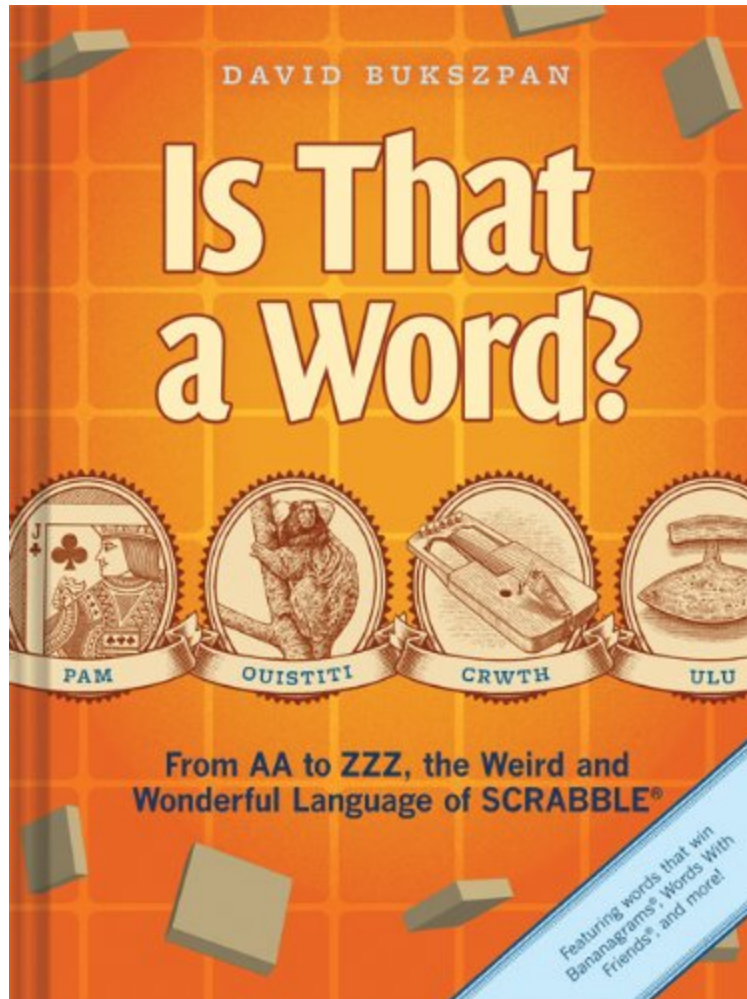


(Mobile library) Is That a Word?: From AA to ZZZ, the Weird and Wonderful Language of SCRABBLE

Is That a Word?: From AA to ZZZ, the Weird and Wonderful Language of SCRABBLE

David Bukszpan

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David Bukszpan : Is That a Word?: From AA to ZZZ, the Weird and Wonderful Language of SCRABBLE before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Is That a Word?: From AA to ZZZ, the Weird and Wonderful Language of SCRABBLE:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. I liked Part 1, 25% "The Story of Scrabble and Beyond." Not the rest. Also, published in 2012, it's out of date.By Daniel P. SmithTo begin with, to point out the obvious, the book was published in 2012 and thus does not cover anything in or about the Official Scrabble Players' Dictionary, Fifth Edition, published a year ago in August, 2014.I bought this as a \$1.99 "deal," and when I'd read the first part of it, I emailed a friend saying "I think you'd like this, grab it at the bargain price." Now I feel as if I gave her a bum steer. Everyone

likes different things, of course, but I think it's a shame that doesn't give a "Look Inside the Book" on this one. You really need to decide whether you are interested in the last 3/4 of the book. The first part, Part 1, "The Story of Scrabble and Beyond," amounts to 25% of the book. I liked it. It has a lot of information on game history, history of the rival word lists and dictionaries. It has interesting observations, comments, and criticism of the word choices and definitions in "The Official Scrabble Players' Dictionary." It has some interesting records--words with maximum possible scores and such--and historical curiosities ("the lowest winning score ever is currently held by Helena Gauthier, who bet her opponent -9 to -11.") Part 2 of the book is nothing more than Bukszpan's compilations of themed groups of what he thinks are interesting Scrabble words. Yiddish Scrabble words, Scrabble words that are synonyms for "ghosts," Scrabble words that are names for different kinds of wind, and on and on and on and on and on. I was not charmed by his efforts to string some of these word collections together to give amusing usage examples: "At the next [Scrabble] table is some schlemiel who's schlepped his schlock in with him," etc. Part 3 of the book is really just more of the same. Instead of themed collections, he presents examples of what he calls "scrabblish," which are simply very densely packed sentences that seek to contain very high percentages of unusual Scrabble words: "Ae blae kae with twae alae hae nae wae if it leks well." So, 1/4 of the book is about Scrabble itself, and related games. I liked it. The rest is a lightly facetious presentation of perhaps two or three thousand unusual Scrabble words. Is it valuable to serious players seeking to improve their game? I don't know. I suspect not, because in Scrabble nobody cares if you know the definitions, and many of these words are rather long and would be difficult to use in play. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. A lot of fun. By DragonWing The author goes through a list of the more egregious words in the Scrabble dictionary and provides their definitions. It's a lot of fun. I know lots of people simply learn the words but don't care what they mean. I on the other hand want to memorize not only the entire Scrabble dictionary word list, but also what each word means. This book is a good starting point for word nerds...or as I prefer to call us, word birds - raptors set to pounce on the appropriate word at the appropriate time when the tile gods bless us... 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Entertaining Way To Learn New Words For Scrabble By William Bitman Entertaining and informative information. Nicely organized. Educational. Nice way to build your vocabulary for scrabble and other word games. My children and grandchildren love reading it.

Scrabble aficionados may know that both "Brr" and "Brrr" are legitimate plays, but what about everyday names like Peter, Carl, and Marge? They're not listed as proper nouns, but they are certainly playable. For lovers of Scrabble, Banagrams, and Words with Friends, this lively guide helps readers make the most out of word games, packed with new ways to remember the best words alongside tips for improving game play and much more. Part strategy guide and part celebration of all things wordy, this collection of facts, tips, and surprising lists of playable words will instruct and delight the letterati.

"A fresh, amusing, 21st-century guide to everything Scrabble." -Will Shortz, crossword editor, New York Times, and puzzlemaster, NPR