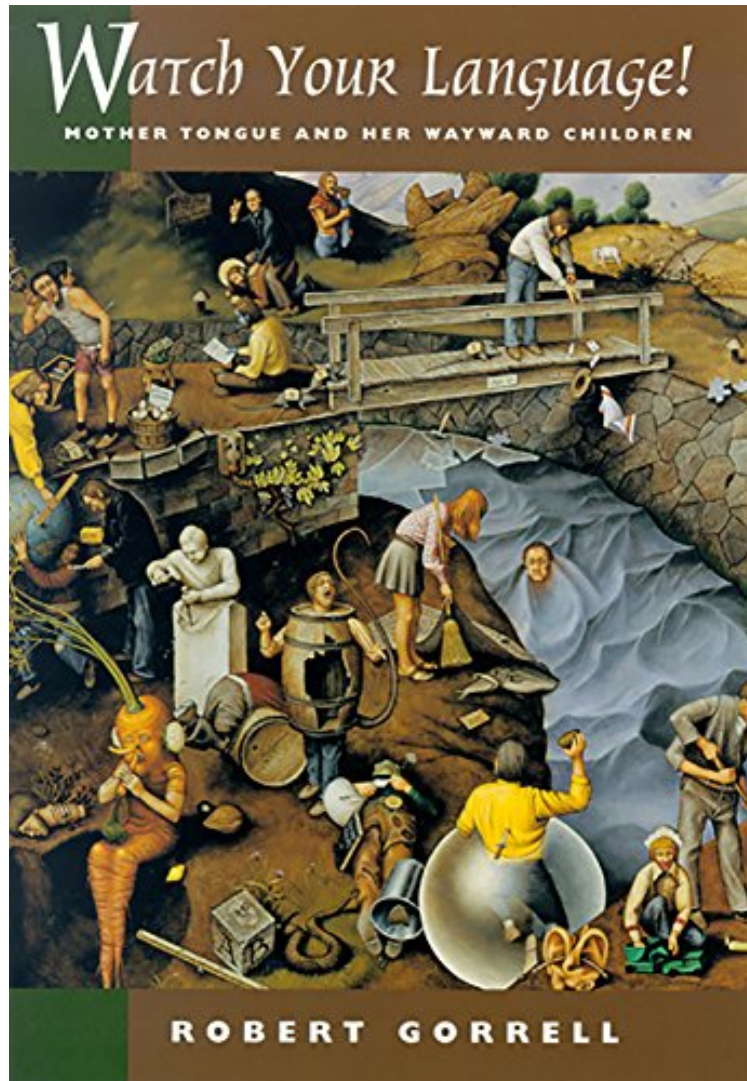


(Download free ebook) Watch Your Language: Mother Tongue And Her Wayward Children

Watch Your Language: Mother Tongue And Her Wayward Children

Robert Gorrell

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Robert Gorrell : Watch Your Language: Mother Tongue And Her Wayward Children before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Watch Your Language: Mother Tongue And Her Wayward Children:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A Good ReadBy Andrew ChaneyThis book is a must-read for anyone interested in the English language. The writing is amusing and flows well. It is informative and entertaining. If you don't buy it at least check it out at the library.

Most language mavens seem to come not to praise English, but to bury it; they constantly warn us of the imminent demise of our mother tongue. Not to worry, says Robert Gorrell. In this lively, playful celebration of the joys and power of language, he points to all the signs that show English to be alive and well, and, like any other living thing, constantly evolving. Gorrell's goal is not so much to chastise the errant speaker or writer as it is to foster an appreciation of words and the best ways to use them. Thus, while he provides clear, concise explanations of why certain usages are inelegant or incorrect, Gorrell is also unafraid of reproaching other experts over usage debates he feels are picayune - pointing out, for example, that one writer of a popular language manual sets forth a dictum on the uses of "that" and "which" that he himself then violates a few paragraphs later. *Watch Your Language!* covers a wide array of topics of interest to all aficionados of English, from political doublespeak to spelling, from etymology to puns and wordgames. Throughout, Gorrell invites readers to share his love for words and his delight in the ways in which they can be used, played with, or even amusingly abused. For, he feels, it is this kind of affection and playfulness, more than any dry adherence to strict formulations, that will bring to our writing and speaking the sparkle and vivacity that are the most important elements of style.

From *Library Journal* Gorrell calls language "the most useful tool available to human beings," and his work is about enjoying and understanding that tool. His fascinating, sometimes amusing look at how we use and abuse language covers language and society, the origins of English vocabulary, word order and inflection, and the writing of English. As the author shows, language is fluid, which makes for confusion and argument among those who always want to be correct. But change is a sign of health, helping us to define our swiftly moving society, and Gorrell concentrates on the choices that the speaker/writer must make. His book is a pleasure to browse through and may come in handy as a reference to language and linguistic questions. The final chapter on language play should be shared with patrons who love word games. Highly recommended.- Lisa J. Cochenet, Winfield P.L., Ill. Copyright 1994 Reed Business Information, Inc. From the Back Cover Most language mavens seem to come not to praise English, but to bury it; they constantly warn us of the imminent demise of our mother tongue. Not to worry, says Robert Gorrell. In this lively, playful celebration of the joys and power of language, he points to all the signs that show English to be alive and well, and, like any other living thing, constantly evolving. Gorrell's goal is not so much to chastise the errant speaker or writer as it is to foster an appreciation of words and the best ways to use them. Thus, while he provides clear, concise explanations of why certain usages are inelegant or incorrect, Gorrell is also unafraid of reproaching other experts over usage debates he feels are picayune - pointing out, for example, that one writer of a popular language manual sets forth a dictum on the uses of "that" and "which" that he himself then violates a few paragraphs later. *Watch Your Language!* covers a wide array of topics of interest to all aficionados of English, from political doublespeak to spelling, from etymology to puns and wordgames. Throughout, Gorrell invites readers to share his love for words and his delight in the ways in which they can be used, played with, or even amusingly abused. For, he feels, it is this kind of affection and playfulness, more than any dry adherence to strict formulations, that will bring to our writing and speaking the sparkle and vivacity that are the most important elements of style. About the Author Robert Gorrell is professor of English emeritus at the University of Nevada, Reno. He is the author of more than a dozen books and his weekly newspaper column "Straight Talk" was published in the *Reno Gazette-Journal* for thirteen years through 1995. He is the recipient of numerous distinguished service awards from the University of Nevada, Reno, the Nevada Humanities Committee, and the University of Nevada Alumni Association.