

By the creator of the *New York Times* bestselling Rocket and Duck & Goose books

R is for Rocket



an
A B C
book



Tad Hills

INCLUDES COMMON CORE STATE STANDARD CORRELATIONS

Educators' Guide

Rocket and Friends



Look at these pictures of Rocket's friends. Each name is missing the first letter.
Fill in the blank with the correct letter. Be sure to use a capital letter for a name!



__ W L



__ E L L A



__ R O W



__ M M A



__ R E D



__ O O S E



__ O U S E



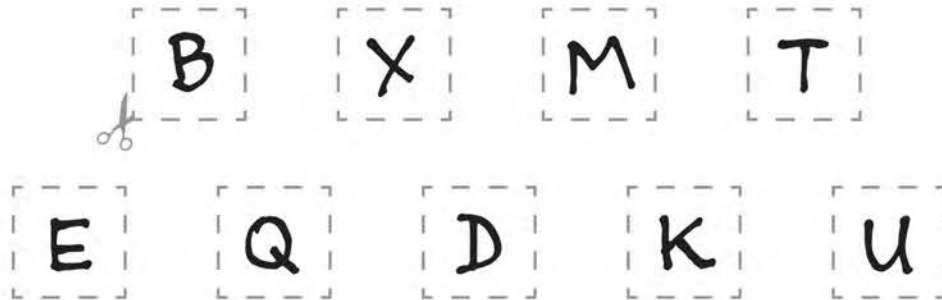
__ R.
__ A R K E R



__ I T T L E
__ E L L O W
__ I R D

Missing Letters

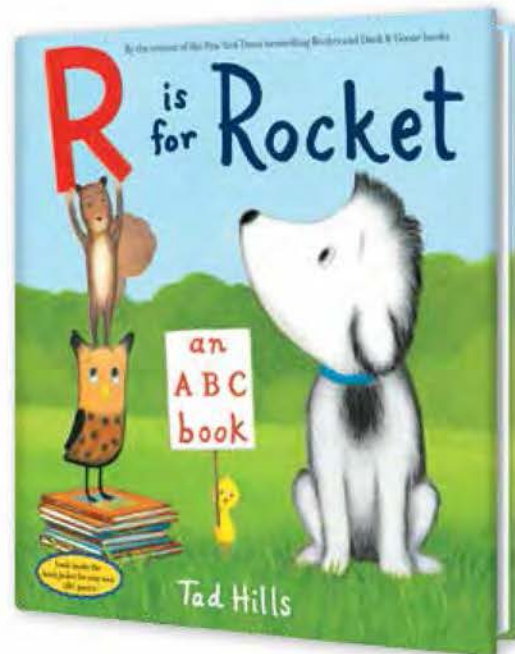
Help Rocket finish his alphabet. Cut out the letters below and glue them in the correct spot.



About This Book

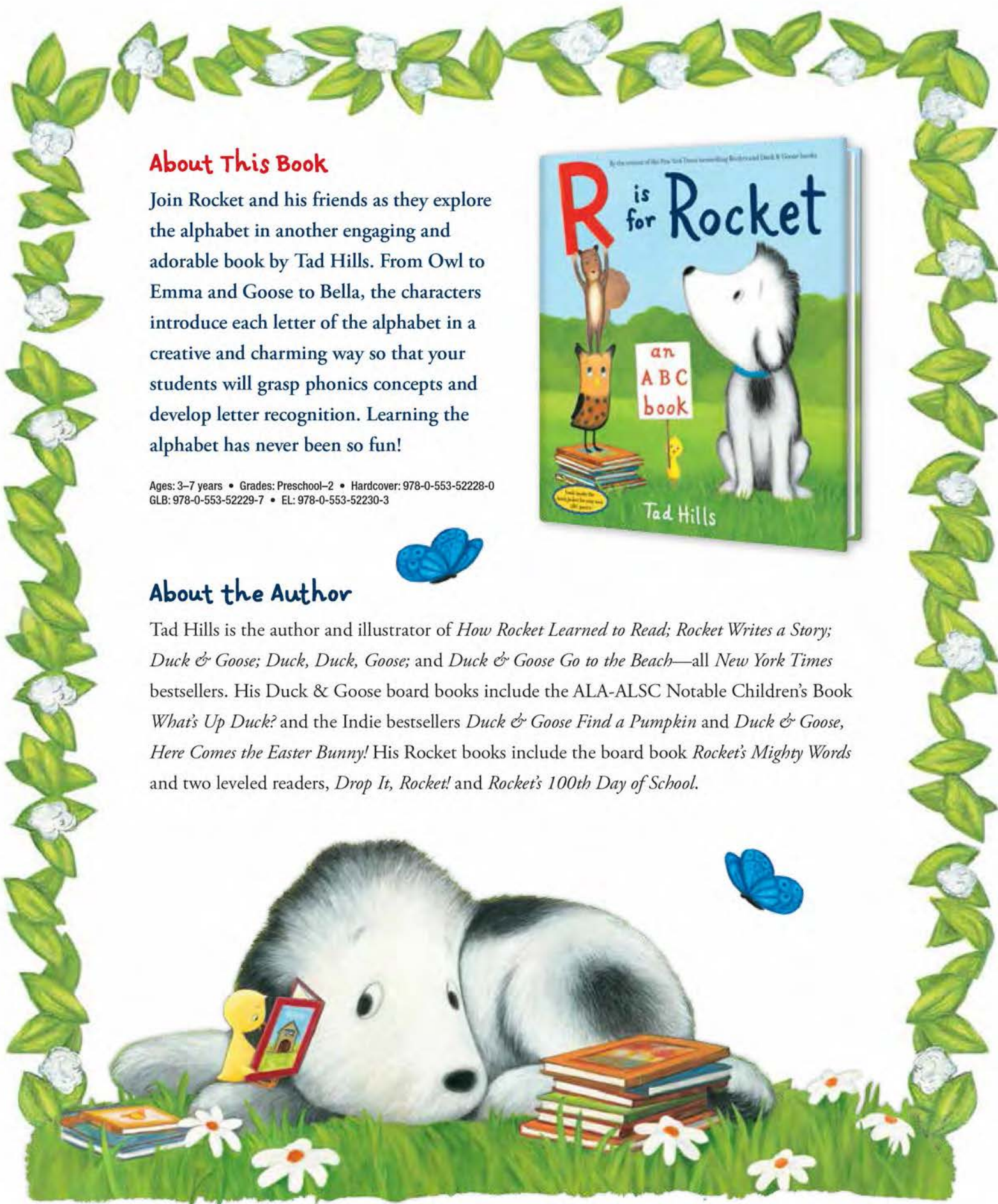
Join Rocket and his friends as they explore the alphabet in another engaging and adorable book by Tad Hills. From Owl to Emma and Goose to Bella, the characters introduce each letter of the alphabet in a creative and charming way so that your students will grasp phonics concepts and develop letter recognition. Learning the alphabet has never been so fun!

Ages: 3–7 years • Grades: Preschool–2 • Hardcover: 978-0-553-52228-0
GLB: 978-0-553-52229-7 • EL: 978-0-553-52230-3



About the Author


Tad Hills is the author and illustrator of *How Rocket Learned to Read*; *Rocket Writes a Story*; *Duck & Goose*; *Duck, Duck, Goose*; and *Duck & Goose Go to the Beach*—all *New York Times* bestsellers. His *Duck & Goose* board books include the ALA-ALSC Notable Children's Book *What's Up Duck?* and the Indie bestsellers *Duck & Goose Find a Pumpkin* and *Duck & Goose, Here Comes the Easter Bunny!* His *Rocket* books include the board book *Rocket's Mighty Words* and two leveled readers, *Drop It, Rocket!* and *Rocket's 100th Day of School*.



Classroom Activities

Word Wall

Create a word wall in your classroom. Highlight each letter of the alphabet and ask students to browse the book looking for words that start with each letter. You can write each word on an index card and add it to the wall, or students can write the word themselves before adding it to the wall. Encourage students to continue to add words to the wall throughout the study of the book.

 Correlates to Common Core Language Arts Anchor Standards for Reading: Foundational Skills 1

Letter Hunt




Place plastic bins around the classroom with one letter of the alphabet taped on the front of each one. Gather your students in the center of the room and tell them that they are going on a scavenger hunt—they have to find items around the room that start with each letter and place them in the correct bins. Count to three and let the letter hunt begin! When they are finished, gather the class together to go through each bin and review the items inside. Which bins had the most items, and which had the least?

 Correlates to Common Core Language Arts Anchor Standards for Language 5




Become the Author

Ask each student to select one of Rocket's friends as well as their favorite letter of the alphabet. Have them create their own page of the book by writing a sentence that has as many words beginning with their letter as possible. They can illustrate their page to match their text. Older children can focus on using both nouns and adjectives in their sentence. Put all of the pages together into your own classroom ABC book.

 Correlates to Common Core Language Arts Anchor Standards for Writing 3


Human Alphabet

Write each letter of the alphabet on a separate piece of construction paper, and hand one letter to each student. Ask them to arrange themselves in alphabetical order *without talking to each other*. They have to figure out which end will be A and which will be Z, as well as how to arrange themselves. When they think they are correct, have them sing the alphabet song to check their order.

 Correlates to Common Core Language Arts Anchor Standards for Speaking and Listening 1

Alliteration String

Discuss the meaning of "alliteration"—the repetition of a letter or sound at the beginning of a series of words. Break your students up into groups and have them look through the book and find one example of alliteration. They should each write one word of the alliteration on a piece of paper, and then connect their words using a piece of string. Hang all of the words on a classroom board and have students test their quick tongue by reciting each one!

 Correlates to Common Core Language Arts Anchor Standards for Reading: Foundational Skills 1

Classroom Activities (continued)

Become a Letter

Demonstrate for students how they can use their bodies to form letters, using their arms, legs, fingers, and head. Practice by asking them to form the letters A, B, and C. Then play a game of Simon Says and challenge them to form different letters of the alphabet, using both capital and lowercase letters. Put older children into small groups and ask them each to form letters that create a word!

Correlates to Common Core Language Arts Anchor Standards for Speaking and Listening 2

Alphabet Memory

Divide students into pairs and assign one partner the letters A–M and the other partner N–Z. Give them a stack of index cards and ask them to write one letter on each card. Then have partners switch stacks of cards. Ask them to browse magazines and look for pictures of items that start with those same letters, and then glue them onto additional index cards. Once they have their letters and pictures complete, they can play a game of “memory” by matching letters to the corresponding pictures.

Correlates to Common Core Language Arts Anchor Standards for Speaking and Listening 5



Letter Formation

Give each student 26 index cards and describe the following at-home project: They need to create one letter of the alphabet on each index card without using a writing utensil. They can use any material they find at home—spaghetti, string, sticks, etc. Ask them to arrange their alphabet cards on a poster board and be ready to present it to the class. During the presentation, ask questions about the process: What material did you use to create your letters? Which letter was the hardest to create, and why? Hang the posters in your classroom for all to see!

Correlates to Common Core Language Arts Anchor Standards for Speaking and Listening 1

What's it Made of?

Display a poster of the alphabet in front of the class. On the board, write the following categories: holes, curves, straight lines. Ask each student to come up to the board and write one of the letters in its proper category. You can also use magnetic letters. Continue until all the letters have been represented, using both upper and lowercase letters. Remind them that some letters can fit into more than one category!

Correlates to Common Core Language Arts Anchor Standards for Language 1

Guide prepared by Jamie Simon, an educational consultant in the Washington, D.C., area, who has been involved in education for 15 years as both a teacher and an administrator