



Alpha

Isabelle Arsenault

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Discover the NATO phonetic alphabet—and find layers of connection in every letter—in a stunning abecedarian from celebrated artist Isabelle Arsenault.

Alpha, Bravo, Charlie . . . Since 1956, whenever time and clarity are of the essence, everyone from firefighters to air traffic controllers has spelled out messages using the NATO phonetic alphabet. Now, with equal precision—infused with a singular wit and whimsy—award-winning author-illustrator Isabelle Arsenault interprets this internationally recognized code and makes it her own. From the elegant Tangoto the enigmatic Echo, from the humorous Kilo to the haunting Romeo and Juliet, the striking art in this remarkable ABC book elicits laughter and curiosity, calls up endless associations, and will draw the viewer back again and again.

Alpha Details

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Author : Isabelle Arsenault

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Genre : Childrens, Picture Books

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From Reader Review Alpha for online ebook

Katie Melbourne says

As a child of Navy parents this book has particular appeal for me. Such a creative way of teaching the phonetic alphabet. Inspired me to write this review for Babyology which in turn gained a lot of interest: <http://babyology.com.au/sunday-arts/a...>

Hilary says

Isabelle Arsenault's illustrations are wonderful, she is probably my favourite living illustrator and there are some wonderful examples here. Given that she was illustrating the NATO phonetic alphabet she did a great job as some of the words just aren't one's you can make an interesting illustration from. I don't know how fun this would be for a small child to look through and there was nothing particularly interesting in the fact page at the end.

Mary Ann says

While this is a cool concept, I really am struggling about the right audience for this book. Take for example the R-Romeo page. While this is one of the letters that really sticks in my mind as the "official" tag for the letter R, I don't think there are enough clues here for a young child (PreK - K - 1st) to understand what the illustration means. So then would an older child be drawn to this book? I'm just not sure.

Brittanny Handiboe says

Charlie, alpha, tango. These three words may seem randomly thrown together but in the International Radiotelephony Spelling Alphabet, "Charlie-Alpha-Tango" spells "cat". Emergency services including the police, firefighters, the military, and the Red Cross use this alphabet as a way to communicate clearly. Arsenault's concept and fantastic illustrations make this alphabet book an unique learning experience for the ABC learner and anyone who may not know the NATO phonetic alphabet. Because of the engaging concept and illustrations meant to inspire different interpretations of each object representing each word in the alphabet, furthering Arsenault's idea of communication between the reader and listener, a parent may be just looking for a standard ABC book and might pass this particular one by. Despite that, Arsenault's work is great for any child between ages 5 to 8 and makes a good addition to a picture book enthusiasts' library and is also recommended for anyone who also wants to learn the NATO phonetic alphabet.

I LOVE the illustrations and am happy to have this book in my picture book enthusiast library haha.

Jon(athan) Nakapalau says

Oh boy! Did this book bring back memories! Trying to say A-Z in front of my favorite drill sergeant during end of cycle training in boot camp!

Bill says

4 * for the art work

Karin says

This is a fascinating alphabet book that gives takes you through the words of the NATO phonetic alphabet. So, for one thing it was very informative because I didn't know some of the letters, like I didn't know that Q was Quebec and I had forgotten that G stood for Golf. But, the best thing about this book are the illustrations. Arsenault chooses some great things to represent each letter. Things that will generate a discussion about their connection to the word. For example, J for Juliet has an illustration of a small glass bottle with cork stopper. A girl's face is reflected in the glass of the bottle. O for Oscar has a picture of a woman wearing a beautiful gown. So clever!

Edward Sullivan says

A witty, strikingly illustrated abecedarian introducing the NATO phonetic alphabet.

Michael Earp says

This is beautiful!

And if you haven't read 'Jane, The Fox and Me', also illustrated by Isabelle, then do yourself a favour and remedy that immediately!

Rand says

A letter book based upon the radio code developed in the 1920s for air traffic controllers. Each word is accompanied by a conceptually related image that will provoke the natural curiosity of a young mind. While some of the word-image relations may veer more to the "adult" side (eg Romeo features a dagger and Juliet a bottle of poison) many are more whimsical/neutral; though none of the image-word relations are any more terrifying than the sort of stuff to be found in feature films that are marketed to children.

Arsenault is a truly talented illustrator who uses crisp, clean lines with a keen sense of color. A worthy addition to any classroom's library or children's room.

Allie says

Beautiful illustration from Isabelle Arsenault. I'm totally obsessed with her. I like the concept of introducing kids to the phonetic alphabet, and with having kind of oblique illustrations of those words. But it was also a little confusing. Particularly Alpha, which unfortunately/obviously starts the alphabet off. I'm still not positive I got that one.

Diana says

Lima-Oscar-Victor-Echo-Delta India-Tango!!!!

Michael Fitzgerald says

Sadly, this book fails because it shows a lima bean for L (lima). The bean is pronounced differently (lye-ma) from the NATO code word (lee-ma). Why did no one catch this?

Cat says

It's interesting...maybe more appropriate for an older crowd.

David Schaafsma says

Here's a review that has images of this book so you can see some of it:

<http://www.threebooksanight.com/book-...>

Isn't that beautiful?!

I read this because I am reading everything the talented Isabelle Arsenault is doing. And was not particularly looking forward to this because I saw it was an abecedarian book, and we know what THOSE are like: A is for apple, and then you see a crisp red apple, and then ball, and so on. But no! This is a book that introduces us to the NATO phonetic alphabet I didn't know until now I was even interested in, let alone aware of!

I am borrowing this from Rand, whose review of this book I just read before posting, so you can see it:

<http://www.alphabravocharlie.info/alp...>

Alpha, Bravo, Charlie, since 1956, firefighters, air traffic controllers, others, use the NATO phonetic alphabet. Arsenault takes that alphabet and introduces us to words and illustrations that are original and

beautiful and whimsical and interesting.

“Charlie” shows Charlie Chaplin’s bowler; “Mike” shows a pair of boxing gloves. Some are less subtle, but still good: A couple dancing the “Foxtrot,” a glass of “Whiskey.” Not just for kids, no! I like the Monopoly game piece for “Hotel” and the wallet featuring the baby picture for “Papa.”

This is one smart and witty book. Love it.
