance, rather than merely putting him in the hospital for a week or so with that small hole in his head.

Such are the vicissitudes of life, and even though it may be no use to lock the barn door after the horse is stolen, such an attitude might explain the run on large dictionaries at the corner bookstore—although many uninformed persons might lay the fact to a sudden increase in people's quest for knowledge.

Then there is the color matter to look into. If you are one of those persons who always carries a book with him so that everyone will think him studious, why not carry a medium-sized dictionary? It will be about the right size, and not too heavy. Someday, you may actually open it, and in such case, might learn a few facts about words which you had not known before!

And, since dictionaries come in so many beautiful colors, it would be very easy to get this interesting volume in the shades to match your favorite costumes. Or, if you keep a dictionary in your library, whether you use it or not, imagine what the wrong color (such as orange) would do among your perfectly matched blue volumes. Any responsible interior decorator would be more than glad to assist you in choosing the perfect volume for your library. And the exciting part of this is that he will do it at no more than three times what it is worth to you!