



2007

Dear Deer: A Book of Homophones

Sandra L. Tidwell

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Barretta, Gene. *Dear Deer: A Book of Homophones*. Illustrated by Gene Barretta. Henry Holt, 2007. ISBN 9780805081046. \$16.95. 40p.

Reviewer: Sandra L. Tidwell

Reading Level: Preschool, Primary

Rating: Outstanding

Genre: Fiction; Animal stories;

Subject: English language--Homonyms—Juvenile fiction; Zoo animals—Juvenile fiction; Books—Reviews;

The zoo is Aunt Ant's new home and she writes to her friend Deer, who lives in the forest, about all of her new friends. She ingeniously writes in homophones, words that sound alike, but are spelled differently and have different meanings. Over 30 homophones are used in the text.

This fun picture book can be used to introduce children to this interesting language form. Barretta is both author and illustrator. His colorful water color illustrations cleverly show a moose eating mousse, a ewe in a "daze for days," a giraffe who gets to choose what he chews, a red fox who "blew blue bubbles" etc. The homophones appear in capital bolded letters in the text.

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