



Max's Words

By Kate Banks

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Max's Words By Kate Banks

Max's brothers have grand collections that everyone makes a big fuss over. Benjamin collects stamps and Karl collects coins, and neither one will share with their little brother. So Max decides to start a collection of his own. He's going to collect words. He starts with small words that he cuts out of newspapers and magazines, but soon his collection has spilled out into the hall. All the while, his brothers are watching. Benjamin brags that he has one thousand stamps. Karl is just a few coins short of five hundred. But a thousand stamps is really just a bunch of stamps, and a lot of coins is only a heap of money. A pile of words, however, can make a story.

Bright, bold pictures incorporating clever wordplay accompany this highly original tale about a younger brother's ingenuity. This title has Common Core connections.

Max's Words is a 2007 Bank Street - Best Children's Book of the Year.

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Max's Words By Kate Banks Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #46402 in Books
- Brand: Farrar, Straus & Giroux
- Published on: 2006-08-08
- Released on: 2006-08-08
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: .40" h x .36" w x 10.30" l, .87 pounds
- Binding: Hardcover
- 32 pages

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Starred Review. PreSchool-Grade 2—Max's two older brothers are serious collectors: Benjamin saves stamps and Karl keeps coins. The youngest boy decides to accumulate words. He carefully selects them from newspapers and magazines, cutting out and sorting them by category: colors, foods, small ones, big ones. He copies entries from the dictionary onto pieces of paper and adds them to his mounting collection. It doesn't matter if coins or stamps are moved around, but words can be arranged and rearranged to create stories. Even though his siblings won't share pieces of their collections, Max gives away words and the three boys devise a short story together. Imaginative, softly colored illustrations reveal the gathered words scattered all over the pages. They are fine examples of concrete poetry: HUNGRY has a chunk bitten out of it; ALLIGATOR has teeth and an eye peering from the R; BASEBALL is printed in the shape of a bat. The text is set in a variety of styles and sometimes curves around the piles of Max's collection. This tale pays homage to the written word and may get children thinking about cutting and pasting their own stories or creating concrete poetry.—*Maryann H. Owen, Racine Public Library, WI*

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From [Booklist](#)

Max's brother Benjamin collects stamps; his brother Karl collect coins. Max wants to collect something too; he decides to collect words. He begins with small, familiar ones--*ate, who, big*--which he cuts out of magazines and newspapers. Then he finds longer ones--*alligator, baseball*. He collects words of things he likes to eat, words that describe colors, and strange words that he finds in the dictionary. When his collection grows too big for his desk, he spreads his words on the floor. Lured by the creative power of words, his brothers rearrange, change, and move the words to create a story, which is visualized in Kulikov's artwork. Kulikov's signature style, which incorporates exaggerated expressions, unusual perspectives, and big-eyed characters, is a perfect match for Banks' clever tale. Kids are naturally inclined to collect things, and the idea of accumulating something intangible in this delightful homage to storytelling will intrigue them. In a word: captivating. *Julie Cummins*

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Review

“Brimms with wit. Readers and writers alike will enjoy the linguistic fun in this nearly word-perfect book.”
?Starred, Publishers Weekly

“Fine examples of concrete poetry. This tale pays homage to the written word.” *?Starred, School Library Journal*

“Kids are naturally inclined to collect things, and the idea of accumulating something intangible in this delightful homage to storytelling will intrigue them. In a word: captivating.” *?Booklist*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Sandra Maes:

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William McNeill:

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