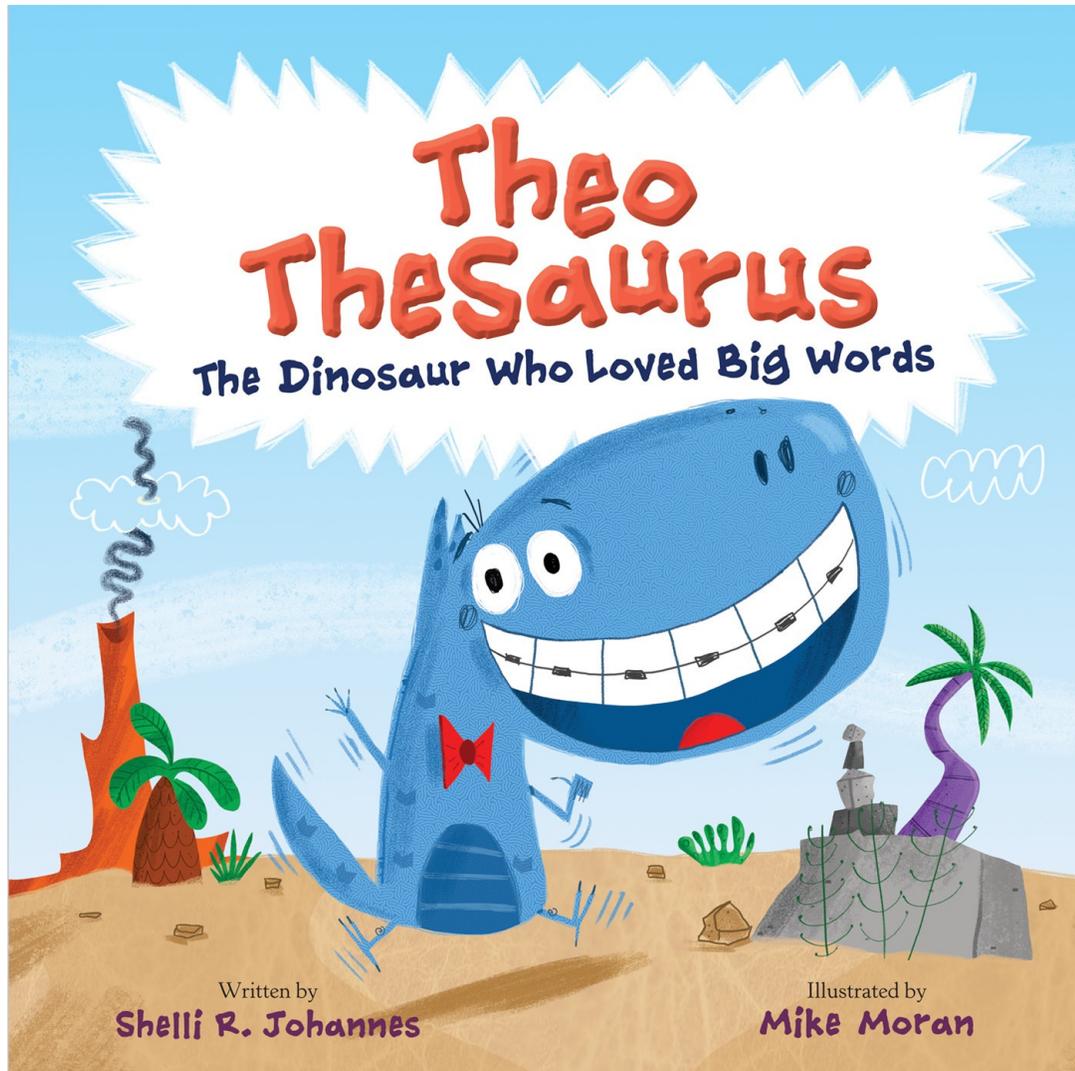


Educator's Guide



Dear Bibliophiles, Bibliomaniacs, and Bookworms,

The idea for Theo TheSaurus came out of a conversation with my son. One day, my son was writing a paper for class and wanted to impress the teacher. He yelled to me from his bedroom. “What’s another word for happy?”

I was cooking dinner at the time (which is very rare!), so instead of walking back to his room, I did the most natural Mom thing I could think of—and hollered back down the hall. “Use a thesaurus.”

“A what?” He hollered back again.

“A thesaurus!”

“A WHAT?”

“A thesaurus! The. SAURUS. As in dinosaur!”

I immediately got a vision of a little dinosaur who loved spouting off “colossal” words. Sometimes, he used them wrong, and sometimes he used them right. But most of the time, no matter what words he used, no one could understand a word he was saying. And Theo TheSaurus was born.

Words are my passion. I love words, big and small. When I was younger, I made up my own words (a practice called neologism!) and created secret languages with my friends (as if Pig Latin wasn’t tricky enough!)

As a mom, I’m always enamored when my kids try a new word. Do they know what it means? Where did they hear it? Why did they choose it? But I also notice that sometimes my kids think that the bigger the word they use, the smarter they’ll sound. As they’ve gotten older, they spend more time searching for words to beef up essays and pride themselves on tossing out gigantic words over dinner, thinking it impresses us, parents, as much as they think it impresses their teachers.

I find myself teaching my kids that using the “right” word is what matters most.

I hope kids and parents will have fun laughing along at Theo’s misadventures and learning new words together. More than that, I hope Theo shows kids that loving words can be fun! That investigating new words is exciting and that learning how to use them correctly is just as important. But...I also want readers to appreciate the small words because those can be just as important, too. After all, these tiny words: I, love, and you are simple, yet can be the most powerful words of all.

Cordially and enthusiastically yours (as Theo would say!),
- Shelli R. Johannes

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"Investigating new words is exciting!"



"Fancy Nancy for
dinosaur lovers!"

About THEO THESAURUS

Theo TheSaurus - The Dinosaur Who Loved Big Words
Philomel Books

ISBN: 9780593205518 | Ages 4 to 8

When a big vocabulary leads to big confusion, Theo TheSaurus learns that there are some things you can say without any words at all!

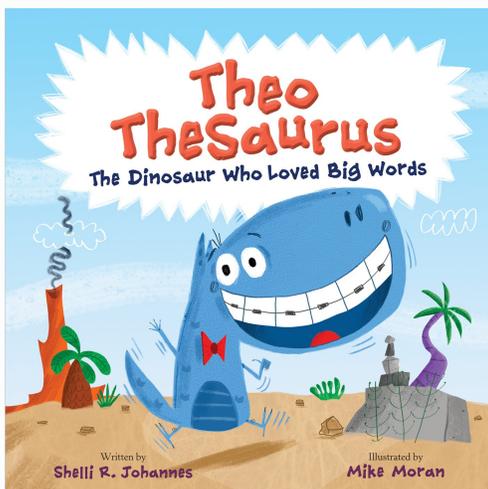
Meet Theo TheSaurus, the charming dinosaur who loves big words, and who is determined to share that love with his new companions. But the first few days at his new school leave Theo feeling discommoded. As his friendly salutation and offer to play a game of conceal-and-search (or hide-and-seeK) on the playground are met with odd looks and missteps, Theo realizes that misinterpretations can be rather confusing! It's only when his newfound friends find a way to show they care that Theo learns that sometimes, there are things more important than words.

In this sweet and humorous book filled with bright art, a verbose new dino character, and a glossary of big words, readers have loads of fun—and learn some new words along the way!

Praise for Theo

"Young logophiles may savor the wordplay and appreciate the "Defino-Dino" who occasionally pops into view with a helpful definition!"

– Kirkus Reviews



Discussion Questions

Hint: Make sure you read ALL the words in the background and pay attention to Defino-Dino!

1. What does Theo love most?
2. What kind of dinosaur is Theo? Is it real?
3. Who is Defino-Dino?
4. Why is Theo moving?
5. What do you call someone who loves big words?
6. How does Theo say hello?
7. What are three of Theo's favorite words as a TheSaurus?
8. What does Theo eat? What is it?
9. What day is Theo celebrating?
10. Can you name 1 other species of dinosaurs in the book?

Bonus:

Solve the math questions on the board!

Answer Key:

1. Big words!
2. TheSaurus, unfortunately, no
3. He defines the big words for Theo
4. He is migrating.
5. Logomaniac
6. Salutations
7. Onomatopoeia, Shenanigans, Flibbertigibbet
8. Crudite, Raw Food
9. Hatching Day
10. Stegosaurus, brontosaurus, pterodactyl or T-Rex

Bonus: 10 and 10!

For downloadable bookmarks, coloring page, vocabulary words, and a Kahoot activity, go to srjohannes.com.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.1.1
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.1.3
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.2.3

**ELA Reading
Standards**

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.3.1
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.K.1
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.K.3
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.K.7

In Theo's Words

Acquaintances – people you meet

Athenaeum – library

Attendance – be present at an event

Cantankerous – bad-tempered, grumpy, or looking for an argument

Colossal – extra big

Companions – friends

Confused – can't think clearly or have difficulty in understanding

Crudit  – raw food

Ecstatic – extra happy

Exhausted – extra tired

Flibbertigibbet – a flighty or whimsical person

Forlorn – sad and desperate

Irate – mad or angry

Logomaniac – someone who loves words

Migration – move

Miscommunication – failure to communicate clearly

Misconception – an incorrect view

Misinterpretation – to understand something incorrectly

Misunderstanding – have trouble understanding a meaning

Onomatopoeia – a word that describes a sound, like hoot

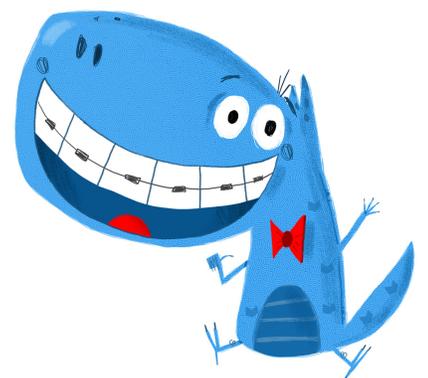
Plethora – a whole lot

Salutations – hello

Shenanigans – mischief or mischievous play

Supplementary – extra

*To play the Kahoot game and test your vocabulary knowledge, go to srjohannes.com



About the Creators

Shelli R. Johannes - Author

Shelli R. Johannes is the author of the Loves Science series. An animal lover, she can often be found volunteering with animal conservation groups or rescuing strays off the side of the highway. Shelli lives in Atlanta with her husband, two kids, and a whole bunch of pets.

Follow her on Twitter and Instagram @srjohannes or visit her website at: srjohannes.com.



Mike Moran - Illustrator



Mike Moran is an artist and illustrator whose work has appeared in magazines, newspapers, animation, children's books, toy packaging, apps, trade show convention tents and greeting cards. A huge baseball and Beatles fan, he lives with his wife and two sons in Florham Park, New Jersey.

Follow him on Twitter and Instagram @mikemoran_illo or visit his website at: mikemoran.net.

Author Visits

I love speaking to students and young readers and writers. I am available to do Virtual, On Site, and Free Skype visits.

I offer affordable rates and various discounts for those who pre-sell my books.

Virtual - I do virtual visits to all grades via Zoom and other platforms. They are more affordable than on-site visits because I don't have to worry about travel.

On-site Visits - I am available for school visits for all grades. I do charge an honorarium fee and possible travel costs unless you book the visit through your local indie bookstore. My programs range from 30-60 minutes and cover reading, literacy, writing, and vocabulary.

Free Skype Readings - I offer FREE 15-20 minute Skype visits where I read one of my books (of your choice) and answer questions.

If you'd like to book a visit, please visit my website: srjohannes.com or email me: shelli@srjohannes.com.

Testimonials*

Shelli's visit was an amazing way to help young writers connect classroom instruction with the real world of writing. Shelli engaged my students at their level and left them with a desire to read more and write more. My students were thrilled with the practical writing tips they were able to take away from the session."

— North Gwinnett Middle School)

"Shelli was amazing with our students. The students were very interested in what she had to say. She allowed time for questions and answers and related to the students. During her book signing, she was able to ask the students different questions and connect with them."

- Kingsley Elementary

"You know you had a successful assembly when a week later the students and teachers are still talking about it and asking when the author is coming back!"

- Literary Coordinator, Dalton School District)

*You can find more educator and bookseller testimonials on my website at srjohannes.com