

In *Reading Law: The Interpretation of Legal Texts*, Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia, the architect of modern textualism, has teamed up with the distinguished lexicographer and usage expert, Bryan A. Garner, to write a thick, hard-punching, and highly readable book. It is an odd-couple partnership in some ways—Scalia, the witty, pugnacious, conservative icon; Garner, the tweedy, scholarly, pro-choice, pro-gay-marriage wordsmith. Yet the authors’ strengths (and weaknesses) complement each other in a kind of literary and dialectical feng shui. While the book may not be the “great event in American legal culture” that Judge Frank Easterbrook touts it to be in his glowing Foreword, it is fair to say that it may become a minor classic. This review examines some of the strengths and weaknesses of the book.