

Royal Fireworks Language Arts by Michael Clay Thompson

The  
**Sesquipedalian  
Neologist's  
Lexicon**

Michael Clay Thompson

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## Perpetrator's Forward

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This wry and possibly awry lexicon (dictionary) of sesquipedalian (foot-and-a-half-long) neologisms (new words), most of which have been plagiarized heartlessly from chapters of the *Word Within the Word* trilogy, is intended to hearten its friends, to offend and discourage its enemies, and to inject a salutary measure of humor and nonsense into the nocturnal lucubrations of the Vocabulary Gazers Association. In fact, because so many of these *Word Within the Word* neologisms seemed enjoyable in an independent form, we decided to publish them separately so that the comprehending processes of humor could work their enhanced effect.

If you promise not to tell, I will admit that this lexicon also illustrates, for students who are learning how words are made, the method of combining Greek and Latin stems into meaningful new words, which all old words once were. Under duress, I further admit that this book could be used either alone or as a supplement to *The Word Within the Word* to enliven the study of vocabulary and to serve as a model for sesquipedalian neologisms that students would enjoy creating for themselves.

Those who study this book will be prosecuted to the full extent of the law.

*Caveat emptor.*

P.S. Smite the Philistines.

Michael Clay Thompson

# A

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**amphilingual** (am fih LEEN gwal) adj. [*amphi* (both), *lingu* (tongue)] 1. hypocritical, disingenuous, equivocal 2. devoid of principle; having the ability to advocate either side of any issue to impress an audience

**annefic** (an NEFF ik) adj. [*ann* (year), *fic* (make)] 1. being so outstanding as to make one's year 2. totally, like, you know, wow

**antifidous** (an TIH fid us) adj. [*anti* (against), *fid* (faith), *ous* (full of)] 1. pathologically professing to believe the opposite of whatever one hears 2. spontaneous, disingenuous skepticism

**antikinetic** (an tih kin ETT ik) adj. [*anti* (against), *kin* (motion)] 1. having a tendency to propose the opposite of whatever one hears proposed; always reflexively making a motion to the contrary 2. severely and profoundly intractable, such that one never even considers the possibility of changing one's mind on any issue whatsoever

**apospection** (APP oh spek shun) n. [*apo* (away), *spec* (look), *tion* (act)] 1. averting the gaze 2. a deliberate looking away, for courtesy, concealment, or embarrassment

**aquadiction** (ah kwuh DIKK shun) n. [*aqua* (water), *dict* (say), *tion* (act)] 1. speaking under water 2. attempting to answer a question while using mouthwash

# C

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**carnorogation** (karn oh row GAY shun) n. [*carn* (flesh), *rogat* (ask), *tion* (act)] 1. the cheeky habit of asking others how much they weigh 2. the obsessive need to read all of the dietary information on every item of packaged food in the supermarket before adding it to the shopping cart

**circumnecrosis** (sir kum nek ROH sis) n. [*circum* (around), *necro* (death), *osis* (condition)] 1. evading death or thoughts of death; antithanatopsis 2. a compulsive denial of mortality, resulting in a pseudoimmortal self-concept and lifestyle

**cobathy** (KOH bath ee) n. [*co* (together), *bath* (deep)] 1. collective puerility 2. mutual sophomoreic pseudo-philosophizing, characterized by the interjection *wow* and marked by questions such as, “Like, what if everything else is just our imagination?”

**cosmophobia** (koz moh FOH bee uh) n. [*cosmo* (universe), *phobia* (fear)] 1. the pathological fear of space travel 2. the fear of escaping the earth’s gravitational field

**cosmoplexity** (koz moh PLEX ih tee) n. [*cosmo* (universe), *plex* (weave)] 1. chronic befuddlement over the meaning of life 2. extreme obsession with the size and scale of the universe, resulting in overwhelming feelings of insignificance

**cryptomorphic** (krip toh MOR fik) adj. [*crypto* (hidden), *morph* (shape)] 1. demonstrably real but invisible, such as gravitation or commiseration 2. of undetectable form or structure, as an incondite short story

# C

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**cryptophilous** (krip toh FILL us) adj. [*crypt* (hidden), *phile* (love), *ous* (full of)] 1. having an obsession with others' secrets 2. having a pathological sense of privacy

**cursalgic** (kurs AL jik) adj. [*curs* (run), *algia* (pain)] 1. so discursive in speech as to cause physical pain in the brains of the listeners, resulting in uncontrollable flight 2. speaking continuously so as to be unaware of one's own symptoms

# D

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**diosculation** (die oss kyoo LAY shun) n. [*dia* (across), *oscu* (kiss), *tion* (act)] 1. the transmission of a kiss without direct contact, as through a pane of glass, across a room, or through a video monitor 2. teleosculation; any form of kissing from a distance

**dischoreotic** (diss kor ee AH tik) adj. [*dis* (away), *choreo* (dance)] 1. bad dancing; a complete inability to dance; having “two left feet” 2. (rare) dancing absurdly in the face of all events, however tragic

**dyscribe** (dih SCRIBE) v. [*dys* (bad), *scrib* (write)] 1. to write about in unflattering and negative terms 2. to distort the truth negatively in writing so as to defame

# E

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**ecosensation** (ee koh sen SAY shun) n. [*eco* (house), *sens* (feel), *tion* (act)] 1. awareness of and feeling for the planetary environment 2. a nonanthropocentric concern for the myriad species, especially endangered species

**egnotic** (egg NOT ik) adj. [*ex* (out), *gno* (know)] 1. of matters previously known but now forgotten, characterized by the ingenuous and perplexed statement, “I used to know that!” 2. of any and all material that one is no longer responsible for on a test

**egomonger** (EE go mon gur) n. [*ego* (I), *monger* (seller)] 1. a vulgar commercialist who plays on individuals’ diffidence with television commercials asking them if they would rather be different, implying that being themselves is not satisfactory 2. a person whose *idée fixe* is to advance himself and who responds to every declarative sentence with a retort beginning, “Well, in my case...”

**egomuric** (ee go MYOOR ik) adj. [*ego* (I), *mur* (wall)] 1. putting up behavioral or psychological barriers that prevent people from knowing you 2. responding with subterfuges or circumlocutions to all personal questions

**egopugnant** (ee go PUG nent) adj. [*ego* (I), *pugn* (fight)] 1. being repulsive to others in one’s essential personality 2. being repulsive to others as a result of one’s inherent hostility or pugnacity