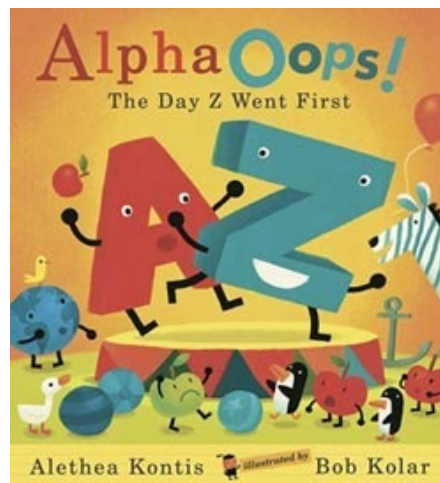




AlphaOops!: The Day Z Went First

Alethea Kontis , Bob Kolar (Illustrations)

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It's backwards! It's inside out! It's every letter for itself! This laugh-out-loud romp is not your average alphabet book!

Z is tired of always having to be last when the alphabet family lines up. He is demanding fair and equal treatment! The letters (more or less) agree to go backwards, but it's not long before P has some ideas of his own. And so does H, for that matter. In fact, it seems as if almost every letter has a different opinion about how the alphabet should be arranged. It's chaos! It's pandemonium! And it's definitely not as easy as A-B-C! Filled with visually humorous details, Bob Kolar's colorful illustrations are the perfect foil for Alethea Kontis's snappy story about the comic confusion that comes when the letters of the alphabet, like a class of unruly children, step out of order and show that each one has a mind of its own.

AlphaOops!: The Day Z Went First Details

Date : Published July 10th 2012 by Candlewick (first published January 1st 2006)

ISBN : 9780763660840

Author : Alethea Kontis , Bob Kolar (Illustrations)

Format : Paperback 48 pages

Genre : Childrens, Picture Books, Humor, Storytime

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From Reader Review AlphaOops!: The Day Z Went First for online ebook

Randie D. Camp, M.S. says

A fun twist/variation of an alphabet book. The letters each have their own quirks and there are opportunities to discuss sharing, feelings, taking turns, etc. Bright illustrations, humorous dialogue, and side stories make this a great book!

Mama Bibliosoph says

Z is tired of always going last when the alphabet letters line up and put on a show. So instead, Z insists on going first and all the letters start to show up backwards. But soon, P shows up out of (reverse) order and it becomes a chaotic free-for-all.

What I like most about this is the chaos. This is another book that plays with the rigidity of the alphabet's order and it does so in a playful, humorous way. Still, a child who really wants to track what's going on can follow along the bottom of the page. The "new" order is indicated there as the book progresses.

The visual details are great, and my kids love labeling all the things that start with the various letters. But what sells me on this book is the sight of my kids laughing. Both of them really get the overall joke. Humor based on things being out of place is an important type of humor to get (it comes up a lot). It's nice to see how easily anxiety/rigidity can be funneled into laughter with a skilled writer and illustrator at the helm.

That said, I do skip over or heavily edit down a lot of the back-and-forth comic chatting between the letters as they discuss who's turn is next and why and how unusual this all is. These parts involve a large number of characters and are just too confusing for my kids to track.

I review books for children from the perspective of a parent of kids with autism. The review above is from a longer blog post about great books for kids with autism who REALLY love the alphabet:
<http://www.lineupthebooks.com/obsesse...>

Jo Oehrlein says

Z is tired of going last, so he demands to be first.

It starts out fine, but then other letters want to not be in their normal middle spot either. Things are all re-arranged.

The letters argue about how many turns they get and how many things they can say.

Z gets bossy.

After a hunt to make sure they didn't skip anyone, A gives a triumphant finale.

McKenzie Richardson says

For more reviews, check out my blog: [Craft-Cycle](#)

I love this fun twist on an alphabet book. In this one, the letters go whenever they feel like it instead of alphabetical order. Beautiful chaos ensues, full of subtle messages about trying new things and doing things in a different way (as well as asking nicely for what you want).

Fun illustrations and dialogue. This is a wonderful book. At the bottom of every page, each letter is superimposed onto the letter space that it took, allowing kids to see the actual order of the letters and the order used in the book. Very fun. Great way to test letter identification and expose kids to words that start with each letter.

Flossmoor Public Library (IL) says

This awesome picture book is about the letters of the alphabet putting on a talent show. Z is upset that he always has to come last in line, and so decides to cut to the front. After that, all the letters fall out of order and wonderful chaos ensues. This is a fun tool to use for letter recognition. It also gives multiple examples of words that go with each letter.

I had a kindergarten student with autism and this book was his favorite thing in the world. He loved explaining which letters were out of order to me and then telling me how they should be.

-Miss Emily

Heather says

Best Alphabet book ever! Favorite line is by the letter G, "Oh... V is for violence." Also, the kids as for it repeatedly.

Rita says

This is a fun book to use to assess the students alphabet skills. In this book the letter Z goes first and then Y. All the letters are all mixed up. The students will have fun trying to figure out which letter comes next.

amypete says

The entire family was sorry to see this one go back to the library. Kara could quote the entire thing, which was quite entertaining.

Mhedish17 says

This early concept informational book is perfect for the younger grades who are still trying to learn the sounds each letter makes. The characters in the story are the letters of the alphabet and the plot revolves around when Z decides he is tired of always having to be last and deserves equal treatment. The illustrations and humorous play on words make this book interesting for the younger age group and I think because the author wrote it this way it would be easy to refer back to it when children were having difficulties with their letter sounds. If they could relate what happened in the story to the sound the letter makes in the story and so on, they are more likely to remember their letter sounds.

Lacey says

I would not read this book to younger elementary grades, 3rd is youngest I would go, as it is not just the alphabet going backwards, but the alphabet in all sorts of mixed up craziness. Having said that, this was a cute book with cute illustrations.

Alyssa Clark says

1. This book has not won any awards.
 2. I think this is a good book for preschoolers and kindergartners.
 3. This book is about the day Z wanted to go first in the alphabet. In AlphaOops! The Day Z Went First, all of the letters in the alphabet have a new place, except for H because she "happens to like where [she] always is." The book relates each letter to one or more words and pictures throughout the chaos.
 4. I like that this book put a humorous spin on the average alphabet book. I found myself pausing though wondering which letters were left, but I think kids will enjoy that the alphabet is not in order. I really liked that the letters were characters and that Alethea Kontis gave them their own personalities and opinions.
 5. I could use this book to talk about the alphabet, of course, but I think there are a few lessons within the book I could also discuss. One thing I would do with the book is talk about routines with my class. Throughout the school year the everyday routine can get a bit boring and too repetitive. I would read this book to the children and compare it our daily schedules. I would then move around our schedule for that day a little to offer some variety. Another use I would do is talk about class rules. While reading, I would point out how Z, P, and H take things into their own hands and go in their own order. I would compare that to not raising your hand and calling out. Also, at the end A tells Z that next time, just ask. I would compare this to students asking permission for various things. I think it would be fun to base a list of class rules off of this book.
-

Samantha Howard says

This book is about the alphabet, but all the letters are out of order. Each letter is personified and has a personality. The book starts out with the letter A (with eyes, mouth, arms and legs) saying "A is for app—," but the letter A is cut off by the letter Z. The letter Z is upset because it always gets stuck at the end, so it jumps in and decides to start the alphabet from Z. Then, P gets upset about still being stuck in the middle, so then the letters decide to go in a completely random order. Z is the "leader" of the alphabet, and each letter

gets a chance to “say” what their letter represents. It’s quite enjoyable because each letter’s personality traits create funny scenarios and build anticipation for what may come next.

This is an alphabet picture book because it helps reinforce phonemic awareness and increase vocabulary, while utilizing pictures, colors and other aesthetics to help make the connections. This book would be great for a teacher-lead read-aloud in a kindergarten or 1st grade classroom because suspense is built on each page—what letter will come next?! Additionally, this book can be used to teach why we use the alphabet in a particular order and that the order doesn’t matter for some instances (depending on which angle you go with).

Samantha Beaujour says

1. None.
 2. Pre k- Kindergarten.
 3. All the letters have an opinion about how the alphabet should start, especially Z. Z is tired of always being last and wants to be first for a change. All the other letters agree, but it is still chaos.
 4. This is a imaginative alphabet book. It is filled with bright and colorful illustrations. It provides the perfect amount of humor for children.
 5. Students can try saying the alphabet backwards. Student can sing alphabet by starting with the first letter that starts their name.
-

Jessica says

1. This book has received no awards to date.
 2. This book is appropriate for preschool-1st grade.
 3. The book begins with the character A about to say “A is for Apple.” However, he is interrupted by Z who claims him and Zebra are tired of being last, convincing A they should get to go first this time. Overhearing this, all the letters decide that they want to come earlier in the alphabet, which leads to chaos. By the end, Z feels that is better off if they stay in order so they do not get confused as to where they belong.
 4. I really loved this book because it suggests a new order for the alphabet, which is how many schools prefer to teach it; by the interest and usage of common letters. While the letters are in their new order, it is clear that all of the letters still have a turn within the alphabet. I like the moral behind the story because it shows that if one person gets what they want, then it could lead to everyone wanting something different.
 5. Two in-class uses for this book:
 - The story can be used as an interactive activity, giving each child a letter and having them rearrange themselves as the story proceeds.
 - This book can be used to teach the correct order of the alphabet
-

Alicia says

For Ages: 3-6

Summary: A humorous story that brings the alphabet letters to life with some of them wanting a new place in the alphabet. The story explains some of the reasoning for their place and makes sure to put the letters back

in order.

Review: A very comical story that is cute and exciting but can be rather confusing and hard to follow.

Classroom Use: Could be used in a preschool or Kindergarten classroom to asses that the children understand how the alphabet works.
