



A Mink, a Fink, a Skating Rink: What is a Noun? (Words Are Categorical)

By Brian P. Cleary

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

While this book may appear to be little more than a list of nouns, the witty zeal it brings to the task of enumeration makes this basic concept seem like plenty. Cleary indulges his fondness for wordplay (evident from such previous titles as *Give Me Bach My Schubert*) in the humorous, wide-ranging subjects that show up in the text, its cadences reminiscent of jump-rope songs: "If it's a train, or brain, or frown,/ It's elementary/ Ait's a noun"; "London, Levis, PekineseA/ Proper nouns name all of these." Colored type highlights the nouns within the verse, which winds around the pictures in a bouncy typeface. For her first children's book, Prosmitsky introduces a cast of goofy-looking cartoon cats with round bodies and giant, flaccid noses. The challenge of illustrating such a random list results in gleeful, nearly nonsensical scenes: the two images for the lines "The pope, some soap that's on a rope,/ A downtown mall, a downhill slope" show a small black cat, rigid with fear, getting soaped up beside a portrait of the pope on the shower wall juxtaposed with a snowscape of cats and their bags sliding down a slope after shopping. Certainly one of the least serious grammar lessons imaginable, this book will convince kids that nouns are everywhere. Ages 7-9. (Sept.)

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From Library Journal

Grade 2-4-Using a combination of humorous rhymes and silly illustrations, Cleary attempts to define nouns. He adheres to the traditional definition, stating, "If it's a person,/place, or thing-/Your dad, Detroit,/a diamond ring,/If it's a boat or coat or clown,/It's simple, Simon,/it's a noun!" Nouns are highlighted in color throughout the text, making it easy for readers to identify them. The rhyming sentences are short and breezy, though some sound awkward: "The pope,/some soap/that's on a rope,/A downtown mall,/a downhill slope." While proper nouns are mentioned, possessives, plurals, and compound nouns are not. The bright illustrations appear to be rendered in colored pencils and crayons, providing both detail and humor. A variety of comical-looking cats are depicted on backgrounds splashed with sea blues, lime greens, and lovely lavenders. Libraries looking to build up their 400s section could consider this introductory title, but Ruth Heller's *Merry-Go-Round: A Book about Nouns* (Grosset & Dunlap, 1990) is a stronger choice.

Lisa Gangemi Krapp, Rockville Centre Public Library, NY

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From Kirkus Reviews

A Mink, A Fink, A Skating Rink (32 pp.; \$12.92; Sept. 7; 1-57505-42-7): This book appropriately abounds with persons, animals, places, and things, while rhymes drop broad hints about using nouns: "Nouns can sometimes be quite proper like Brooklyn Bridge or Edward Hopper," but also "A pocket, button, sleeve, or cuff/ A noun can simply be your stuff." Cleary leaves explanations of when and why some nouns are capitalized to the textbooks. Prosmitsky's funny illustrations of tubby cats link some disparate nouns and make them memorable, while a picaresque feline scene on a final two-page spread allows readers to pick out nouns on their own. (Picture book. 7-9) -- Copyright ©1999, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Jamey Ainsworth:

The book *A Mink, a Fink, a Skating Rink: What is a Noun? (Words Are Categorical)* gives you the sense of being enjoy for your spare time. You can utilize to make your capable a lot more increase. Book can to be your best friend when you getting strain or having big problem together with your subject. If you can make studying a book *A Mink, a Fink, a Skating Rink: What is a Noun? (Words Are Categorical)* for being your habit, you can get much more advantages, like add your personal capable, increase your knowledge about some or all subjects. It is possible to know everything if you like wide open and read a e-book *A Mink, a Fink, a Skating Rink: What is a Noun? (Words Are Categorical)*. Kinds of book are a lot of. It means that, science publication or encyclopedia or other individuals. So , how do you think about this reserve?

Michael Earl:

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Timothy Pace:

This *A Mink, a Fink, a Skating Rink: What is a Noun? (Words Are Categorical)* book is simply not ordinary book, you have it then the world is in your hands. The benefit you get by reading this book is actually information inside this book incredible fresh, you will get facts which is getting deeper a person read a lot of information you will get. This kind of *A Mink, a Fink, a Skating Rink: What is a Noun? (Words Are Categorical)* without we know teach the one who reading through it become critical in imagining and analyzing. Don't be worry *A Mink, a Fink, a Skating Rink: What is a Noun? (Words Are Categorical)* can bring if you are and not make your bag space or bookshelves' turn out to be full because you can have it in your lovely laptop even mobile phone. This *A Mink, a Fink, a Skating Rink: What is a Noun? (Words Are Categorical)* having great arrangement in word in addition to layout, so you will not feel uninterested in reading.

Tommy Bowles:

Information is provisions for those to get better life, information these days can get by anyone on everywhere. The information can be a know-how or any news even a concern. What people must be consider while those information which is from the former life are challenging be find than now is taking seriously which one works to believe or which one the particular resource are convinced. If you get the unstable resource then you get it as your main information you will have huge disadvantage for you. All those possibilities will not happen inside you if you take *A Mink, a Fink, a Skating Rink: What is a Noun? (Words Are Categorical)* as your daily resource information.

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