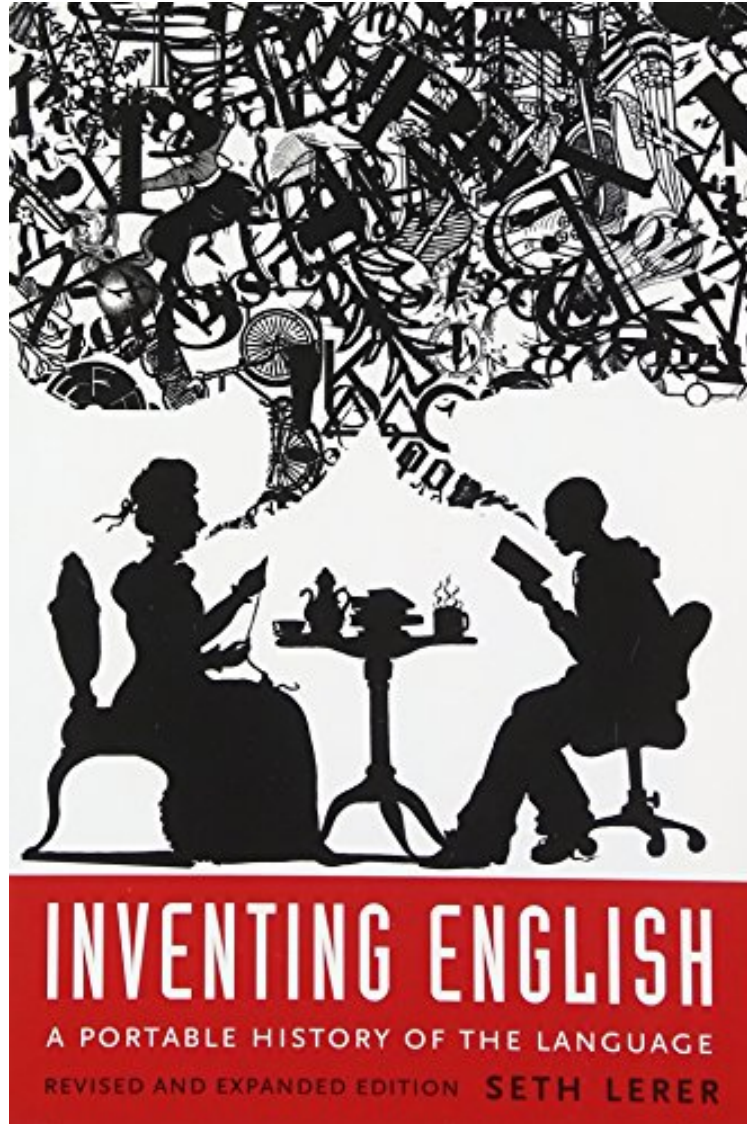


(Free pdf) Inventing English: A Portable History of the Language

Inventing English: A Portable History of the Language

Seth Lerer

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Seth Lerer : Inventing English: A Portable History of the Language before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Inventing English: A Portable History of the Language:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. This was a gift, I already have the book ...By Peter A. Flynn This was a gift, I already have the book, which is a fascinating journey through the words that make up our language and how they have evolved over the centuries. Anyone who loves reading dictionaries will benefit from its insights. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Love your mother tongue! By Kathryn Seth Lerer is delightful. So much

information presented with such a happy sense of play. You get the feeling he was one of the quirky clever kids in school who probably knew more than his teachers. -- All in all, it's a delight to engage with our beloved bastard tongue. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Travis R Kayhart Great history

Seth Lerer tells a masterful history of the English language from the age of Beowulf to the rap of Eminem. Many have written about the evolution of grammar, pronunciation, and vocabulary, but only Lerer situates these developments within the larger history of English, America, and literature. This edition features a new chapter on the influence of biblical translation and an epilogue on the relationship of English speech to writing. A unique blend of historical and personal narrative, *Inventing English* is the surprising tale of a language that is as dynamic as the people to whom it belongs.

From Publishers Weekly Starred . Lerer is not just a scholar (he's a professor of humanities at Stanford and the man behind the Teaching Company's audio and videotape series *The History of the English Language*); he's also a fan of English his passion is evident on every page of this examination of how our language came to sound and look as it does and how words came to have their current meanings. He writes with friendly reverence of the masters Chaucer, Milton, Johnson, Shakespeare, Twain illustrating through example the monumental influence they had on the English we speak and write today (Shakespeare alone coined nearly 6,000 words). Anecdotes illustrate how developments in the physical world (technological advances, human migration) gave rise to new words and word-forms. With the invention of the telephone, for instance, a neutral greeting was required to address callers whose gender and social rank weren't known. America minted "hello" (derived from the maritime "ahoy"), and soon Twain enshrined the term in *A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court*. Whether it's Lerer's close examination of the earliest surviving poem in English (the seventh-century Caedmon's Hymn) or his fresh perspective on Martin Luther King Jr.'s "I Have a Dream" speech, the book percolates with creative energy and will please anyone intrigued by how our richly variegated language came to be. (Apr.) Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. From Booklist Why doesn't anyone speak English anymore? As he responds to this frequently asked question, Lerer challenges the notion that English was once a set of carefully preserved forms inherited from linguistically correct ancestors. From seventh-century Northumbrian farmers wrapping their tongues around words borrowed from Viking invaders to late-twentieth-century media executives sponsoring word pranks to promote MTV episodes, English speakers have always adapted their idioms to fit current needs. By revisiting pivotal points of language transformation, Lerer clarifies the ways English users have rewoven the fabric of language. Readers hear, for instance, how Wulfstan forged new Anglo-Saxon words in the white heat of his eleventh-century sermons, and they see how sixteenth-century printers turned a wilderness of speech into a cultivated garden of print. And what reader will not relish time spent with Mark Twain as he grafts onto the language new expressions still as raw as the American frontier? Lerer explains language changes so lucidly and illustrates the process with such engaging anecdotes that nonspecialists will join scholars in praising this remarkable linguistic investigation. Bryce Christensen Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved "Interesting and informative." -- Tom Oleson, "Winnipeg Free Press" "Written with real authority, enthusiasm, and love for our unruly and exquisite language." -- Michael Dirda, "The Washington Post" "An important and valuable source for anyone who loves the English language, and language in general." -- Gale Zoe Garnett, "Toronto Globe Mail" "A wonderful book. It's not hard to find well-informed books about the history of the English language, and it's not hard to find good critical accounts of English literature, but to have the two intertwined in one book is remarkable." -- "Language Hat" "Interesting and informative." -- Tom Oleson, "Winnipeg Free Press" "Written with real authority, enthusiasm, and love for our unruly and exquisite language." -- Michael Dirda, "The Washington Post" "An important and valuable source for anyone who loves the English language, and language in general." -- Gale Zoe Garnett, "Toronto Globe Mail" "A wonderful book. 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