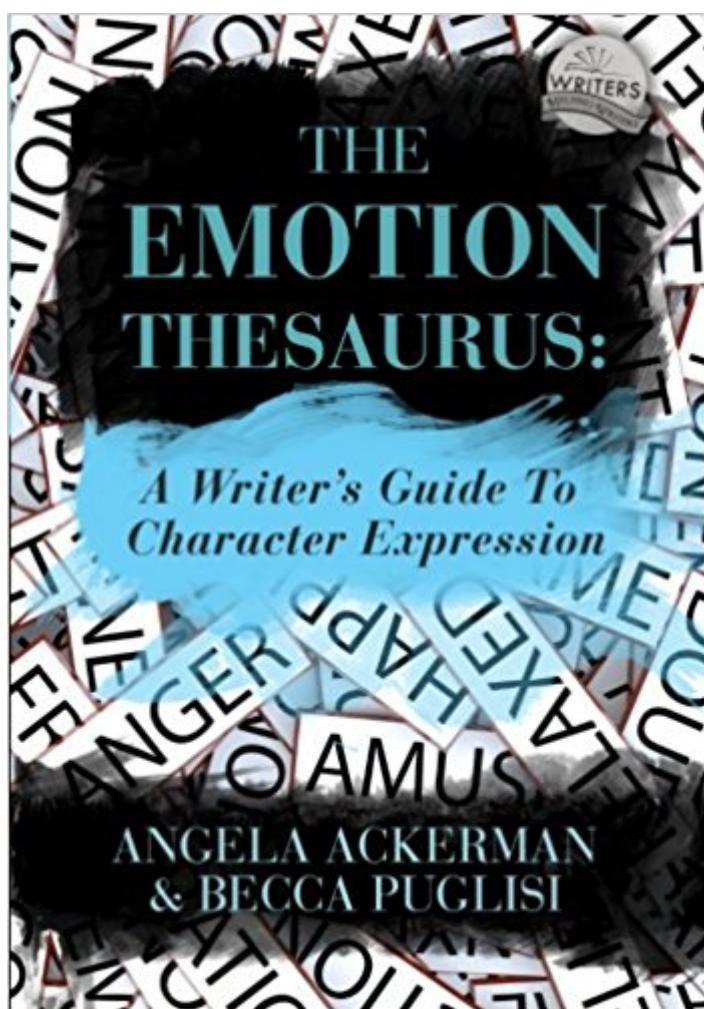


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# The Emotion Thesaurus: A Writer's Guide To Character Expression



## **Synopsis**

One of the biggest problem areas for writers is conveying a character's emotions to the reader in a unique, compelling way. This book comes to the rescue by highlighting 75 emotions and listing the possible body language cues, thoughts, and visceral responses for each. Using its easy-to-navigate list format, readers can draw inspiration from character cues that range in intensity to match any emotional moment. The Emotion Thesaurus also tackles common emotion-related writing problems and provides methods to overcome them. This writing tool encourages writers to show, not tell emotion and is a creative brainstorming resource for any fiction project.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

One of the challenges a fiction writer faces, especially when prolific, is coming up with fresh ways to describe emotions. This handy compendium fills that need. It is both a reference and a brainstorming tool, and one of the resources I'll be turning to most often as I write my own books. - James Scott Bell, bestselling author of *Deceived* and *Plot & Structure*

Angela Ackerman and Becca Puglisi are bestselling authors, writing coaches, and international speakers. Their books are available in five languages, are sourced by US universities, and are used by novelists, screenwriters, editors, and psychologists around the world. Angela and Becca also co-founded their popular Writers Helping Writers site, a hub where authors can hone their craft, as well as One Stop For Writers, an innovative online library built to help writers elevate their

storytelling.

\*Note (7/13/12): I located the linked navigation a while back, and it's actually very well done. Excellent. Forgot to update the review. I'm rounding up because my only complaint is that I couldn't find a linked list/index to go from one entry to the next, back, or otherwise. I am going to search around the book to see if it does indeed exist and to see if it merely escaped me on my first pass. I'll knock off half a star for that, but I'm going to round up because this truly is a wonderful writing aid. (I'll amend my review if I locate it or if someone points it out.) A wide variety of emotions are given in this book, each of the entries supplying information on the overall effects each emotional state has on people, from what others might notice or see to what a person might feel inside. Thus, it's a wonderful tool for examples in any point of view and wonderfully supports the modern, accepted style: third person limited. However, this tool could just as easily be used for any style or point of view. In my opinion, this guide could be useful to both new and experienced writers of fiction. For the former, this is an amazing resource for learning how to write convincing characters and see how emotions translate into writing (then, hopefully, provoking sympathy, empathy, or whatever feeling you wish to evoke in the reader). For the latter, I would say that this can easily be a go-to reference for experienced writers to shake things up a bit and to avoid the long hours of research it would require to do the legwork already done in this guide. I've loaded this book onto my Kindle, and it's ready to go, along with my thesaurus, dictionary, and other reference material. This is one book that will be permanently loaded onto my device.

We know by now the "Show, Don't Tell" idiom professed by almost every how-to book on writing fiction. Where we stumble is in the 'showing' of emotions, especially showing the same emotion in varying degrees of intensity, and often end-up writing clichÃ©s. The Emotion Thesaurus breaks new ground by providing alternatives to body language cues, thoughts and visceral reactions. Unlike a word thesaurus that we open at a specific page to find alternatives for a word, this book can be read in its entirety not just to derive inspiration, but also to improve your storehouse of 'emotion descriptions'. But if all this information is available free on the web, why buy the book? I bought it because I prefer to shut down my internet connection while I write and edit, to prevent distractions and the book comes in handy. Also for those times late in the night when I'd rather reach for this book than boot up the laptop and fire up the modem.

I love it. Great idea for a helpful writing tool. I was expecting something with examples in written

prose, but this might be better. The organization of the book is ideal for me. I'm editing a manuscript now. Each time I identify a place where I might better show how a character is feeling, I consult the book. For example, my character is excited to show he can do the job, so I turn to "Eager" in my Emotion Thesaurus and see if there is something to describe his actions that is better than what I've already used. I can't say that there are many suggestions I haven't thought of before, but having them all in one place to scan through is wonderful! It was worth the \$10. I heard about the book from an author's blog, something about words to delete from your writing, I think.

After publishing 30+ nonfiction books, I am now working on my first fiction story. I have done a TON of research and several of my author friends and colleagues highly recommended this book. I have fallen in love with this resource and know it will be heavily used throughout my fiction writing career. What it includes:

- 1) Common writing problems (introductory text)
- 2) Writing tips throughout the book (usually after each emotion)
- 2) List of 75 different emotions
- 3) For each emotion they give you: the definition, physical signals, internal sensations, mental responses, cues of acute or long-term use of the emotion, other emotions it may escalate to, cues of suppressing that emotion

How you can use this resource:

- 1) Read over several entries each day to simply familiarize yourself with them for your writing.
- 2) When stuck in your writing, look up the emotion you are trying to describe for inspiration.
- 3) When editing, use the emotion thesaurus to bring added depth to your scenes.

I'm sure there are tons of other ways to use this great resource, but those are just a few of the ways I am currently using it. I highly recommend that you get a copy and that you put it to use often!

Not exactly what I was expecting, but it's a great source for expressing certain emotions a character is feeling. When you go to write how a character is feeling, the physical movements can really relay to a reader what the character is actually feeling and it's easier for them to understand. This is exactly what I needed, but I do wish it would have a few more emotions added to it.

"How did I survive without this?" I squealed dramatically as I burst into spontaneous laughter! Yes, I LOVE this book! My Kindle sits next to me as I write. Need to show an emotion? I find the emotion and touch the word and WHAMMO! An entire list of physical signals shows up. Then I see the internal sensations (A heart that seems to freeze, then pound), and then the mental responses (momentarily forgetting all else), and so much more. As it says in the book, studies show that 93% of all communication is nonverbal. Show the emotion!

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