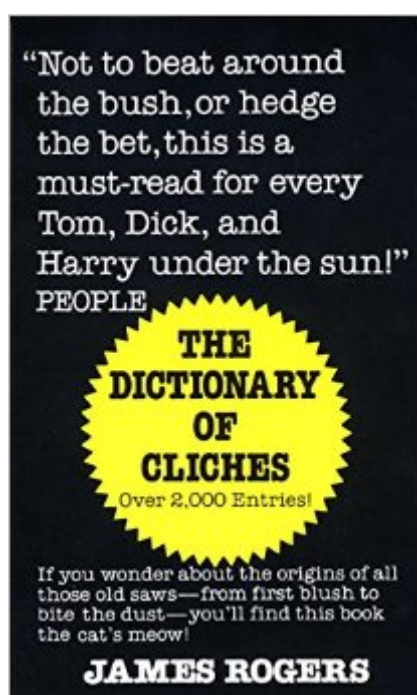


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# Dictionary Of Cliches: If You Wonder About The Origins Of All Those Old Saws--from First Blush To Bite The Dust--You'll Find This Book The Cat's Meow!



## Synopsis

"The best kind of reference book--one that amuses as it instructs. I fell for it hook, line, and sinker." CLEVELAND PLAIN DEALER R. R. A. NUTSHELL, here's a terrific A TO Z listing of the meanings and origins of over 2,000 common or particularly interesting clichés for everyone who delights in the pleasure of words.

## Book Information

Mass Market Paperback: 384 pages

Publisher: Ballantine Books (December 12, 1986)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0345338146

ISBN-13: 978-0345338143

Product Dimensions: 4.2 x 1 x 6.9 inches

Shipping Weight: 6.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.1 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (80 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #91,731 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #75 in [Books > Humor & Entertainment > Trivia & Fun Facts](#) #81 in [Books > Reference > Quotations](#) #135 in [Books > Reference > Words, Language & Grammar > Reference](#)

## Customer Reviews

This little jewel "comes on like gangbusters." This simile is a cliché, the bane of good writing; while they are acceptable in dialogue, in prose these truisms transform good writing into mediocre text. This particular cliché was coined during a 1940's radio program called "Gangbusters," which opened with gunfire and police sirens showing that the good guys were once more closing in on a gang of thugs. The term "Gangbusters" is a cliché in prose, but the scene is a backbone of action movies or TV scripts. How does a writer or editor keep the story from becoming boring by the over usage of clichés? That is where this dictionary comes in. As an example, I will string a few of the clichés together in the following paragraph. It may give the appearance of originality, but it is as old as the 'grim reaper' (1711). The humor is in the excessive number of clichés, but reading a story put together with clichés quickly becomes boring. I will insert the date the phrase became popular. 'Tom, Dick, and Harry' (1604) were 'fit as a fiddle' (1616), though Wally was 'dead as a doornail' (1350). No one thought about Wally 'in the heat of the battle' (1588) because it was 'do or die' (1809) since they all knew they 'bit off more than they could chew' (1878). Wally was as 'hard as nails' (1837), and had the 'bird's eye view' (18th century) perched, as he was, 'out on a limb'

(1897). They agreed that Wally should have seen 'that snake in the grass' (13th century) or 'smelled a rat' (1550) when Sam 'cast the first stone' (Bible reference) toward him. However, Wally always expected a 'square deal' (1633) because 'a friend in need is a friend indeed' (1275), and he had known Sam since 'time immemorial' (1189).

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