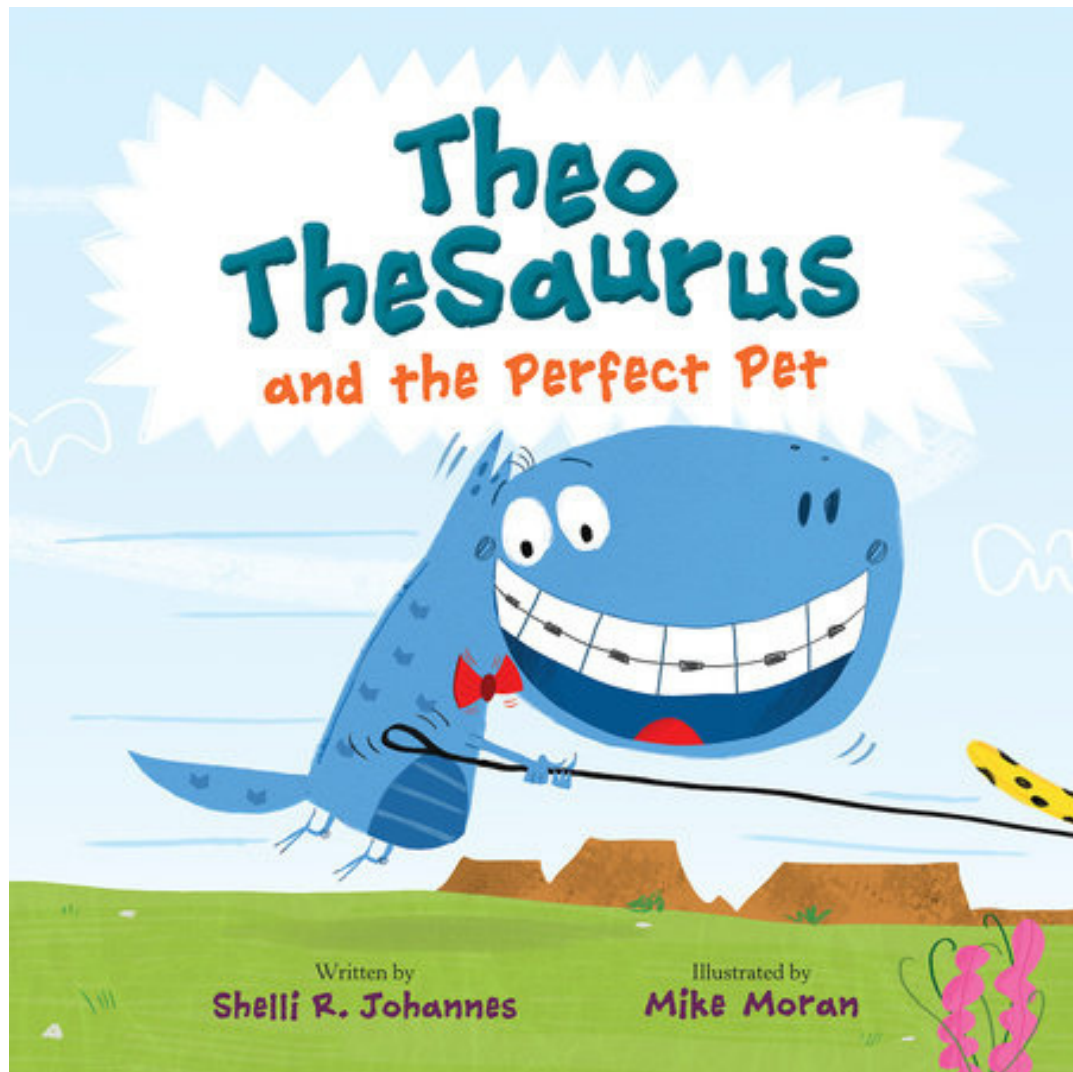


# Educator's Guide



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"Investigating new words is exciting!"



"Fancy Nancy for  
dinosaur lovers!"

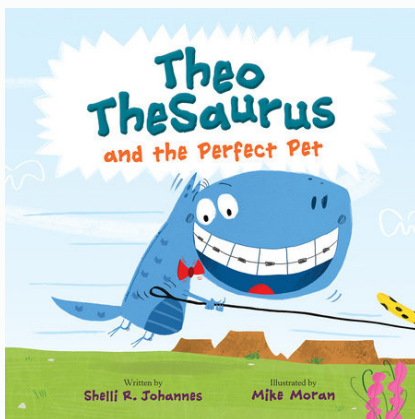
# About THEO THESAURUS

Theo TheSaurus and the Perfect Pet  
Philomel Books  
ISBN: 978-0593464328 | 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, Theo longs for a pet of his very own. So when he finds a baby sabretooth tiger, it feels like the perfect match. But when Theo's big vocabulary makes it difficult to train his new pet, Theo must find a different way to communicate with Fang if he wants to hang onto his furry companion.

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 2

*"Dinophiles and budding wordsmiths will be delighted." -  
- Kirkus Reviews*

*"Theo's understanding of Fang has obvious parallel lessons to real pet households where viewers may have frustrations communicating behaviors to their own furry companions."  
- BCCB (The Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books)*

# Discussion Questions

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

1. What do you call someone who loves animals?
2. What animals did he consider?
3. Who is Defino-Dino?
4. What is another word for sad or gloomy?
5. What two words in the book would be called onomatopoeias?
6. What kind of animal is Fang?
7. Why do you think Theo called his new pet Fang?
8. What is another word for troublesome?
9. What did Theo have to do to finally train Fang?
10. What two things did Theo give Fang at the end?

## Bonus:

What do you call a lover of colossal words?

## Answer Key:

1. Zoophlist
2. Plesiosaur, Pterodactyl, T-Rex
3. He defines the big words for Theo
4. Melancholy
5. Roar! Hiss
6. Baby Sabre-Toothed Tiger
7. Because of his teeth
8. Mischievous
9. Try to speak Fang's language
10. A bone and a hug

Bonus:

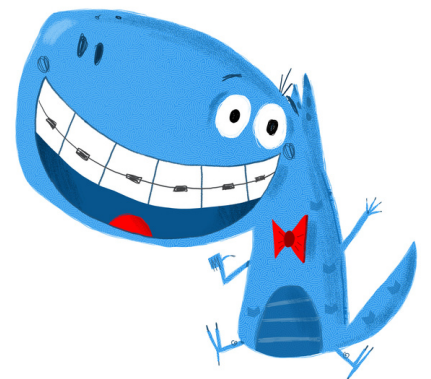
Sesquipedalian

For downloadable bookmarks, coloring page, vocabulary words, and a Kahoot activity, go to [srjohannes.com](http://srjohannes.com).

# In Theo's Words

- Agonizing** – super painful
- Cacophony** – harsh mixture of sounds
- Extraordinary** – extra special
- Grimy** – very dirty
- Grueling** – very tiring
- Inquisitive** – curious
- Melancholy** – very sad or gloomy
- Mischievous** - troublesome
- Puzzled** – confused
- Quintessential** – perfect
- Sesquipedalian** – lover of colossal words
- Skeptical** – doubtful
- Zoophilist** – someone who loves animals

\*To play the Kahoot game and test your vocabulary knowledge, go to [srjohannes.com](https://www.srjohannes.com)



# About the Creators

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## Shelli R. Johannes - Author

Shelli R. Johannes is author of 18 books including the Cece Loves Sciencer series and Shine Like a Unicorn. 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 teens, and a whole bunch of unruly pets.

Follow her on Twitter and Instagram @srjohannes or visit her website at: [srjohannes.com](http://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](http://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](http://srjohannes.com) or email me: [shelli@srjohannes.com](mailto: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](http://srjohannes.com)