



Le Petit Robert

Essentially, this French dictionary works by giving an analogy and then a quotation. If we look up the word “camera,” we find: “See television, see image,” etc. Quotations are provided from classical authors through contemporary ones to illustrate the different meanings of the definitions. One can play the same game with my park and garden, which still don’t exist. If we are in front of the word “camera” and it says: “See television,” we must go to section “T,” so we’ll walk and maybe we’ll forget television, but we’ll learn other words on the way. It’s like being in a library. You could be looking for a book on television and then end up in the cooking section. You forget, but you learn a lot of things this way. I used the mirror because when you are looking at a mirror page, because of the perforations where I took out words, you can see through to the mirror on the other side. You can see your own face. So, in a rather metaphorical manner, the spectator is being cited: he is part of the dictionary definition. In a way, he is surrounded by words, just as he will be one day when the park exists .But I’m not overly fascinated with mirrors. The page has acoustics in it – it gives a suitable resonance.

