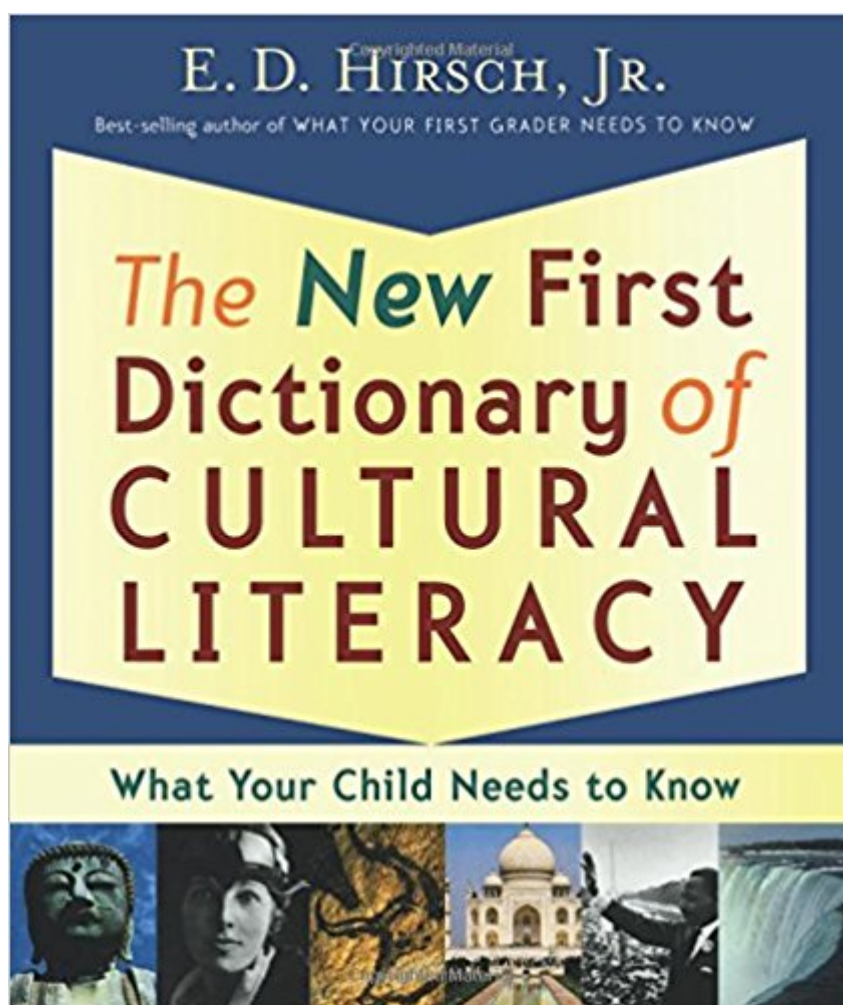


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# The New First Dictionary Of Cultural Literacy: What Your Child Needs To Know



## Synopsis

Fully updated for the twenty-first century, *The New First Dictionary of Cultural Literacy* lists essential facts in twenty-one subject areas to promote successful learning in kids. Child education expert E. D. Hirsch Jr. cuts through the wealth of information available today to highlight terms that a child should be familiar with by the end of sixth grade. With nearly 3,000 concise definitions and including 250 new entries (like Harry Potter, centaurs, northern lights, and World Series), this popular sourcebook makes it easy for children to become literate in mythology, literature, U.S. history, science and technology, and more.

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## Customer Reviews

E.D. Hirsch, Jr. is the Linden Kent Memorial Professor of English at the University of Virginia, Charlottesville, and the author of *Cultural Literacy*, *The First Dictionary of Cultural Literacy*, and *The Core Knowledge Series*. Dr. Hirsch is a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and has been a senior fellow of the National Endowment for the Humanities. He is president of the Core Knowledge Foundation, a nonprofit organization devoted to educational reform.

**Preface to the Third Edition** This new, updated edition reflects important changes that have occurred in the world since 1991, changes in history, science, and the arts that have become part of our common awareness, such as Harry Potter, the Persian Gulf War, El Nio, global warming, DVDs, laptop computers, and the recently named Southern Ocean. Most of the entries that appeared in the

1989 edition still appear here, illustrating how durable literate culture is and how valid was the idea that gave rise to this book: namely, that we can communicate with one another in our national community only because we continue to share and take for granted the knowledge that we hold in common. To possess this shared knowledge is to be a member of the cultural community to be an insider. Not to possess it is to be excluded from full communication with other members of the community to be an outsider. In our democracy we want all children to have the opportunity to be insiders. That is why we have made this book. That is also why my colleagues and I started the Core Knowledge Foundation ([www.coreknowledge.org](http://www.coreknowledge.org)), whose mission is to bring this knowledge to all children through our schools. The entries in this book overlap with the topics studied in the early grades in Core Knowledge Schools. The overlap of the topics in this book with the topics studied in good schools is especially important today, when schools, under the influence of the national No Child Left Behind Act, are spending more and more classroom time trying to improve children's reading abilities. For children to understand writings in textbooks, magazines, books, and newspapers, they must possess the background knowledge that such writings take for granted. Cultural literacy and literacy are intertwined. Knowing the information contained in this book is a big step toward being a good reader and being a full participant in our society. Good luck! Copyright 2004 by Houghton Mifflin Company. Reprinted by permission of Houghton Mifflin Company.

I do like this. Helps a lot with my studying of the basics.

My parent's gave me a copy of this book when I was 12 and at the time I just thought it was a lame book... then I actually started reading it. It helped me out so much in high school and college these bits of knowledge in every category you could think of. History, art, lit, math, science, even religion and world views. It's kinda like a cliff notes of all the important things you should know to be a well rounded adult. Plus it readies your mind to be able to win any type of trivia game your friends want to throw at you. My friends all think I know EVERYTHING and really its just cause I read this book when I was younger (and still occasionally again to this day). I bought this book as a gift for my 12 year old niece. I hope she likes it. I also wished I had notice this version is a paperback as a hardback one would've lasted better.

This dictionary is essential for everyone, not just children. This should be in every household and in every classroom, it has the basics organized in sections such as language arts, math, science, and visual and performing arts. Every child should be taught this information before graduating from 8th

grade and every adult with a college education really should know all these facts, ideas, theories, and movements.

As a former literature teacher, I found this resource book very valuable and user friendly. My grandson immediately started making a list of all the titles he wanted to read.

We have this one and the regular version. Both are filled with interesting and relevant information that make for a broad knowledge base in many areas of cultural literacy.

I taught social studies at the high school level for more than 25 years. Other than "The Last Lecture", this may be the best book I have in my collection.

I bought this to use with my child who is in grade school. It has a little bit about everything in the book and is broken down into different topics. It made our look-up of Athena a cinch. I would say a must have for elementary education.

Really great resource. Purchased for my child but I find myself engrossed in it every time I pick it up. Thank you.

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