



Teacher Notes

Once Upon an A-Z

by Amy Dunje and Deb Hudson

Teacher notes prepared by Bec Kavanagh

Publication details

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Reader ages: 2-7 years

Themes

- Alphabet
- Wordplay
- Rhyme
- Fairytales
- Magic

About the Book

Abacadabra! Alakazoo!

Bubbily, bobbily, boffity, boo!

Clutch your cauldrons and crystal balls.

Dance with dragons down the halls ...

Discover the magic of words with this enchanting rhyming journey through the alphabet.

This is the perfect ABC book to introduce young readers to fairies, mermaids, unicorns and more!

About the Author

Amy Dunje is a children's author from Western Australia. With a childhood filled with dreaming up adventures on her family's farm, Amy was always drawn to storytelling. As a grown up, Amy now creates stories for others and spends a lot of time in bookstores. As a speech pathologist and lecturer, Amy continues to share her love for words and stories with others. She aspires to write stories that ignite little imaginations and instil the same love for words and adventure that she treasures.

About the Illustrator

Deb Hudson is an illustrator whose passion has always been to draw bright, happy and colourful things. As a child her mother said she was 'off with the fairies' in her own little dream world. Her drawings centre around birds, flowers and occasionally dogs, rabbits, unicorns, people and many more beautiful and simple natural things. She lives in Melbourne with her husband, three kids, energetic border collie and a bright yellow canary.

Before Reading

- Look at the title and the cover of the book. What clues can you see that tell you this book will have magic inside?
- Make some predictions – what words do you think might be included in an alphabet book about magic?

Comprehension Questions

- What is waiting inside the book on the shelf?
- Where would you dance with the dragons?
- Who is dancing under the mushroom caps on the enchanted lands?
- Who (or what) would you kiss, if you dare?
- Where might you go to get something to eat?
- What colour are the potions?
- How many bats are vaulting with the vampires?
- This story ends with the phrase 'happy ever after'. What other ways can you think of to end a story?

Literacy

- **Magical Phrases**
 - This story uses a lot of words and phrases that we associate with magic, such as 'abracadabra'.
 - Find two other magical phrases in the book. Imagine that you're a magician – what would you say to cast your magic spell?
- **Vocabulary**
 - How many of the words in the story are new to you? Make a list of all the new words you learn from the book. Write a sentence that uses at least three of them.

Final Reflections

- Which was your favourite page of the book and why?
- What did you notice about the rhymes in the book? What pattern did they follow?
- Words and stories can take us to magical places – what are some of the places you've visited through stories?

Creative Activities

- *Once Upon an A-Z* uses magic and fairytales as a theme for this alphabet story. Come up with your own alphabet story using pairs of words associated with one of the following themes:
 - Animals
 - Sports
 - The beach
 - Comic books
- Draw a picture of one of the magical creatures mentioned in the book. Give it a name that begins with the same letter of the alphabet.
- Imagine that you meet the genie in the book. What would you wish for? Write a story about the day your wish comes true.
- Create a spell jar. Find a small jar and fill it with magical things that you can find around the house or in the garden. Choose one of the magical phrases from the book and write it out on a piece of paper to put inside your jar.