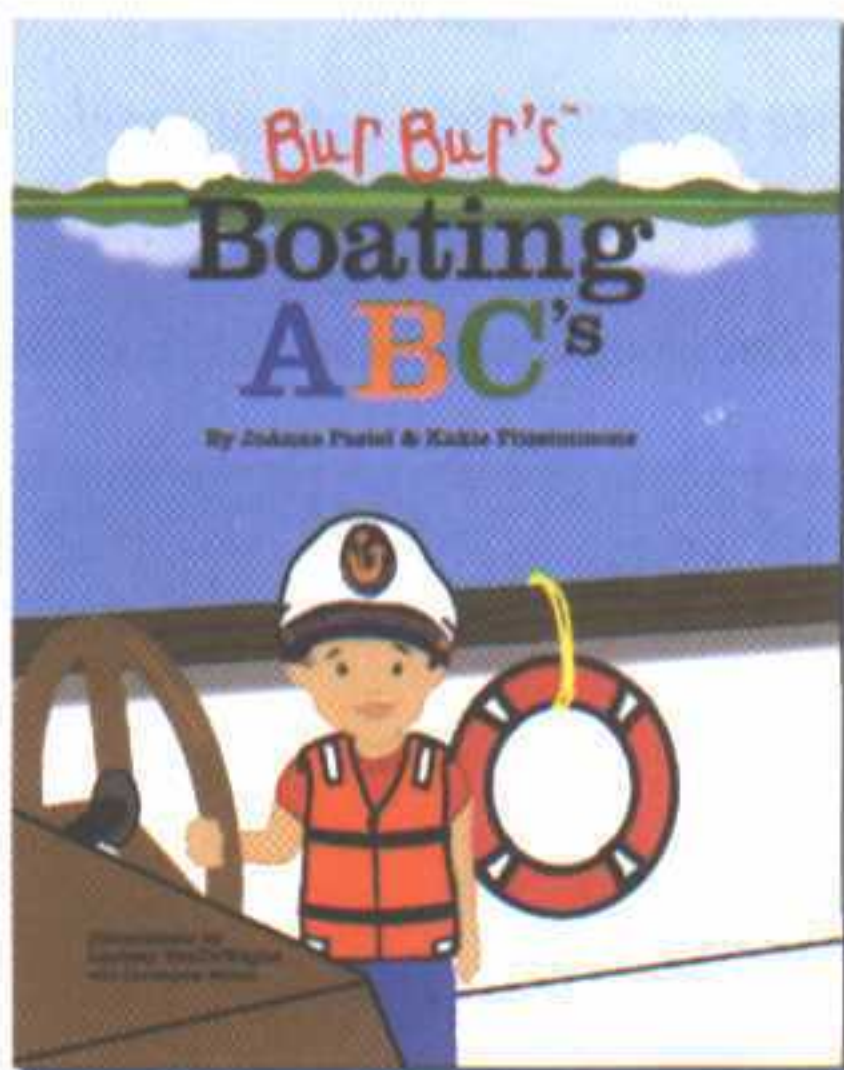


media matters

# the alphabet's best bets

by Jessica Zahorian

There are 26 letters in the alphabet—and at least that many books to choose from when it comes to teaching kids their ABCs. Check out this handful of the alphabet's best bets, introducing beginning readers to everything from an ant to a zebra, an alligator to a zeppelin.



### Bur Bur's™ Boating ABCs

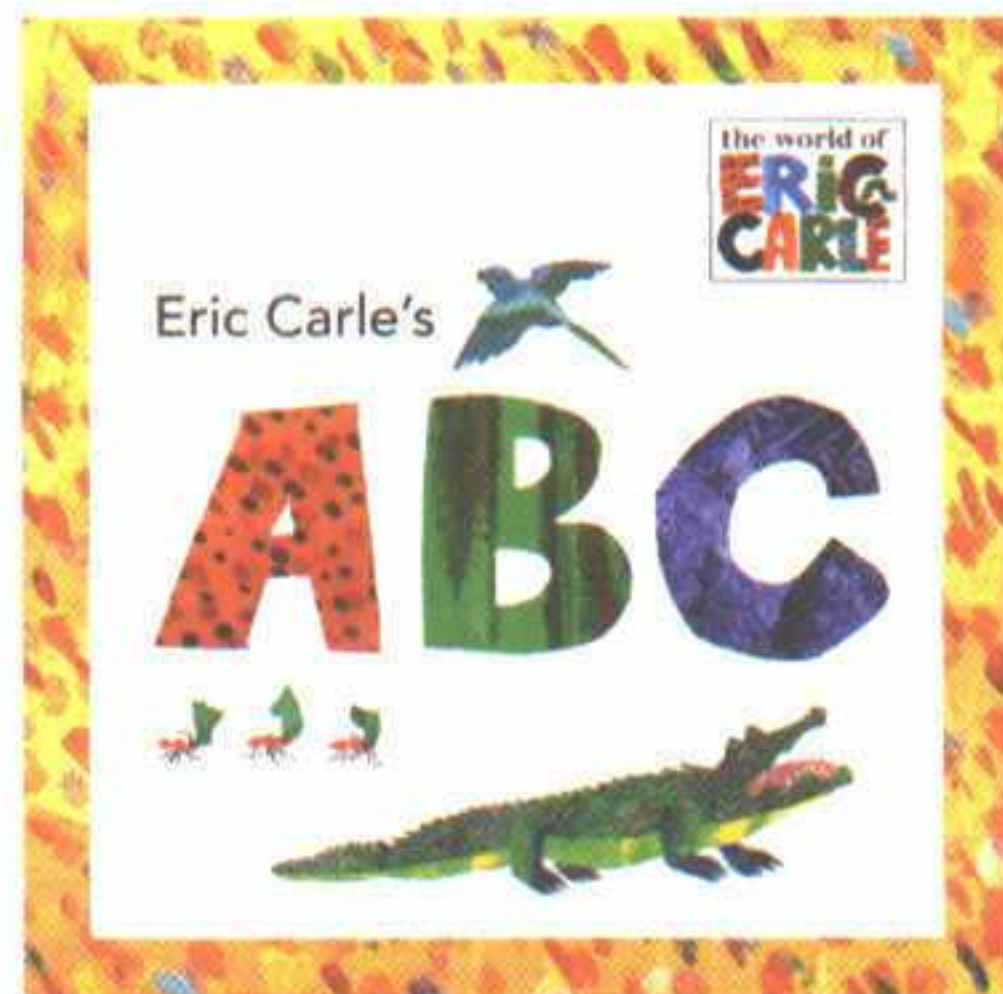
by JoAnne Pastel and Kacie Fitzsimmons  
Interface Publishing, 2007; \$14.95

Join Bur Bur and his parents for a boat ride through the water—and the alphabet. In this read-aloud book, kids learn boating basics along with things they see in, around, and on the water, starting with anchors and buoys.

### Eric Carle's ABC

by Eric Carle  
Grosset & Dunlap, 2007; \$5.99

A collage of tissue paper, paint, and textures is used to create each letter and animal in this charmingly illustrated alphabet book. Kids unfold each page flap to find the animals—from an ant and a bear to a yak and a zebra.

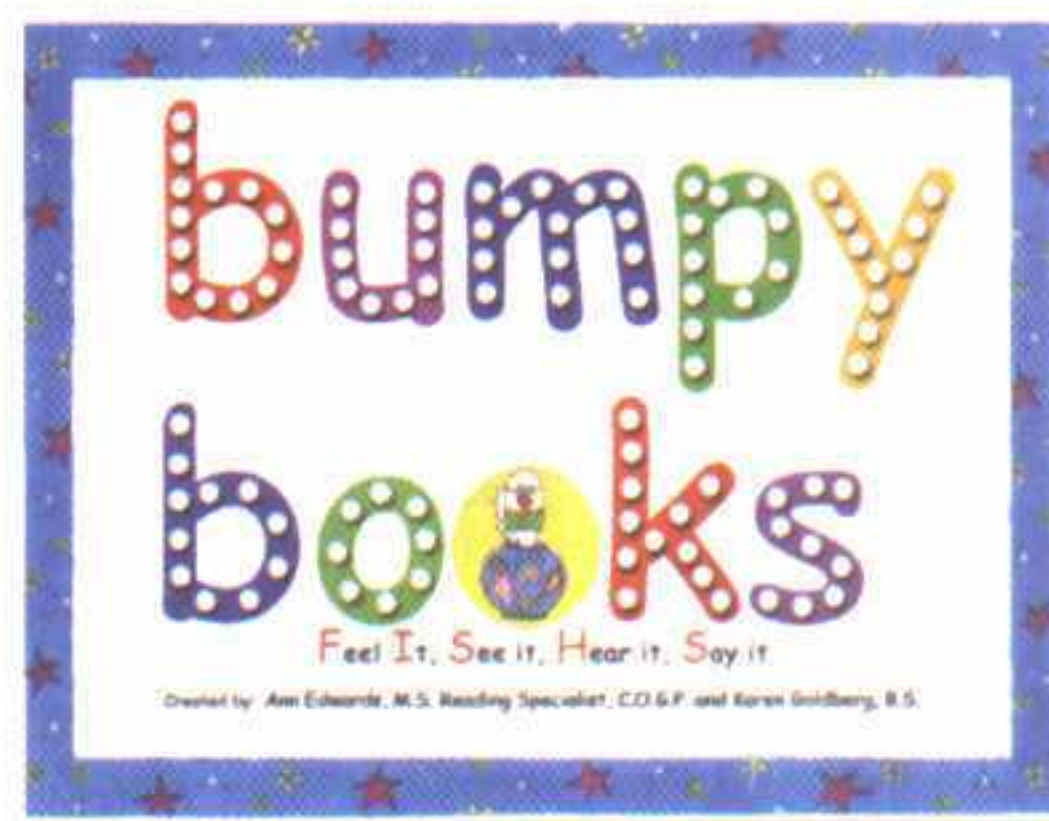
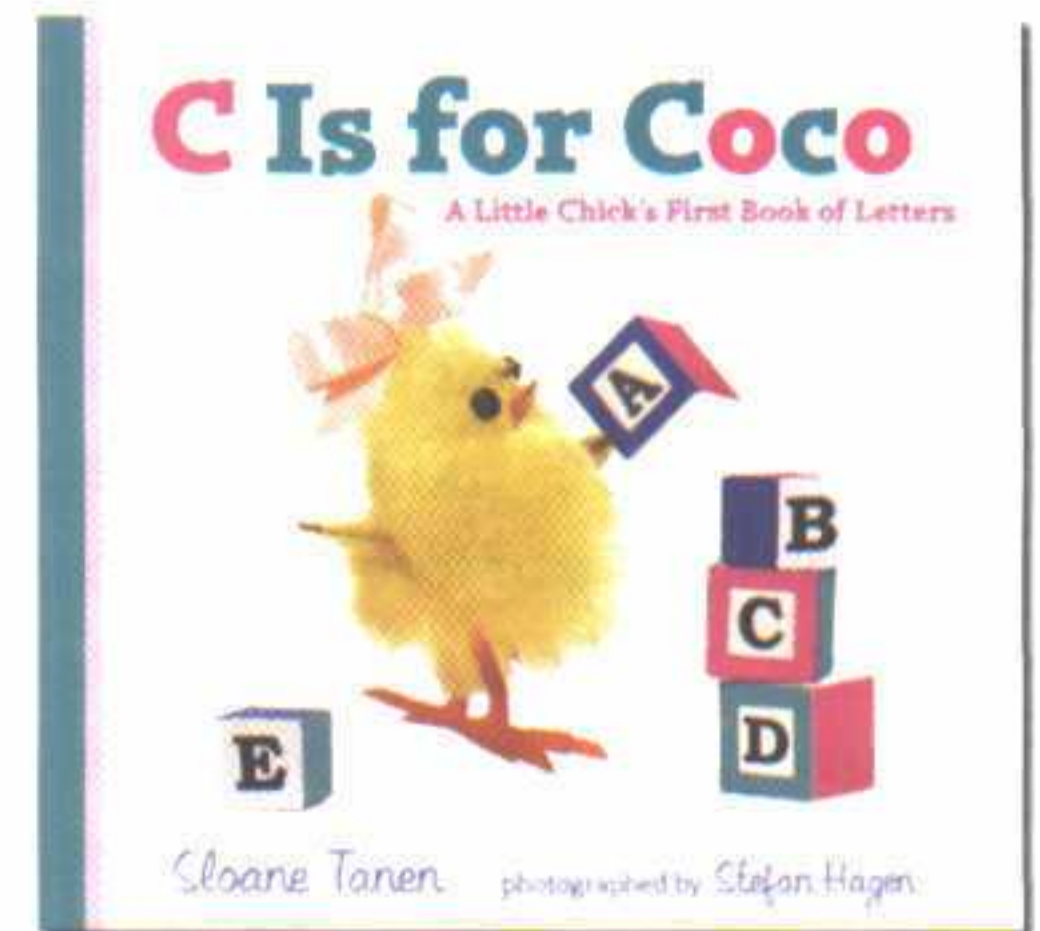


### C Is for Coco

by Sloane Tanen

Bloomsbury U.S.A., 2007; \$6.95

Join Coco, the little chick with a big personality, as she guides early readers through their ABCs. The board book features funny alphabetical dioramas starring Coco and her fellow feathered friends.

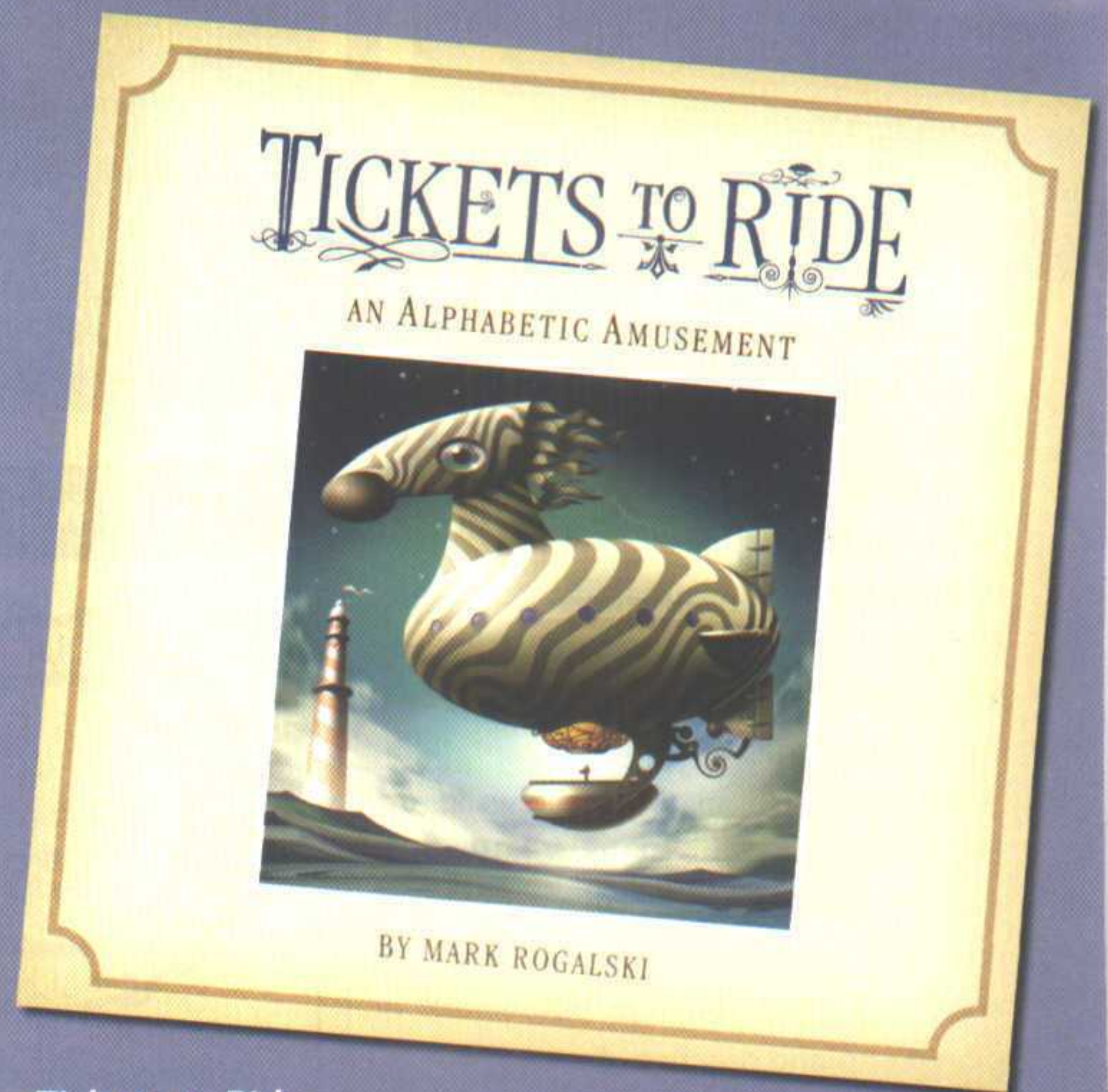


### Bumpy Books

by Ann Edwards  
and Karen Goldberg

Bumpy Books, 2001; \$25

Feel it, see it, hear it, say it! Each page of this multisensory reading manual has a "bumpy" letter that kids can trace with a finger to learn how to form letters when writing. Beginning writers will learn how to recognize each letter and how to blend sounds into words.



### Tickets to Ride

by Mark Rogalski; Running Press Kids, 2006; \$15.95

Dizzyland, an alphabetic amusement park, features a wild menagerie of rides from "alligators in the air" to the "zebra zeppelin." After the first read-through, both kids and adults will want to venture through this park again and again to find items (the numbers 1 to 26 and a cleverly hidden duck) within each whimsically illustrated ride.