

EMBARGOED UNTIL 00:01 26 SEPTEMBER 2002

7000 LITERATI in one book!

LITERATI (*noun*, men of letters; the learned class as a whole) is just one of 500 entries in the new edition of the *Shorter Oxford English Dictionary* to be illustrated by a quotation from an author writing in the last ten years. **Helen Fielding's** creation, Bridget Jones, demonstrates the use of the word with this phrase - 'Am invited to a glittering LITERATI launch of *Kafka's Motorbike* next week at the Ivy'.

178 new authors are quoted in the 5th edition of the *Shorter Oxford English Dictionary*, the most comprehensive dictionary of today's English and its history from 1000 AD to 2002. For the first time **JK Rowling, Tom Clancy, Helen Fielding, Nick Hornby, Jonathan Coe, Roddy Doyle, Joanne Harris, Ian Rankin, Kathy Reichs, Kathy Lette, Irvine Welsh,** and even **Jarvis Cocker** and **Quentin Tarantino** appear in the same book! They join around 7000 authors already quoted in the dictionary.

Some classic Bridget Jones examples from **Helen Fielding's** books also illustrate the words OBSESS, REPEAT, and of course SINGLETON: 'head is full of moony fantasies about being trendy Smug Married instead of sheepish Singleton.' Although Helen Fielding is new to the dictionary, the use of the word in this way is actually over a hundred years old.

Rob Scriven, Editorial Director for English Dictionaries, said 'the *Shorter Oxford English Dictionary* offers a unique literary record. Quotations from more than 7000 authors from Chaucer and Milton to the present day are used to show typical or notable examples of a word's usage, and to bring entries to life. We use quotations from novels, plays, newspapers and magazines, and the Bible: Shakespeare is the most frequently quoted writer, and *The Times* is the newspaper cited most often. For this edition more than 500 quotations from 178 authors writing in the past ten years were added.'

From **Kathy Lette** we have 'One got BUSTED for heroin and got both her children taken off her' and 'He's a solicitor who RATTED on his client! He could be struck off for that, you know!' **JK Rowling's** creation, Harry Potter, has also made it into the dictionary illustrating the word STUMP - '*Powdered root of infusion of what to an infusion of what?* Harry glanced at Ron, who looked as STUMPED as he was.' **Charles Higson** helps us to understand the use of the word BLAG, 'he had millions stashed away after some blag'. **Meera Syal** gives us examples of FUSION (the style of music), MANKY, MANOR, TOTTY, WITTER, AND YOOF, 'the voice of Brit-Asian YOOF.'

Nick Hornby is quoted several times in the new edition of the dictionary. His quotations illustrate the entries for BOG-STANDARD, BUNK, CAROUSE, DIDDUMS, DOH - 'DOH,' said Marcus scornfully. 'Why would I want to go there?', FEISTY, FORMATIVE, ICONIC, KISMET, PAINLESS, ROPY, SQUIRM - 'I began to squirm when watching England games on TV', SWANKY, TEARY, and ZAP.

Ian Rankin and **Irvine Welsh** are also quoted in the dictionary under several entries including some Scottish terms. **Ian Rankin** illustrates the words BUTTY, EDGY, LEASTWAYS, NEG, PECH, 'by the time he reached the second floor, he was peching' [ie puffing and panting], PORCINE, RUBICUND, and WHEEN, 'those are two questions; I've got a wheen more'. **Irvine Welsh** explains GAFF, GLAIKIT, 'his glaikit, open-mouthed expression inspired ma instant contempt', NEIGHBOURLY, and STONEWALL.

The *Shorter Oxford English Dictionary* is the most comprehensive dictionary of today's English and its history from 1000 AD to 2002.

See below for a full list of the new authors quoted in the book

For more information or to arrange an interview about the new edition of the *Shorter Oxford English Dictionary* please contact Claire Turner on 01865 267911 or email turnerc@oup.co.uk

**The Shorter Oxford English Dictionary -- £95 -- 2 volumes -- 3792 pages
-- 3500 new words -- 500 new quotations -- 26 September 2002**

New authors in the fifth edition of the *Shorter Oxford English Dictionary*

Bronte Adams
Dorothy Allison
Barbara Anderson
Scoular Anderson
Jake Arnott
Andrea Ashworth
Kate Atkinson
Philip Baker
John Banville
Anthony Barnett
Colin Bateman
Ronan Bennett
Constance Beresford-Howe
Ian Stuart Black
Nicholas Blincoe
Marshall Blonsky
W. A. Bogart
Yasmin Boland
Jimmy Boyle
David Brin
Po Bronson
Christopher Brookmyre
Melvin Burgess
John Byrne
Alan Calder
Dennis Calvert
Tom Clancy
Corbet Clark
Brendan Cleary
Jarvis Cocker
Jonathan Coe
Laurie Colwin
Evan S. Connell Jr.
Patricia Daniels Cornwell
Douglas Coupland
Greg Cox
Richard Critchfield
Brian Cross
Elliot Currie
William Dalrymple

Russell T. Davies
William Deverell
Chris Dolan
Greg Donaldson
Roddy Doyle
Helen Dunmore
Imogen Edwards-Jones
James Ellroy
Ben Elton
Anne Enright
Lilie Ferrari
Helen Fielding
Cynthia Freeland
Michael Jan Friedman
Mark Frutkin
Stephen Fry
Donna Gaines
Janice Galloway
Alex Garland
William Gibson
Daphne Glazer
Giles Goodland
Jo-Ann Goodwin
Stephen Jay Gould
Philip Gourevitch
Wayne Grady
Ben Graham
John Grisham
Graham Hancock
Joanne Harris
James M. Hawes
Tristan Hawkins
Daniel Hecht
Jean Hegland
Katie Hickman
Charles Higson
Mark Hodkinson
Nick Hornby
Norman Hudson
James Hynes

Sarah Ingham
Graham Ison
Kathleen Gordon Jones
Joe Keenan
Kevin Kelly
Randall Kenan
AL Kennedy
Jessie Kesson
Marian Keyes
John King
Barbara Kingsolver
Laura Kinsale
Tom Kizzia
Hanif Kureishi
Aamer Hussein
Karen Ann Lawrence
Starling Lawrence
Kathy Lette
Shena Mackay
Robert Manning
Yann Martel
Antoinette May
Daniel McBain
Cormac McCarthy
Frank McCourt
Jay McInerney
Duncan McLean
Sheila Macleod
Andy McNab
Michael Medved
Barbara Mertz writing as Elizabeth Peters
Jeffrey Meyers
Jayne Miller
John Milne
Rohinton Mistry
David Mitchell
Dan Morgan
Doris Mortman
Michael Munro
Jeff Noon

Linda O'Keeffe
Robert Olver
Paul Ormerod
Pierre Ouellette
Jane Owen
Camille Paglia
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Darryl Pinckney
Joseph D Pistone
Faith Popcorn
Roy Porter
Neil Postman
Anka Radakovich
Ian Rankin
Gregory J. E. Rawlins
Eric Raymond

Kathy Reichs
Simon Reynolds
Tom Robbins
Andrew Roberts
Carl Thomas Rowan
JK Rowling
Jennifer Saunders
Miranda Sawyer
Rik Scarce
Simon Schama
Lynda Shorten
Iain Sinclair
Jane Smiley
Dava Sobel
Brent A. Staples
Bruce Sterling
Sophie Stewart
Walter Stewart
CJ Stone
Meera Syal

Hwee Hwee Tan
Quentin Tarantino
Sheri S. Tepper
Richard Topping
Jeff Torrington
Rose Tremain
Vernor Vinge
Vanessa Walters
Alan Warner
Terry Watada
Joe Walker
Irvine Welsh
Edmund White
Jim White
Nicholas Whittaker
Marianne Williamson
Annie Wood
Ronald Wright