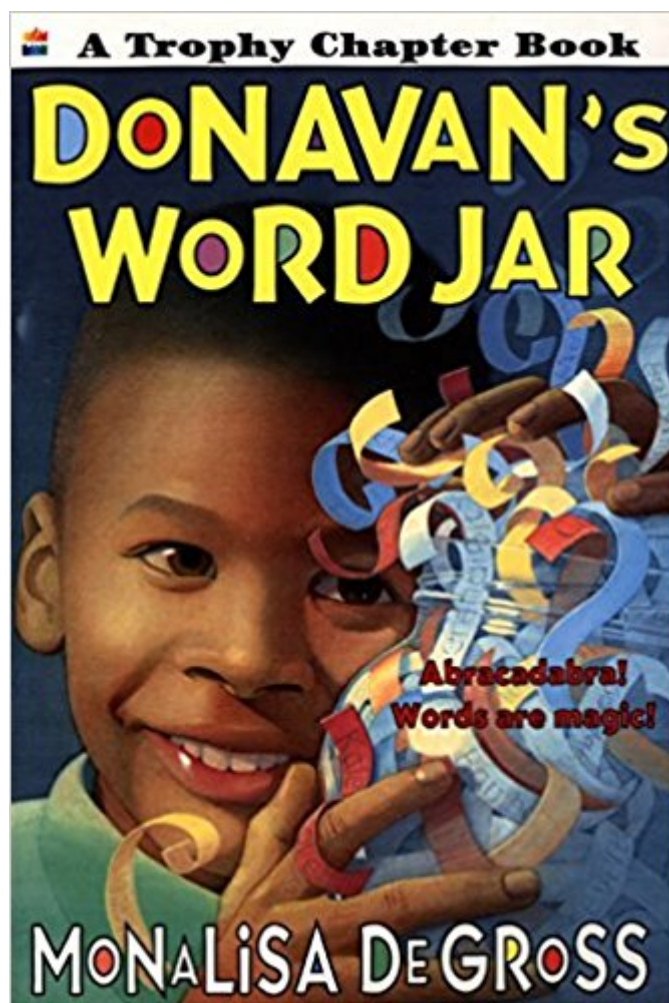


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# Donavan's Word Jar (Trophy Chapter Books (Paperback))



## Synopsis

Donavan is fascinated by words. They seem to leap out at him from books, signs, even the back of cereal boxes. He savors each word as he learns to say it and discovers its meaning. He keeps the words he collects on slips of paper in a big glass jar. But one day the jar is almost full and Donovan has a dilemma. How can he make room for new words without giving up all the terrific words already in his jar? A visit to his grandmother provides the unexpected solution in this heartwarming story about how important words can be.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 670L (What's this?)

Series: Trophy Chapter Books (Paperback)

Paperback: 80 pages

Publisher: Harper Trophy Books; 1st edition (August 7, 1998)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0064420892

ISBN-13: 978-0064420891

Product Dimensions: 5.1 x 0.2 x 7.6 inches

Shipping Weight: 2.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars 29 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #16,619 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #42 in [Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Multicultural Stories > African-American](#) #168 in [Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Chapter Books & Readers > Chapter Books](#) #276 in [Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > School](#)

Age Range: 6 - 10 years

Grade Level: 2 - 5

## Customer Reviews

This meager, sluggish story centers on Donovan, a boy who collects words. Every time he sees a new word--on a billboard, a cereal box, a store sign, etc.--he writes it down on a slip of paper and puts it into a jar. When the jar becomes filled to capacity, Donovan has a big dilemma. His mother recommends he find a larger container and his teacher suggests he compile his own dictionary, but Donovan rejects both ideas. Visiting his grandmother to ask her advice, Donovan forgets his word jar in the lounge of her apartment building. When he returns to the lounge, he finds a group of senior citizens removing bits of paper from the jar and reading aloud the words, which, rather incredibly,

make everyone instantly happy. Deciding he'll start a new collection right away, Donovan concludes, "It would be fun finding new ways to give his words away." Though clearly well-intentioned, DeGross's story makes much ado about very little. Illustrations not seen by PW . Ages 7-10. Copyright 1994 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to the Library Binding edition.

Grade 2-4-A gentle, thoughtful story of a young African-American boy's discovery of the power of words. Each time a word strikes Donovan as special (e.g., extraterrestrial, orchestral, perseverance, boisterous), he writes it down on a slip of paper and puts it in a jar. When his collection no longer fits in its container, he asks several people (Mom, his teacher, Dad, Grandma) what to do, but in a serendipitous way comes upon the solution himself. While visiting his Grandma, the other senior citizens in her building find that reading the words they pull from the jar is just what they need to cheer them up, and Donovan realizes the pleasure of sharing. While this book is not a fast-paced page-turner, the 10 chapters are short, and an appealing black-and-white illustration appears in each one. This title builds readers' vocabulary in a palatable way, and could be used in conjunction with a lesson on using the dictionary. Janet M. Bair, Trumbull Library, CT Copyright 1994 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to the Library Binding edition.

My son loved this book and found so many connections to Donovan. It was fantastic for me to see him take initiative to read a book on his own and smile in delight when he realized he did some of the same things (collect words). I am glad I purchased this book. My seven year old reads at a higher level so I think this book is perfect for those that are at the 3rd grade reading level.

My son says, "I like how Donovan uses his words and they impacted others. Yeah, it's a good book for others to read." My son truly enjoyed this book. I love that the main character in the text is a young black boy. We both would recommend this book. If you have a boy who is reluctant to reading, this is one book he may read willingly as my son did.

As a teacher I think this is good book for students to read, teachers to read aloud, and/or mentor text.

My son loved this book. He is fascinated by words and could relate to Donovan's character as far as being "different". There were several good messages/themes for us to talk about when he finished

reading it.

This was a gift

I like the message of the book. I read this book with my 3rd and 4th grade literature group. We struggled to get through the book. They were just not interested in it. So although the message is good, the book is not really interesting.

If you are teaching vocabulary or just interested in words, this is a great book for read aloud or just reading!

Wonderful

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