

QUICK CARD: *ELBERT'S BAD WORD*



Reference	<i>Elbert's Bad Word</i> , Audrey Wood. (1988)
Plot	A young boy “catches” a bad word, which leaps out unbidden at the first occasion, getting him in deep trouble, but a local wizard provides a cornucopia of strong, but inoffensive words as an effective remedy.
Setting	An elegant garden party in Elbert’s childhood.
Characters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elbert, a young and naïve boy • The bad word • Aunt Isabella, the opera singer • Chives, the butler • Madame Frittata • Sir Hilary • Elbert’s mother • The gardener/wizard • Cousin Rudolph
Conflict	<p>Man vs. Himself- Elbert must govern his tongue and choose some more appropriate words.</p> <p>Man vs. Nature- Elbert is afflicted with the bad word, which floats by infecting him.</p>
Theme	Strong and powerful words diminish the strength of foul language, supplying effective means of communicating strong emotion without offense.
Literary Devices	<p>Personification – the bad word shape shifts to become an insect and then a monster.</p> <p>Imagery – Words that “crackle” and “sparkle” mixed with honey and flour make a potent “remedy” for Elbert’s foul mouth.</p>