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# Once Upon An Alphabet: Short Stories For All The Letters



## Synopsis

Perfect for gift-giving, here is THE alphabet book to top all others, an over-sized work of brilliance from the illustrator of the #1 New York Times bestselling *The Day the Crayons Quit*. If words make up the stories and letters make up the words, then stories are made up of letters. In this menagerie we have stories made of words, made FOR all the letters. The most inventive and irresistible book of the year spans a mere 26 letters (don't they all!) and 112 pages. From an Astronaut who's afraid of heights, to a Bridge that ends up burned between friends, to a Cup stuck in a cupboard and longing for freedom, *Once Upon an Alphabet* is a creative tour de force from A through Z. Slyly funny in a way kids can't resist, and gorgeously illustrated in a way readers of all ages will pour over, this series of interconnected stories and characters explores the alphabet in a way that will forever raise the bar. In *Once Upon an Alphabet*, #1 New York Times bestseller Oliver Jeffers has created a stunning collection of words and artwork that is a story book, alphabet book, and gorgeously designed art book all in one. Praise for *ONCE UPON AN ALPHABET: An* Best Book of 2014! A Publishers Weekly Best Book of the Year! A School Library Journal Best Book of the Year! A New York Times Bestseller! "The silly, spare, slightly surreal text occasionally rhymes and endlessly surprises. An utterly delightful alphabet book." Kirkus Review, starred review "With wry humor, equally droll ink illustrations, and a solid dose of alliteration, Jeffers creates delightful mini-narratives for each letter of the alphabet." Publishers Weekly, starred review "An altogether stimulating, surprising, and satisfying reading experience." School Library Journal, starred review "Whimsical, funny, occasionally tragic, and highly entertaining, this collection of (sometimes) interlocking tales is brilliantly inventive." Horn Book, starred review "Jeffers knows how to catch the attention of his young audience while challenging their imagination, intellect and vocabulary. This whimsical exploration of letters and language begs to be read over and over again." BookPage "Handsome, humorous and clad in bright tomato-red, [this] is the sort of book you may want to rush into the arms of imaginative, good-natured children between 4 and 10 years old. [T]his is no traditional abecedarian exercise. The stories are wonderfully varied, sometimes philosophical and often end surprisingly; the drawings are just as quirky and unpredictable." The Wall Street Journal "[W]itty from A to Z . . . no one would blame you for having a copy even if there are no kids in the house. Think of it as Edward Gorey for the preschool set and their hip parents." The Washington Post

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: AD630L (What's this?)

Hardcover: 112 pages

Publisher: Philomel Books; First Edition edition (October 14, 2014)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0399167919

ISBN-13: 978-0399167911

Product Dimensions: 9.2 x 0.7 x 12.6 inches

Shipping Weight: 2.1 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (174 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #9,271 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #28 in [Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Short Story Collections](#) #29 in [Books > Children's Books > Early Learning > Basic Concepts > Alphabet](#) #698 in [Books > Children's Books > Humor](#)

Age Range: 3 - 5 years

Grade Level: Preschool - Kindergarten

## Customer Reviews

I'd like to start by saying I love this book. It has wonderful "Oliver Jeffers" type illustrations, and, if your kids read any of his other stuff, the penguin and the boy from "Lost and Found" make an appearance, as does the bear from "The Great Paper Caper." I love that this book doesn't dumb things down. Yes, the book uses the word "molecule". There is no reason why you can't expose a preschooler to the word "molecule". The stories are strange, but good. There are a lot of metaphors that can be explained literally or in their metaphorical sense, if you have time to sit with your child and enjoy explaining things to them. Every page has a lot going on, and you can spend forever with your child looking for things that start with that letter, or talking about the pictures, or finishing the letters' story. You might think each letter gets a full story- they don't. Some are just one page blurbs, and I didn't really care for that, which is why I gave it four stars instead of five. Also, it's petty, but the dust jacket for this book was so insanely bright that I had to take it off. So beware. This book is strangely aged. You are not buying an "A is for Apple" board book. However, my nieces and nephews range from 2 to 11, and they all loved this book for different reasons. My two year old niece liked looking for the letters and the different pictures that start with those letters. My 8 year old nephew liked that Vincent has an attitude problem and sits in the closet. My 11 year old niece liked the cucumber that falls into the sea, and the owl and the whale that are detectives. I absolutely do not understand why people are calling this book "dark" or "morbid".

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