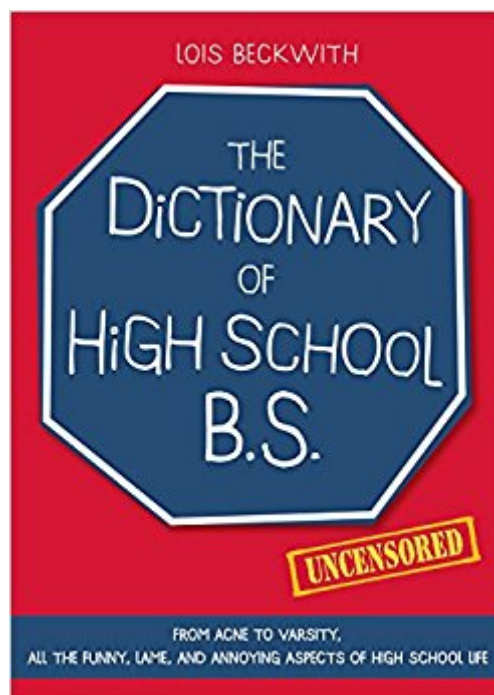




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The Dictionary Of High School B.S.: From Acne To Varsity, All The Funny, Lame, And Annoying Aspects Of High School Life



Synopsis

Broken down in handy A-to-Z fashion, this uncensored, sarcastic, and sharp-witted dictionary gives the lowdown on all of your favorite and not-so-favorite aspects of high school, from prom, hooking up, and graduation to acne, standardized tests, and school shrinks. At a price even a babysitter's income can afford (and in a light paperback format that won't weigh down your backpack), *The Dictionary of High School B.S.* is an entertaining guide to the ridiculous rules, irritating people, and ongoing dramas that fill four of the most awkward, exciting, and downright confusing years of your life. Each entry begins with a straight definition followed by a series of humorous alternate meanings.

For example:

fund-raising (v) 1. the selling of all kinds of crap in order to subsidize a school activity or group, such as a class trip or the cheerleading squad. 2. carrying around a box of overpriced candy or a catalog for wrapping paper and begging people to buy stuff they don't need. 3. in some cases, going door to door in one's neighborhood, holding a car wash, or, if one gets desperate, putting up a lemonade stand. 4. asking parents to ask/force their friends and coworkers to fork over some money or, if they can't be bothered to do that, just write a check themselves for that whole box of candy and eat it or throw it away. Of course, this dictionary probably won't help you avoid all of the B.S. that comes with high school. But it might make it all a little easier to laugh at.

Excerpt A

acne (n) also known as zits. 1. facial eruptions that are simultaneously infuriating, fascinating, and gross. 2. a massive source of embarrassment, especially when the bumps are huge, red, and resistant to benzoyl peroxide and concealer, the latter of which just makes them worse and, ironically, more noticeable. 3. a personal affect that will leave your friends assuring you "It's not that noticeable" before your big date, but they're probably lying; everyone notices it, but they don't care as much as you do.

after school (n) 1. the time between your last class of the day and dinner. 2. an interim during which any number of things can happen, such as going to sports practice or school play rehearsal, studying, watching cable, eating junk food at a friend's house, making out with your boyfriend or girlfriend while you're supposed to be studying, updating your MySpace/Facebook page, or just hanging out. 3. an ominous threat, indicating your butt will be kicked at that time (as in "See you after school").

alcohol (n) 1. an intoxicating liquid in the form of beer, wine, or hard liquor such as gin, vodka, or rum. 2. a substance many kids consider an essential element of a good party and therefore go to great lengths to obtain, opting to either steal it from parents, ask an older sibling (or some random person on the street) to buy it for them, or attempt to purchase it with a fake ID. 3. the cause of countless teenagers getting wasted, hooking up, puking, doing something they will later regret, getting grounded, or all of the above.

all-nighter (n) 1. the experience of staying up all night. 2. a frantic evening spent studying for

an exam in a subject that one knows nothing about; includes the slamming down of Red Bull, coffee, and/or junk food while attempting (in vain) to read one's handwriting from two months ago, desperately calling friends for help to understand obscure concepts, profiling the teacher in an effort to divine the material he or she will include on the test, and strategically skimming *A Tale of Two Cities* (or similar material).

3. alternate use: a night spent socializing "i.e., partying, watching movies, or playing video games" until one is so sleep deprived that he or she can't see straight or is suffering the shakes.

AP classes (n) abbreviation for advanced placement classes.

1. courses on subjects ranging from history to biology to the rarely spoken Latin that smart and/or ambitious kids take to earn college credits before even entering college.

2. classes that culminate with the dreaded AP tests, which are graded in a somewhat mysterious and maddening way, especially because they often include an essay component for which one earns a score of 1 "5" without ever really knowing why one got that score.

3. classes for which students are often promised college credit only to later find out that the college they selected won't give credit for any of the AP courses they took. See also IB classes.

assembly (n)

1. a convocation of the entire student body, usually in the school gym or auditorium.

2. an event, usually characterized by a zoo-like atmosphere with lots of yelling, flirting, and maybe even crowd surfing, that features the appearance of the principal and/or the discussion of something supposedly so important it requires everyone getting together in the same space; event may feature a talk about the rise in campus violence, a lecture on drunk driving, or a performance by a visiting African dance troupe.

babysitting (v)

1. watching other people's kids for money; involves two phases: the part when the kids are awake and one can't channel surf, watch cable, call friends, or raid the parents' fridge, and the part when the kids are asleep and one can do pretty much whatever as long as no evidence is left behind.

2. employing a great excuse to not do homework while still positioning oneself as a responsible person and making some cash.

3. for older siblings, doing an annoying task for no pay and, frustratingly, at the expense of one's social life.

backpack (n)

1. a container for all of your crap.

2. a kind of geeky, and sometimes painfully heavy, appendage that people often try to make cooler by posing with it over one shoulder.

3. a place with "secret" inside pockets, in which one may try to hide things from nosy parents.

back-to-school shopping (v)

1. purchasing tons of stuff, from school supplies to new clothes, in preparation for the coming school year.

(n) 2. a carefully orchestrated marketing scheme by the industries that stand to make a buck off of the idea that students need all new stuff every September.

3. a shopping season that can start as early as July, when no one should even be thinking about school.

4. a chance to score some cool new clothes on Dad's dime and assemble the perfect portfolio of color-coordinated folders, notebooks, and binders, which will only get trashed

days later.

band (n) rock: 1. a group of people who play instruments and sing, typically in a somewhat public forum. 2. a musical group formed by people with sometimes little musical talent, as the point of being in a band is not always to play music, but often to simply say that one is in a band. 3. for guys, a group to join to potentially get more action; for girls, a group to join in order to wear cute clothes on stage and seem kind of badass.

school: 1. a school-sanctioned group made up of players of trumpets, flutes, clarinets, drums, and other instruments. 2. the anticool version of a rock band in which one is required to actually practice one's instrument, participate in painful, frequently off-key fall and spring concerts, and don geeky wool uniforms on 90-degree days for the purpose of marching in a local parade. 3. a channel through which one may get to play in the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade, if one's band is really good (although this may also require dreaded fundraising).

baseball hat guys (n) 1. boys who have baseball caps seemingly glued to their heads; the hats scream the name of a university and/or sports team (e.g., UCLA lacrosse, UVM coed naked beer pong) and their bills have been aggressively folded. 2. popular party dudes or jocks who react with exasperation when teachers ask that the hats be removed during class.

bases (n) 1. a sports inspired metaphor for the progressive stages of intimate relations between people: "first" is French kissing, "second" is groping above the waist, "third" is getting your hand down someone's pants, and "home run" really needs no explanation, does it? 2. a sexual innuendo (probably invented by a totally insensitive jock) that is so old that even most parents and grandparents know what it means. See also hooking up, making out, and sex.

bathroom (n) 1. the place where one goes to do one's business. 2. the locale for applying makeup, gossiping, and providing cover when cutting class, crying, or smoking. 3. a prime location for fights . . . the home of the grossest soap and scratchiest paper towels around . . . a canvas for the most inspired and revealing graffiti anywhere in the school.

bell (n) 1. an alarming, loud, and shrill noise used to signal the beginning and end of class periods. 2. a sound of liberation when it identifies the end of class, but a sound of dread when it identifies the beginning (specifically if one is running late to class, or not en route at all).

best friend (n) 1. one's closest companion with whom one does and shares everything. 2. one-half of a pair of friends who've become merged in people's minds, as the two are never seen apart (e.g., Jackie and Suzie are also known as Jackuzie). 3. a favorite companion who can stir feelings of anxiety and possessiveness if that companion is the type who believes a person can really have only one best friend (after all, either you're the best or you're not, right?). 4. sometimes someone of the opposite gender for which one needs to constantly suffer other people's "When are you going to just go out already?" comments. 5. a person one may never speak to again if he ...

Book Information

Paperback: 120 pages

Publisher: Orange Avenue Publishing (October 1, 2008)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0979017394

ISBN-13: 978-0979017391

Product Dimensions: 6.8 x 5 x 0.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 5.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars 5 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #2,630,723 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #58 in Books > Teens >

Education & Reference > Reference > Dictionaries #196 in Books > Teens > Education &

Reference > School & Education #407 in Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference >

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Customer Reviews

WINNER: YALSA Quick Picks for Reluctant Young Adult Readers

Lois Beckwith (aka Mimi O'Connor) is a contributing editor at BizBash magazine and has contributed articles to Book, Glamour, Publishers Weekly, and Time Out New York. She is the author of The Dictionary of Corporate Bullshit. She lives in New York City.

This book was given to my nephew who was starting high school and to ease his slight anxiety over going to a new, larger school. We all remember our high school experiences - trying to fit in, be like everyone else, make new friends. This book described in a perfect textbook reference style, those things we were exposed to and want to tell a kid going to high school. My nephew thought it was pretty funny and found it to be enlighteningly hysterical as he began his first high school days. The book was a good size and length and a good read to browse or plow through in one sitting. The only drawback was that parts of it were definitely tailored towards girls, when both sexes would enjoy a book of this title.

Gold Star Award Winner! Starting high school is both a thrilling and stressful experience. Everything is new, and you may feel lost. Let me suggest a way to make this transition a whole lot easier: pick

up a copy of THE DICTIONARY OF HIGH SCHOOL B.S. I've never been able to resist a book that is both highly informative and outrageously hilarious, and this one definitely is both. As the title suggests, it's an A-Z dictionary of terms that everyone entering (or attempting to survive) high school needs to know. The absolute best thing about each entry is that it includes multiple definitions - the tried and true, boring-as-dirt meaning, and multiple examples of what the word REALLY means in a high school setting. For example: These are the best years of your life (exp) 1. a platitude often spoken by parents, teachers, guidance counselors, and other adults. 2. a total lie (thank goodness). Assembly (n) 1. a convocation of the entire student body, usually in the school gym or auditorium. 2. an event, usually characterized by a zoo-like atmosphere with lots of yelling, flirting, and maybe even crowd surfing, that features the appearance of the principal and/or the discussion of something supposedly so important it requires everyone getting together in the same space; event may feature a talk about the rise in campus violence, a lecture on drunk driving, or a performance by a visiting African dance troupe. Homework (n) 1. academic exercises such as reading, writing essays, and doing math problems. 2. something that one is supposed to do at home but that usually gets done on the school bus, in homeroom, or in the cafeteria. 3. arguably one of the most irritating aspects of high school since the whole point of going to school is to work there and not at home. There are hundreds of entries just as funny and helpful as these examples. You'll never run out of something to laugh at, and beneath all of the snarky definitions, you'll find out that this is one dictionary that really is a must-have for your high school experience. I can't recommend this one highly enough. Reviewed by: Jennifer Wardrip, aka "The Genius"

This book is funny, helpful and totally legit! I am a teenage girl currently in high school and so many of the definitions in this book are totally spot on. Whether it is explaining Myspace or what exactly a keg is, this book is great. It does not take itself too seriously and much of the book is hilarious, but at the same time it answers some of those questions you were too embarrassed to ask anyone. I would suggest this book to both people in high school and those freshly entering it. It would be great for birthday gift idea. Sasha Schmitz

This book is not only hilarious, but also extremely helpful! It defines the funny, embarrassing and even serious parts of high school. Some words included are; labels, SAT, jerks, college aps, breakup and music. These words are defined in a way which many high school books lack---humor. I recommend this book to any teen who has a sense of humor!

this book is not just clever and humorous, it is true. I am in highschool and all terms within this book are genuine instances and objects that occur. This book is a must have if you are an incoming freshman, or just in the mood for a good read. That's right, this book is so funny you can read it cover to cover. Buy!!

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