

“Thomas” parmi les légumes du jardin. L’auteure explique le sens de cette expression, mais cela n’aide pas davantage à la compréhension et ne justifie pas pour autant l’insertion de cette histoire dans le recueil de Madame Bussières. Les enfants plus jeunes ne retireront rien d’enrichissant dans cette histoire. Quant aux plus âgés, possédant souvent un esprit très éveillé face à ces “subtilités”, ils pourraient y trouver une excellente occasion d’apprendre à dénigrer leurs pairs et cela, grâce à un nouveau quolibet pour le moins coloré.

Certains poèmes recèlent un humour charmant qui plaira aux enfants autant qu’aux adultes. Un seul regret subsiste cependant: j’aurais aimé que pour deux d’entre eux, (“La maison rose” et “Le vent”) l’histoire se poursuive encore un peu. Les rimes en sont si tendres (“La maison rose”) et si gaies (“Le vent”) que l’on est attendri dès les premières lignes. J’aurais bien le goût de vous confier que ce petit livre m’a finalement beaucoup plu. Oh! mais c’est vrai, les secrets, il ne faut pas les raconter, c’est Madame Bussières elle-même qui l’a dit! Alors, ne lui dites surtout pas que son recueil, même s’il est destiné aux petits, a éveillé en moi des échos de mes rêveries enfantines.

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## AN ABSORBING RESOURCE BOOK

**The Stoddart visual dictionary**, Jean-Claude Corbeil. Stoddart, 1986. 797 pp. \$29.95 cloth. ISBN 0-7737-2093-6.

The publishers claim that this book is an “inexhaustible source of information that is easy to consult and accessible to people of all ages.” Excusing the exaggeration of “inexhaustible”, one must agree with this statement. The *Visual dictionary* is in the category of the “everything you always wanted to know” books, with the striking advantage of offering its huge store of knowledge in the form of pictures. What a treat to be able to see a “trim ring,” “escutcheon,” “muntin,” “purlin,” “hemlath,” “chock,” “scalper,” without having to resort to mental contortions and linguistic hieroglyphics which obscure more than they explain.

This book is beautifully organized. The Table of Contents lists the entries under general headings, for example, “Astronomy” or “Clothing.” Then there are particular categories within these broad areas. So, under “Vegetable Kingdom” is listed, “Structure of a plant,” “Structure of a tree,” “Mushrooms,” and much more. The contents are conveniently listed at the

back as well as at the front of the book. There is a general index listing every word illustrated, a thematic index, and specialized indexes which group words into related topics.

The outstanding feature of the *Visual dictionary* is the quality of the illustrations. Restricted to black and white, and shades of gray, the artists have produced a visual feast, remarkable for its esthetic and practical qualities. One can feel the very textures of the fruit and vegetables, and the section on the "Human Being" is particularly striking and effective. Even "deserts" look appetizing because of the skill of the artist, despite the lack of colour. The decision not to use colour, based no doubt on cost, highlights the strengths and weaknesses of the illustrations. In the section, "Symbols," for example, the high standard of the drawings is maintained but as colour is essential to the effect of these designs, the lack of colour is a real loss.

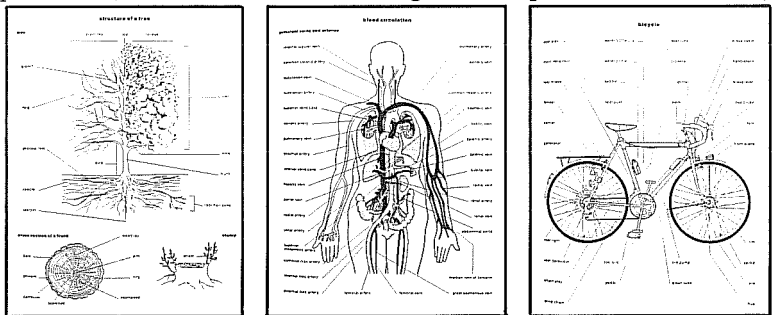
It is wonderful to find Inuktitut included in "Writing systems of the world," but on consulting with my colleague, Naudla Arnaquq, I conclude that the spelling is incorrect. Using the writing system of the Inuit Cultural Institute, which has widespread acceptance amongst Inuit, the Inuktitut should read:

ᖃᓕᓕᓕᓕᓕᓕᓕᓕ ᖃᓕᓕᓕᓕᓕᓕᓕ ᖃᓕᓕᓕᓕᓕᓕᓕ ᓕᓕᓕᓕ ᓕᓕᓕᓕᓕᓕᓕᓕ

A small blemish, perhaps, but important to Inuit readers. Which leads to the question: Who would use this book?

For the average reader this is a fascinating and absorbing book. Teachers will be delighted to have so much useful information in so agreeable a package. Finally, teachers and students of English as a Second Language will find here a huge resource in a highly congenial format.

Wisely the publishers warn the reader, on each page, that reproduction is prohibited, for this is a book that begs to be copied. The next time you



seek to explain a thing-a-ma-jig, reach for your own copy of *The Stoddard visual dictionary*. Every picture is worth while.

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