



Dear book lovers,

You may already recognize the wide-eyed pup on the cover of *R Is for Rocket: An ABC Book*. Tad Hills's Rocket books are not only *New York Times* bestsellers but are also bookseller, librarian, and, most importantly, kid favorites. You may have even caught Tad at a school or bookstore visit, often with the real Rocket in tow.

Most of Rocket's current fans are already practicing independent reading, but *R Is for Rocket* is perfect for beginning readers graduating to picture books. The engaging style features alliteration and complete sentences, setting it apart from typical alphabet books.

While Rocket has taught many kids to read, he is above all a loveable character who's become a household name. After all, who can resist an adorable puppy?

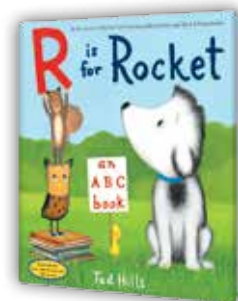
Here are some tips for attracting old and new Rocket fans to your storytime:

- Write out all of the letters in the alphabet to create a banner. Invite your guests to decorate with their own drawings of the characters from the Rocket series.
- Look up recipes for "puppy chow" and make snacks in Rocket's honor.
- Use construction paper to make paw-print cutouts leading up to your storytime circle.
- Attract your audience by displaying *R Is for Rocket* in your window and playing "(How Much Is) That Doggie in the Window?" by Bob Merrill as they walk in for storytime.

We hope you enjoy going from **A** to **Z** with riveting **R**ocket, easygoing **E**mma, boisterous **B**ella, and their **f**un friends.

Happy reading!

Random House Children's Books



Illustrations © Tad Hills

ReadLikeRocket.com

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Play the Nickname Game!

The first step to learning to read is getting comfortable with the alphabet. Rocket and his friends take children through the ABCs with giggle-inducing and vocabulary-boosting mini-stories. As you read *R is for Rocket*, use these tips to bring the alphabet to life.



BEFORE YOU READ:

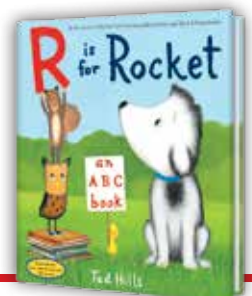
Sit your young readers down in a circle and ask if they have a favorite letter. Ask what makes that letter special to them, and as a group, come up with words that start with each letter named.

AS YOU READ:

Call out the featured letter on the page and ask everyone in your audience whose name starts with that letter to stand while you read.

END THE STORY:

Now that you've learned so many words, go around the circle and have your readers say their name and an adjective that starts with the same letter to go with it. You might be **S**uper **S**arah or **D**elightful **D**ani. Try as a group to repeat the new words.



ABC Friends Matching Game

Can you match the characters' names to the letters they start with?



Rocket



Owl



Fred



Goose



Emma



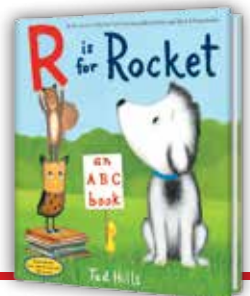
Mr. Barker



Bella



Little Yellow Bird



What does your favorite letter look like?

Think of your favorite letter and write it big in the space below. Then, think of a word that starts with that letter and draw a picture using the shape the letter makes.

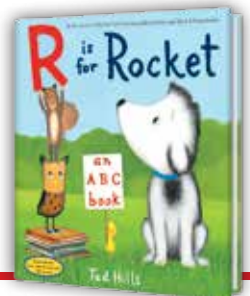
For example you might draw
a **B** that looks like this:



BUTTERFLY

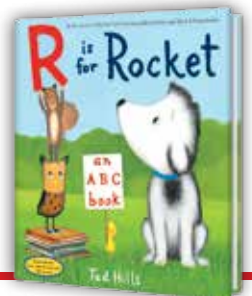
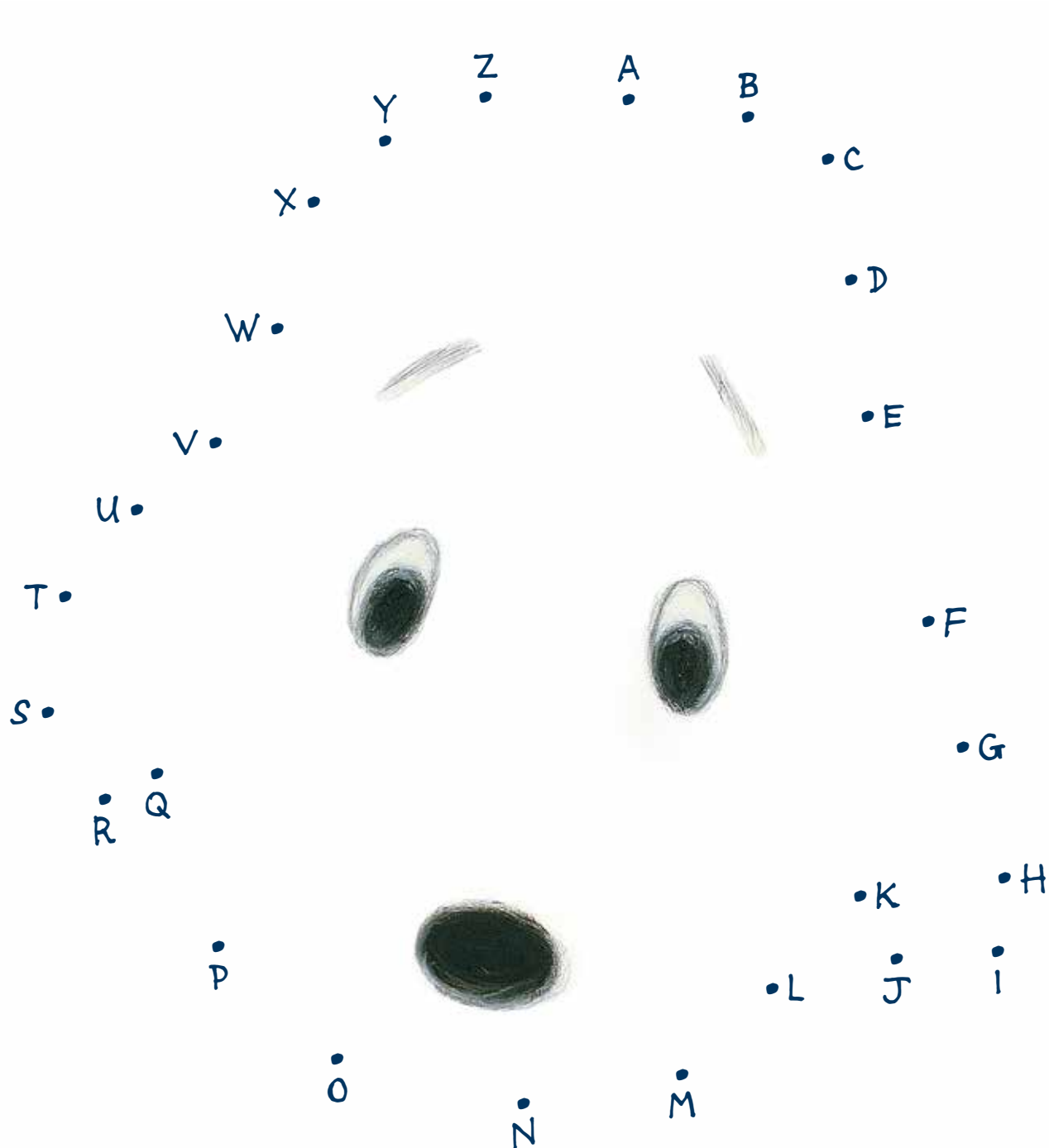


(your word)



Who Could That Be?

Connect the letters in alphabetical order to reveal the picture.



The Wondrous, Mighty, Gorgeous Alphabet!

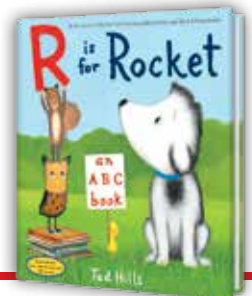
The sentence below is extra-special.

The quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog.

Just like the book *R Is for Rocket*, this sentence includes all of the letters in the alphabet.

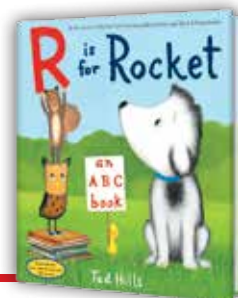
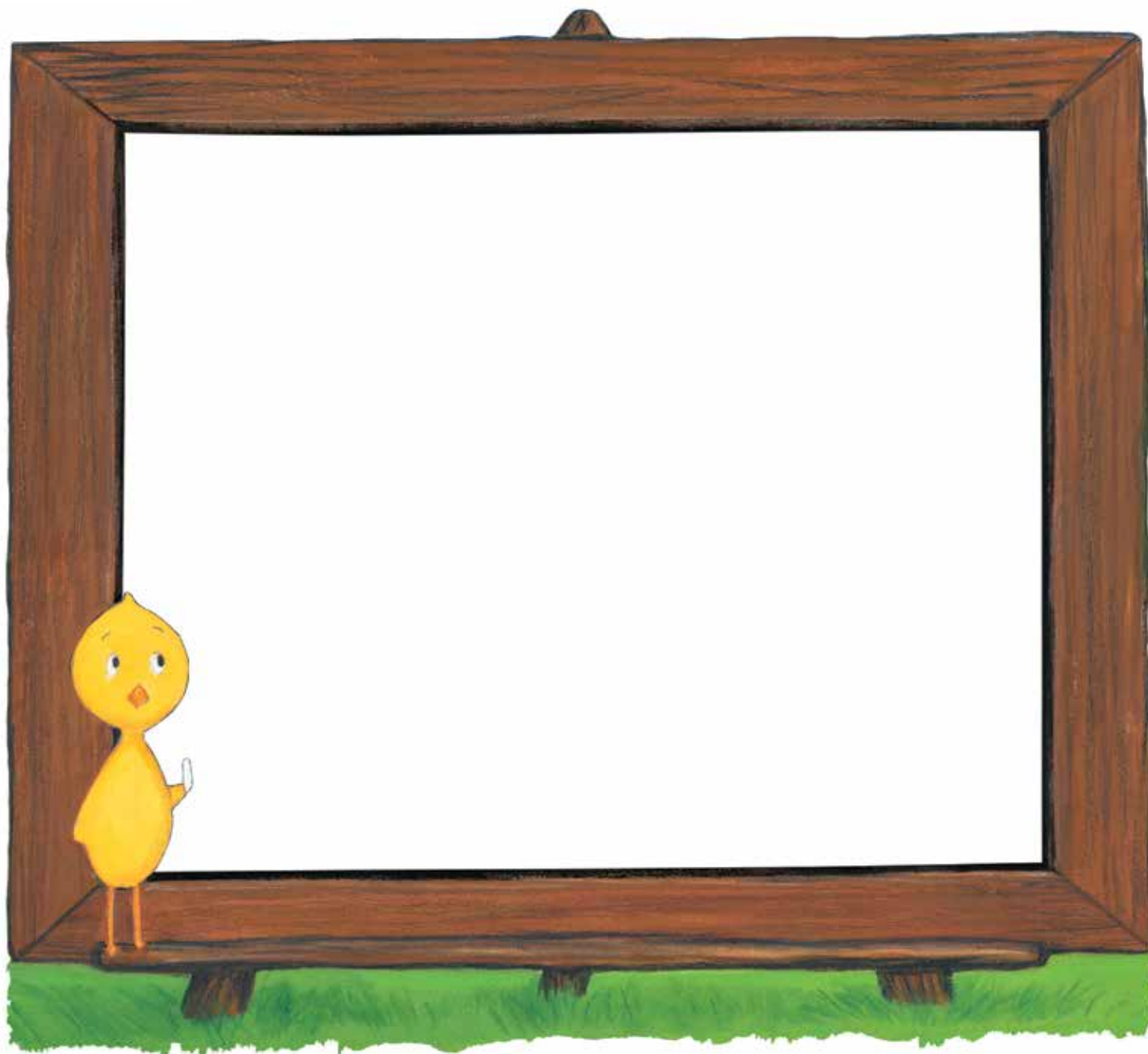
Run through your ABCs and cross out the letters in the sentence as you say them.

Draw a picture below of a quick brown fox jumping over our favorite lazy dog, Rocket.



Write with Rocket

Help Little Yellow Bird write all of the letters you learned together.

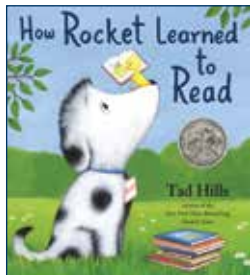


Readers Are Raving About Rocket!

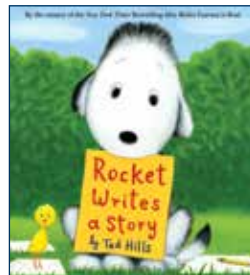
- ★ “A perfect choice to inspire new readers and writers.” —*Kirkus Reviews*, Starred
- ★ “Hills gently demonstrates the power of stories to build bridges.” —*Publishers Weekly*, Starred
- “Hills celebrates the joy of learning, as well as the power of a good teacher to change lives.” —*The Seattle Times*

Want more Rocket? Don't miss these other books by Tad Hills:

New York Times Bestselling Picture Books

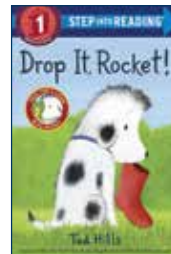


One of *Time* Magazine's 100 Best Children's Books of All Time

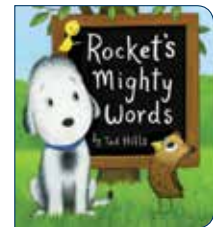


A Chicago Public Library Best of the Best

Step 1 Early Readers



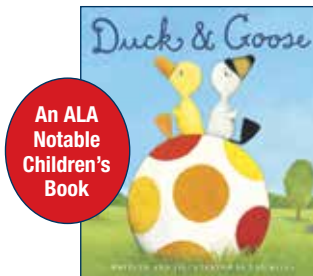
Board Book



For more books by Tad Hills and fun and games all year long, visit DuckandGoose.com

Board Books

New York Times Bestselling Picture Books



A New York Public Library 100 Titles for Reading and Sharing Selection

