

The Garden of Eloquence: A Rhetorical Bestiary

Willard R. Espy

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Willard R. Espy : The Garden of Eloquence: A Rhetorical Bestiary before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Garden of Eloquence: A Rhetorical Bestiary:

8 of 8 people found the following review helpful. Clearly the other reviewer was having a bad day.By Corbin H. SoloClearly the other reviewer was having a bad day.This book is your go-to when you can't quite remember that elusive piece of linguistic or rhetorical terminology you need for...well, whatever you need it for.Periphrasis, Persiflage, Anastrophe, Commmoratio, Epexegetis, Litotes, Tmesis; all these and upwards of a couple-hundred more are there.Each term is illustratedartistically, poetically, and/or metaphoricallyfor your browsing pleasure."Give me another fifty years," says Willard Espy (now seventy-plus), "and I may begin to catch a glimmering of what language is all about."0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Four StarsBy ElizabethThanks!0 of 13 people found the following review helpful. Labored log-cabin humor of the sort supposed to raise a 'chuckle'. Bleh, gimme the funny papersBy Simon Barrett 'Il Penseroso'It is hard to conceive of a sillier book. For Americans who are nuts about grammar. The rhymes are execrable.

Willard Espy has been compared to Lewis Carroll for his lighthearted and fanciful treatment of words. In this latest book, Mr. Espy has created a preposterous wonderland, a garden such as never was. Besides its flowers, Espy's Garden is inhabited by creatures large and small, lovable and quarrelsome, beautiful and ugly, each incarnating some figure of speech (or trope) - that magical device that extends the range of language to infinity. Metaphor, hyperbole, alliteration,

pleonasmus, litotes, tmesis - these are but a sprinkling of the unforgettable Garden folk. Espy explains more than 200 rhetorical devices, dozens of them in verses sung by the tropes themselves. Each verse is followed by a definition, a comment, and examples of the usage in history, literature, and everyday speech. Thirty of the figures come visually alive in Teresa Allen's charming and witty illustrations, and word games abound throughout the book.