



ABC: a Child's First Alphabet Book

Alison Jay

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B is for *boy* . . . but in Alison Jay's ABC, **B** also stands for basket, beehive, and *butterfly*. Featuring a simple format and bright paintings, this acclaimed alphabet book is perfect for toddlers. Older readers are encouraged to look and look again as each spread reveals a new perspective on what has come before and intriguing hints of what's still to come.

ABC: a Child's First Alphabet Book Details

Date : Published June 2nd 2005 by Dutton Books for Young Readers (first published September 15th 2003)
ISBN : 9780525475248
Author : Alison Jay
Format : Board Book 32 pages
Genre : Childrens, Picture Books, Animals, Art, Fiction

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From Reader Review ABC: a Child's First Alphabet Book for online ebook

Waits says

Quite possibly the best ABC book ever made.

Alyssa Crowley says

Jay, Alison. ABC A Child's First Alphabet Book. Dutton Children's Books, 2003.

ABC engages young children and allows for the connection between letter and word for the entire alphabet. The entire alphabet is included and depicted by something that is easy for young children to connect to. As the title states, this is most likely for children's first acquisition of the alphabet and is most likely one of the first times children are introduced to the English alphabet. It is likely that young children would be able to connect to all of the pictures in some way or another and are likely to have encountered them at some point or another.

Reader Response/Classroom Connections: This is not likely to be used to heavily in classrooms, however if they were they would most likely be found in pre-k. Teachers could use this as an introduction to the alphabet and then create a classroom alphabet to be displayed and used for reference. Students could look at the book and the wall to reference and learn their alphabet. I think that this would also be very beneficial to use at home. My parents used books like this with me when I was a young child, and I feel that this is very beneficial to children's academic growth. It is also possible that each day or week could be devoted to a specific letter within the book and then activities could diverge from each individual page. Students could create projects and participate in activities that correlate with whatever object is depicted for each letter.

Olivia Mullen says

I like this booker younger children learning the alphabet because the bright pictures and format of the book is perfect to engage the child into the reading. I think this book would be really effective for the child because of the word choices used to make the connection from the letter of the alphabet to how it is used in the word.

Sue Winson says

I am a big fan of Alison Jay's stunning illustrations. They are dreamy, colourful, surreal. Each page is a beautiful fairy tale and fable of lovely animals, objects, sceneries and backgrounds. The only incomplete thing is that for the version that I read, it doesn't show the capital and small letters of the alphabet (unlike some other versions of this same book that do). But this does not change how much I love this book.

The concept of the book reminded me slightly of Animalia by Graeme Base. Each page is hidden with various objects starting with a particular letter. Each page is an adventure of the game of I-Spy. "a is for

apple", we see a giant apple with a little ant crawling on the leaf, and an airplane flying past in the clear blue sky. "b is for balloon", 24-month old little-AJ pointed at the black and yellow bumblebee and shouted "bee". There are also a butterfly, a ball, and a giant hot-air balloon in the same page.

On closer observation, the readers will notice two main characters that keep appearing throughout the book, making this a wonderful story about an explorer man and a painter woman. The woman and man bid farewell to each other when the man took off his adventure in a hot air balloon. The man visited an elephant, an ice-cream stall at the beach, a golden lion, discovered some treasure, and had a cute picnic with a panda enjoying an array of "p" foods (pie, pear, pumpkin, bell pepper).

The woman stayed home, read a book in a room with a koala, kangaroo and key, painted a picture for an owl, before reunited with the man who came home in his yacht with his newfound animal friends. The happy couple rid on a zebra together in the last double-spread page, with a zoo of animals watching.

Each page also gives us a glimpse of what is coming up in the next page. E.g. The woman handed the giant owl a painting of a panda, whereas a quilted rug can be seen in the page for "p". Such concept might be a little too complicated for young kids who are just starting their lessons on alphabet, but adults and older kids will find this fun.

Overall, I think this is an amazing and absolutely beautiful book about alphabet.

Blog review here: <https://storypleasemummy.wordpress.co...>

Shelby Wright says

Title: *ABC: a Child's First Alphabet Book*

Author: Alison Jay

Illustrator: N/A

Genre: Alphabet Book

Theme(s): Alphabet, Animals

Opening line/sentence: "Aa a is for apple"

Brief Book Summary: The alphabet is used from start to finish using letter to picture correspondence. Each letter is accompanied by a common word or phrase that would be easy for children to associate and connect to. Illustrations are well done, but contain a cracked appearance, which is a unique addition to the text.

Professional Recommendation/Review #1: Horn Book Guide Online: Jay, Alison *ABC: A Child's First Alphabet Book*

(3) PS One central image ("a is for apple") dominates each page; it's surrounded by alphabetically appropriate objects (an ant, an artist). The hint about each upcoming letter (e.g., a balloon floats behind the apple) makes this a sophisticated "first" alphabet book, but don't hold that against it. The accomplished illustrations are treated with what appears to be a crackling glaze.

Professional Recommendation/Review #2: Jessica Bailey (The Lorgnette - Heart of Texas Reviews (Vol. 18, No. 4))

There are many alphabet books but not many as engaging as this one. The words are very simple. Each page has the capital and lower case letter and a word that begins with that letter, like Mm is for moon. The paintings are very clear and colorful and not only have the main object that begins with the letter but also, almost like an I Spy book, there are other pictures of words that begin with that letter. On the Mm page, there is a large moon, but there is also a man with a map and a moose and mountains in the background. For young children, it would be a great book to encourage talk and build vocabulary, and for the older school age children, it could be used to find words with the same beginning sounds and letter recognition.

Response to Two Professional Reviews: Both reviews note the overall format of the book, which pairs letters with a simple word (Aa, apple). Both reviews also note something that I did not pick up on while reading, which was the "I Spy" like feature within the pages. On each page is a clue of what the next letter's word will be. For example, on the A-apple page there is a hot air balloon floating in the corner, which is the next letter (Bb-Balloon). Overall, both reviews are positive and I would agree that the book is a good starter book with a twist (the hidden images).

Evaluation of Literary Elements: This book is a great text for early readers as it contains simple words that children can easily recognize and point out without having to know how to read the words. The style of the book really comes alive in the illustrations which have a unique cracked appearance as well as "clues" within each picture. There is no real plot within the book, as the words do not necessarily connect to one another in any way (besides through the illustrations).

Consideration of Instructional Application: This book could easily be used in a preschool/Kindergarten setting with an "I Spy" activity, or used to introduce prediction. This book could also be used as an example alphabet book. After reading, children could make their own alphabet book, using pictures and words that are most relevant to them.

Hannah Goble says

This beautifully illustrated, colorful picture book is one that I believe deserves a great rating. The book is geared towards very young children to help them relate letters to words and animals. Apart from the use of letters, what really makes this book stand out from the rest is the illustrations. While each letter has a large picture of an animal or object that starts with that letter, it also functions as a kind of "hide and seek" game, in which you can discover hidden objects that start with that letter all over the pages. This is a book that I would recommend from children as young as 2 to as old as 6. It would be a perfect addition to a classroom, library, or as a tool to help your child get an early start at learning at home.

Molly says

Beach and animal themed ABC book

Kathryn Dykes says

Jay, Alison. ABC A Child's First Alphabet Book. Dutton Children's Books, 2003. 32 p. Gr. Pr-K & K

Plot Summary: From apple to zoo and everything in between Alison Jay fills her alphabet book with many symbolic items that coincide with each letter. Be sure to look closely because there are hidden clues between the pages that hint at what to expect next. Each time a child flips through the pages they are sure to discover something new, tucked away like a secret treasure. The vintage looking illustrations fill the pages with bright colors that captivate young readers and make learning vocabulary and their ABC's a breeze.

Classroom Connections: The alphabet book can be utilized in many different ways, such as a transition helper when moving from one activity to another, which will keep the teacher's class running smoothly. After flipping through the pages of this alphabet book in a Pr-K classroom setting, the students will be

excited to share with you what they've learned. The teacher can then ask each student to name a letter and a word that begins with that letter before dismissing them to lunch, play time, recess, etc. In a kindergarten classroom this book can be paired with a matching game. The teacher can create a multiple cards with pictures of animals, food, toys, etc. and have the children match them up with the correct letter. The game can easily be tailored to fit the needs of each individual child by limiting the number of cards to match up, then gradually increasing the amount as they master their ABC's and matching skills.

Jasmine Jacobs says

The pictures in this book are amazing! Perfect for capturing the attention of toddlers. The book also gives beginning letter sounds for multiple objects.

Joshua Arvey says

Title: ABC A Child's First Alphabet Book
Author/Illustrator: Alison Jay
Genre: Concept
Themes: Picture Book, ABC

Plot Summery: ABC: A Child's First Alphabet Book is a concept book that teaches kids the different letters of the English alphabet. In this book Alison Jay came up with great looking pictures and identified each letter with an object. In her pictures she used foreshadowing by including the next letters picture somewhere on the previous page. There were a few letters that I believe could be misinterpreted by students. The first is on the page for "r" where she uses a rabbit. For some students they do not use the word rabbit but instead bunny. The other was on page "x", where she says x marks the spot. I believe that there is better words she could have used such as x-ray or xylophone. Overall I do think this is a good book to help students to start learning their alphabet.

Literary Merit: Style. ABC: A Child's First Alphabet Book Reader had a good style. The writer chose appropriate material and pictures for this story. The pages were not load with a lot of words, keeping it simple considering the age of the readers that will be using this book. To me the author created a calm mood setting. The pictures were not bright nor were they dark and gloomy. Alison Jay did not choose any derogatory words or pictures in the story which I believe is very important.

Response / Classroom Connections: To create an activity for the students from this book is give each student 1-3 letters and they create a page for that letter by giving a word and picture for that specific letter. We can then combine the pages and create our own class ABC book.

Alisha says

I read this for my son's reading time.

Evie Milburn says

Title: *ABC: A Child's First Alphabet Book*

Author: Alison Jay

Illustrator:

Genre: Alphabet Book

Theme(s): Letters, Animals, Nature

Opening line/sentence: A is for apple.

Brief Book Summary: This is an alphabet book that goes through the pages listed the a letter in the alphabet, in the correct order, with something that starts with that letter. A lot of the listed images are of animals and the pages clearly illustrated what the letter word is.

Professional Recommendation/Review #1: Beverley Fahey (Children's Literature)

There is more here than meets the eye in this clever and creative alphabet book. Anyone who enjoys a visual challenge will eagerly pore over the pages of handsome illustrations and gleefully point out the details the artist has so shrewdly included. Deceptively simple in appearance and exquisite in design, it is the perfect blending of artwork, and with minimum text. Each letter is represented by a large object, such as a cow for the letter C, but the sharp eye will notice a car, a field of cabbage, chickens, and a cat within the pastoral scene. The very perceptive reader will find a dog, a hint for the next letter of the alphabet. The I Spy game is further heightened, as children begin to look for reoccurring characters. The explorer from the E page buys and ice cream on I and is seen examining a map on L. A lady galloping on horseback on H is later seen on the back of a unicorn on U. In the final scene the lady and man and the menagerie of animals encountered along the way are seen racing towards the zoo. The illustrations have a vintage crackled look, adding to the folk art style. Full of whimsy and surprise, this is a treasure book.

Professional Recommendation/Review #2: The Horn Book Guide Online

One central image ("a is for apple") dominates each page; it's surrounded by alphabetically appropriate objects (an ant, an artist). The hint about each upcoming letter (e.g., a balloon floats behind the apple) makes this a sophisticated "first" alphabet book, but don't hold that against it. The accomplished illustrations are treated with what appears to be a crackling glaze.

Response to Two Professional Reviews: After reading these reviews, I went back and reread the alphabet book. I took more notice to the illustrations and closely examined how the illustrations also depicted objects that started with that letter, as well. It's a very clever put together book and to point these images out to children could really enhance their learning of the alphabet.

Evaluation of Literary Elements: There is one thing I do not love about this book and that would have to be the page for the letter X. The page states "X marks the spot!" To me this page throws off the whole idea of the book. I personally think this page could be very confusing to children. I would of rather them used "X is for xylophone" or even "X is for X-ray" to stick with the idea of portraying an image and word that starts with the corresponding letter. Other than that, this book is fabulous. The illustrations are phenomenal and it is easy to see that the author put a lot of work into her very clever illustrations to connect them to other pages in the book.

Consideration of Instructional Application: I would use this book to help teach my children the alphabet. Then I would use the selected large objects used for each letter in this book and place them around the classroom next to the corresponding letter. Eventually, it would be neat to make a felt board for this book and see if the class can remember the alphabet in order by recognizing the large corresponding objects.

Oanh says

We all love this one. Almost-18-Month-Old is starting to 'read' this herself by either saying the word if she knows and can say it (Apple) or making animal sounds (Moo) at the appropriate page. She does a very good

Owl impression.

Nicolina DiMascia says

Title: ABC A Child's First Alphabet Book

Author: Alison Jay

Genre: ABC book

Theme(s): Alphabet, Letters

Opening line/sentence:

A is for apple.

Brief Book Summary:

Every page in this book includes a different letter and a different thing that begins with that letter. It is written in the same verse for every letter so it is predictable as well.

Professional Recommendation/Review #1:

Kathleen Odean (Booklist, Oct. 15, 2003 (Vol. 100, No. 4))

Similar in look and concept to Jay's *Picture This* (2000), this imaginative alphabet book offers visual clues to track and a story to tease out in its beautiful paintings. Each picture focuses on one large item that corresponds to a letter in the alphabet, named below the picture. For "C is for cow," a cow with an elongated body arches across a sky spreading over a landscape dotted with other items having names beginning with the letter C (a car and a cat, for example), which show up again in later pictures. The woman driving the car appears in many pictures, as does a man, first seen in a hot-air balloon, who goes on a trip and corresponds with the woman. Older children will flip from page to page, finding the simple story, drawing connections, and naming the letter-related objects. Younger ones can simply enjoy the delightful paintings with their crackle-glazed folk art look and touches of humor, including a bespectacled giraffe trimming topiary, an owl wearing a pence nez, and other animals who appear together for the last letter and word, the inevitable "z is for zoo."

Professional Recommendation/Review #2:

Kirkus (Kirkus Reviews, August 15, 2003 (Vol. 71, No. 16))

Many of the elements that appear in Jay's whimsically mysterious paintings—the oversized fruit, the winsome blue crescent moon, the elongated figures with plump midsections and attenuated limbs—reappear in this abecedarian. Each page has the appropriate letter in upper and lower case, and a simple phrase: "a is for apple / b is for balloon" and so on. But besides the named words, each page includes a number of words not in the text: "i is for ice cream" has an island and an iguana; "p is for panda" has said panda at a picnic with pears, pie, a peach, and so on. In addition, there is one item that belongs with the next letter, hinting at what's to come. All the extra words are listed at the back. In Jay's signature crackled-paint surface and limpid pure colors, she includes an artist girl and an explorer boy; they have enough to do that an alert child (or adult reader) can mess around with inventing a story once the letters become familiar. Very, very nice.

Response to Two Professional Reviews:

Besides the fact that this book was such an easy read, I really enjoyed the list of sight words that is located in the back of the book. Like the second reviewer, the extra words illustrated on each page left room for discussion for those reading the book. I thought this would be a good book to read to a class and give them extra time to look at the pictures.

Evaluation of Literary Elements:

The sentences were easy to read and straight to the point of each letter. There was not really a setting or plot because of the layout of the book, which was just stating a noun for each letter. But, I think this layout served its purpose.

Consideration of Instructional Application:

I would read this book aloud to a younger class who is learning their alphabet. After each letter, I would ask the children if they know anything else that begins with that letter. I can also show them the pictures and point out the other items in the picture that begin with that specific letter.

Jessica says

Awards:

Grade: Toddler

Summary: An ABC book that focuses on the basic units of the alphabet. It is geared towards toddlers allowing them to experience the alphabet early on in life. Also including gorgeous illustrations.

Review: While I initially felt that an alphabet book may be too intense for early toddlerhood, this book proves me wrong. This book is simple without being boring. And the illustrations are lovely.

Uses:

- Teaches the alphabet
 - Assists in print concepts
 - Assists with sounds connection to letters
-