



Alphabatics

Suse MacDonald

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A is for ark. But did you know that if you turn an A upside down and round the point out a little, it becomes an ark? B is for balloon. But did you know that if you blow it up really big, the hole in the middle floats away like a balloon?

In this wonderfully creative alphabet book, letters are pulled, twisted, reversed, and curled until they become part of what they represent. F becomes a fish, and Y becomes a yak!

Young readers will be fascinated with the way the letters evolve into the final creation. They'll never look at the alphabet the same way again.

Alphabatics Details

Date : Published December 1st 1986 by Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers (first published 1986)

ISBN : 9780027615203

Author : Suse MacDonald

Format : Hardcover 64 pages

Genre : Childrens, Picture Books

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From Reader Review Alphabatics for online ebook

Andrea says

This ABC book shows each letter transforming into the word depicted on the page. It was a cute and simple, but not over the top.

Mitchell says

Caldecott Honor picture book. Yet another alphabet book. The idea was a good one, transform the letter itself into a word. But to me it ended up feeling cold and boring. The art did nothing for me. The word choice was uninteresting. And yet not bad, I just didn't like it.

Susan Erickson says

Alphabatics is a great book for children who are just learning their abc's. Cute book for young children.

Dollerk1 says

This alphabet book is truly amazing. Suse MacDonald does a great job transforming a letter into a picture that begins with that letter. It's a fun book for children and I believe children would remember more words by visually seeing the letters change into great objects. This is a great informational book.

Gabriella Bumbaca says

Genre: Informational Non-Fiction

Grade Range: K-1

Review:

This is a very cool book that children will definitely love! I enjoyed watching the letters be transformed into the word from that letter. It's a great review of the alphabet for the students and can help them get excited about the alphabet.

Dolly says

I am continuing my quest to read all of the Caldecott Honor books. Otherwise, I probably would not have read this one. Our girls are far too old for it and the cover didn't really appeal to me.

The illustrations are blocky and vibrantly colorful, with a lot of white space to focus the attention on the

mutating letters.

Overall, it's a basic alphabet book. Nothing more. I'm sure it will appeal to very young children, but I've seen more interesting attempts.

Kathryn says

Alphabatics Loved this one! So delightful, creative, interesting, involving. I really see why this received a Caldecott Honor. It's fascinating and fun to see how the letters morph into what they depict (for example, the letter "C" rotates and becomes the smile on a Clown; the letter "K" floats up and billows out to become a kite; the letter "T" sprouts extra branches and leaves to become a tree).

Maria Rowe says

• 1987 Caldecott Honor Book •

I thought this was cute. There's 5 pictures for each letter, and it goes from the letter shape to the shape of an object. It was fun to look at and I thought the art was well done. There were a few times where there was a big jump between the 4th and 5th pictures, but overall the metamorphosis was pretty good. I had to do an art project like this when I was younger, and this might be a good book for younger kids to read then do a similar drawing.

As usual with these alphabet books, I felt like the word selection was really random. This book is mostly animals, with a jack-in-the-box, xylophone, house and a few other things tossed in. Why not just stick with all animals, or all all toys, or all instruments?

Materials used: unlisted

Typeface used: unlisted

Liz says

A clever alphabet book where the letter is transformed into the object. Very fun.

David says

Alphabatics by Suse MacDonald is a creative alphabet book where each letter is twisted, curled, pulled or reversed until they morph into an object starting with that letter.

MacDonald's illustrations portray the alphabet while creatively shaping the letters into different objects. My favorite images are ark, dragon, fish, house, kite, nest, plane, and swan.

Both upper and lower case letters are shown. While some of the tranformations are more of a stretch than

others, the creativity shown here could spark some art class projects. With just one word per page this is a good choice for beginning readers, since the image shown is the word printed. A 1987 Caldecott Honor book, this is recommended for school and public library collections. 3.5 stars.

For ages 4 to 6, alphabet, beginner-readers, and fans of Suse MacDonald.

Allison says

This is a truly a unique alphabet book. I like how each letter morphs into the item that the letter starts with. For example, on page 1, The “A” changes color and water is added to the bottom of the box. Then the “A” is flipped upside down and then a little house structure is added to the top. Then on the next page, animals are added and the word “ark” is added the boat that appeared in the place of the “A.” It is in the same format for every letter. I really liked the fact that they not only show the two forms of the letter but an example of a word or object that starts with that letter. My favorite letter was the “d” transforming into a dragon. I thought this was a great way to show the correlation between the letter and words beginning with that letter. I really enjoyed the bright colors and the fun pictures. They made for an entertaining read. The book is as old as me but it is still a great read for children now because it is still relevant. This book would be appropriate for ages 3-5 approximately.

Becky says

The author is so clever in how she turns each letter into the picture.

midnightfaerie says

High on the list of all of my kid's favorites, this wonderful book uses unusual pictures to form the letters of the alphabet. Even if you already know the orders of the letters, we all had fun trying to guess how the pictures would form on each page. Highly recommended!

Diane says

The letters slowly transform into part of the picture which illustrates the letter: the hold in “b” becomes a balloon and the “y” turns into the head of a yak.

Bright colors, fascinating illustrations - pretty cool book.

Cassandra Gelvin says

Intro to ASCII art.

It's pretty simplistic. It's an alphabet book. There are so many of these out there, and it's very hard to do write. It's hard to do them decently, even. This is a decent one. But it's really not more interesting than any other non-terrible alphabet book out there.

Basically, it has a two-page spread of each letter and an object whose name starts with that letter. For example, "I" is for "insect," and it shows a lowercase "i" turning into an insect, with the stem splitting in half and the dot is the head, and the split part becomes the wings, and it gradually changes into an insect. It's kind of an interesting idea. I think rather than a book, it might be better as a series of posters. It's more like an art installation than a book. The artistic transformation is nice. I'm glad I read it, but I don't need to read it again. Check it out from the library.

For more children's book reviews, see my website at <http://www.drttmk.com>.
