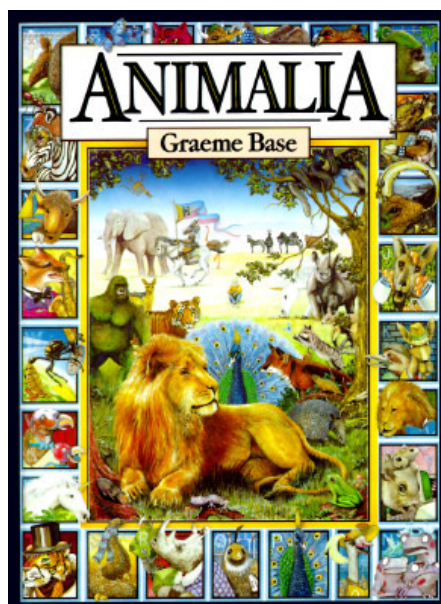




Animalia

Graeme Base

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An alphabet book with fantastic and detailed pictures, bearing such labels as Lazy lions lounging in the local library..

Animalia Details

Date : Published 1993 by Harry N. Abrams (first published 1986)

ISBN : 9780810919396

Author : Graeme Base

Format : Hardcover 32 pages

Genre : Childrens, Picture Books, Animals

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From Reader Review Animalia for online ebook

Connie says

There's two ways to do an alphabet book. The first is to have each letter firmly illustrated by one - and only one! - item. The second, which is the approach taken in this book, is to have as many items as possible crammed onto each page.

The result is an alphabet book that grows with your kid, because even a grown-up can spend a lot of time quietly poring over the pages of the book to catch one last detail, find one more F word, locate the boy in the striped shirt on every page.

There are a few pages that seemingly indicate violence - hogs going into battle, a kangaroo in a kidnapping, warrior wasps - so parents of more sensitive children will want to read this book before purchasing. Frankly, I think these scenes are not worrisome at all, but others may disagree.

Shannon (Giraffe Days) says

One of my favourite books from years ago, I finally picked up a copy for myself the other day. This beautifully - and cleverly - illustrated children's book is just as much fun when you're an adult. Each page or double-page spread conjures a letter of the alphabet with rhyming alliteration and illustrations full of things starting with that letter. We used to have races to find and list as many words as we could from the pictures, and we had a jigsaw puzzle of the Crimson Cats page. Endless fun for kids and a great way to learn new vocab.

Kathryn says

A splendid ABC book! What I love is that the phrases for each letter are very involved, lots of great words here, no "dumbing-down" for kiddies. Also, while I at first thought there was just a random collection of "misc. images" in the pictures (the animals are the main focus) I soon realized that Base was adding lots of OTHER images with the given letter. For example: Unicorns for "U" is the main focus, but then if you look carefully you can also see umbrellas and Union Jacks in the picture. Neat! Kids will love that. I didn't give the book five stars because, alas, I'm not really a fan of his illustration style--this is just personal taste and I think this is a great alphabet book!

Henry Martin says

A great ABC book with fascinating illustrations. I just spent almost an hour looking at the base of every picture, trying to find all the other 'hidden' images that start with the same letter as the main theme.

This is a great book to read along with inquisitive children, as their curious eyes hardly miss anything.

mark monday says

I love this book so much! I practically lived in it when I was kid.

Calista says

LOVE! LOVE! LOVE! Brilliant Book.

I have read many ABC book to the kids over the years and this by far is the very best of them. There is alliteration - love it, and it good alliteration too. There are all kinds of animals, instruments, food and miscellany on the page that starts with the letter. Sometimes you have to think how it's being used. This was a joy. It was the smallest details that were so enjoyable.

The never-gonna-stop nephew looked at this for an hour looking for all the little details. Both kids read this with joy. They both gave it 5 stars and they want to keep the book. I have to make sure the nephew doesn't hide it in his room so I can't return it to the library. Why, oh why did I never know of Graeme Base growing up. He is brilliant.

I have so many favorite things from this. I love what he did with 'X'. I love the baboon playing the bassoon. Dalick's from Dr. Who show up in the 'Ds'. I like the Green Gorilla wearing gloves. There is a fairy. I love Kitty Koala and the 'K' page in general. I love the outrageous Ostrich. 'V' Wins best alliteration. 'X' is the best for using the letter.

This book gave me joy.

Jessica says

My ardor for this amazing book really cooled once I noticed the swastika. Am I too sensitive? Is it weird that I more or less accepted the kangaroo kidnapping a lady koala with a kalashnikov, but I draw the line at Nazi symbols...? In any case, this book is incredible and my toddler loves it, but I never could quite enjoy it the same way again and there are a lot of other children's books out there that don't have hidden swastikas and who knows what else in them.

Lisa Vegan says

This is an amazing book. The illustrations are truly stunning. On the inside back cover it's mentioned that it took the author over 3 years to create the illustrations for this book and I was not at all surprised. It can take a very long time to read this 32 page book, not because the text takes that long to read, but the illustrations are so profuse that it can take ages to find everything on each page. This can be read by children to themselves but it's much more fun to read it with one another and point out all the A, B, C, etc. items on each page. This book would make a lovely gift for 4-8 year olds, and I very much enjoyed pouring over it myself. Next time I'll do it with a child or two and it will be even more fun. I'd recommend it to most 4-8 year olds, although there are a few illustrations of things that could be frightening for some sensitive children.

Steve Holden says

Last review of June (although I'm behind a few days with a busy schedule) bringing me to an approximate halfway point on this challenge/goal. I recently saw this book, and I gravitated towards it and was again with my nose inside. I spent many similar afternoons and evenings like so as a child. Wow, did I love this book as a child. Hands down, from my experiences as child and emerging reader, the best ABC book I laid hands on. The illustrations are entertaining and captivating to look at - even again as an adult. I'm so happy I came across this one again so I can add it to my year in picture books - it needed this one included!

Manybooks says

Although I do quite enjoy Graeme Base's Animalia as a general concept, the intricate and involved illustrations do seem incredibly over busy and much too in-one's-face for them to ever be even remotely considered personal favourites (as I tend to rather crave and even require visual simplicity and unclutteredness, and sadly, upon rereading Animalia, the over-busyness actually started to give me a bit of a sick headache). And really, the sheer amount of objects playing hide and seek within the illustrations is rather majorly daunting to say the least, especially since one is not even sure exactly how many hidden images there are in each section, in each given picture spread (which is why I most certainly would really have appreciated and actually required a list of hidden objects included, either at the back of the book, with corresponding page numbers, or preferably, underneath each of the illustrations). Now I do believe and even realise that Animalia has a lot of what I would label "kid appeal" (but for someone like me, with less than stellar eyesight, the sheer masses of hidden objects can easily prove to be a bit massively overwhelming at best). But that being said (and even though I have only rated Animalia with a high two star ranking), aside from the book teaching and practicing the alphabet, alliteration, rhyming and the like, the hidden images might also be a useful tool for working on pattern recognition with children (as well as adults) who have focusing and visual tracking issues (the latter factoid being yet another reason why a list of the specific hidden objects to be located in Animalia would have been a welcome and much useful addition).

Carol ?? says

I found a copy for a friend's grandchild. This reminded me to have a look at my own copy & I have just had a lot of pleasure, not only looking at the beautiful pictures, but appreciating Base's rich use of language. I blush to say I didn't find all the little Graemes. A beautiful body of work that took Base three years to complete.

It *can't* be a spoiler to show one (ok two!) pictures.

Just gorgeous.

I used to own as well. While I didn't enjoy that book quite as much I'm sad that it appears to be missing. Hopefully a copy will turn up at my work.

Ted says

Rabid Reviewer Raves Raucously Re Regal Rudiments for Reading

Okay, parents and grandparents (and those who have no progeny), this is the GREATEST graphical alphabet book for youngsters, young readers, old fogies, and any other group of English-language readers whatsoever.

Each letter of the alphabet gets either a full page, or a *two-page spread* of beautiful color art depicting numerous animals and items which start with the given letter. Perfect for an oldie and a youngster going through together, looking at each item in the picture and figuring out (if they can) what word the wonderful Graeme Base had in mind.

Over 3 million copies of the book have been sold. In 2012 a 25th Anniversary edition was published.

Example of a two-page spread.

Man, if only this book could have time-traveled back to my young reading days.

Previous review: Richard III *Shakespeare*

Random review: The Classical Greeks *great book, portraits of three dozen Greeks from the Classical period*

Next review: The Taming of the Shrew *more Shakespeare*

ALLEN says

A charming abcedary that little kids won't mind being read to from, and adults will enjoy reading out of to. My favorite is the "C" two-page spread, in which a crawdad, a creek, and a can (that once held Coca-Cola), as well many other items beginning with "C," battle it out for visual supremacy. The artwork is so far above the norm that in this reviewer's opinion it counts as classic.

Jackie "the Librarian" says

[image error]

Kaethe says

I'm a bad parent to have held out the Graeme Base books from the Offspring (but they're signed, and they have little Base doodles, and they're mine). The PandaBat is now enthralled. We hunted down little Graemes for an hour.
