

AlphaTales

Ww

Worm's Wagon

BY SAMANTHA BERGER

ILLUSTRATED BY MATT PHILLIPS

AlphaTales: Worm's Wagon © Scholastic Teaching Resources



W is for the wonderful and wise Arianne Weber.
With warmest wishes.



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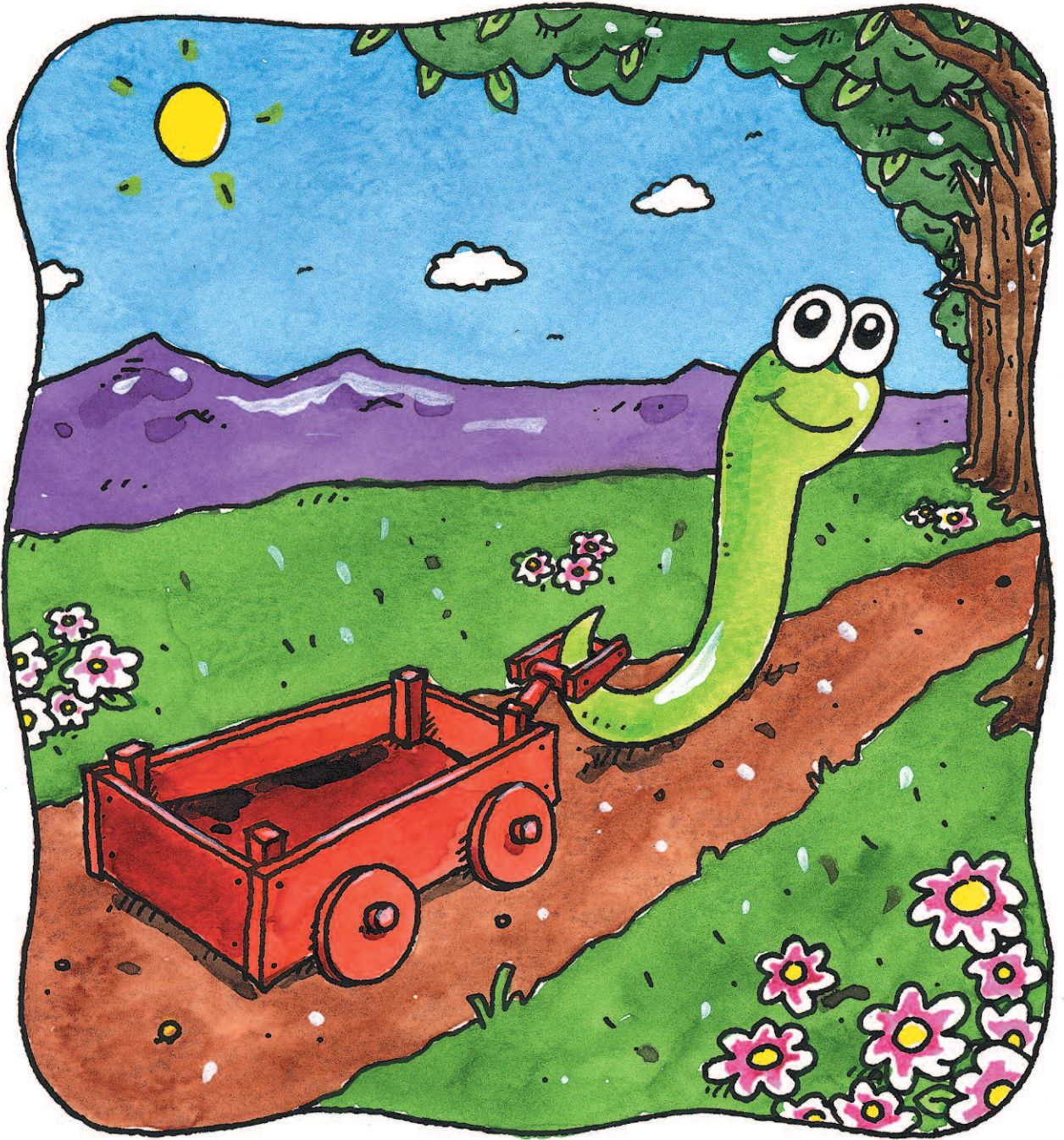
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Produced by Imagination Ink., based on a design by Kathy Massaro.

ISBN: 0-439-16546-6

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One day, Worm went to the woods
to gather walnuts.
He brought his wagon with him.



On his way home, Worm saw Woodpecker whistling in a weeping willow. Woodpecker asked Worm for a ride.

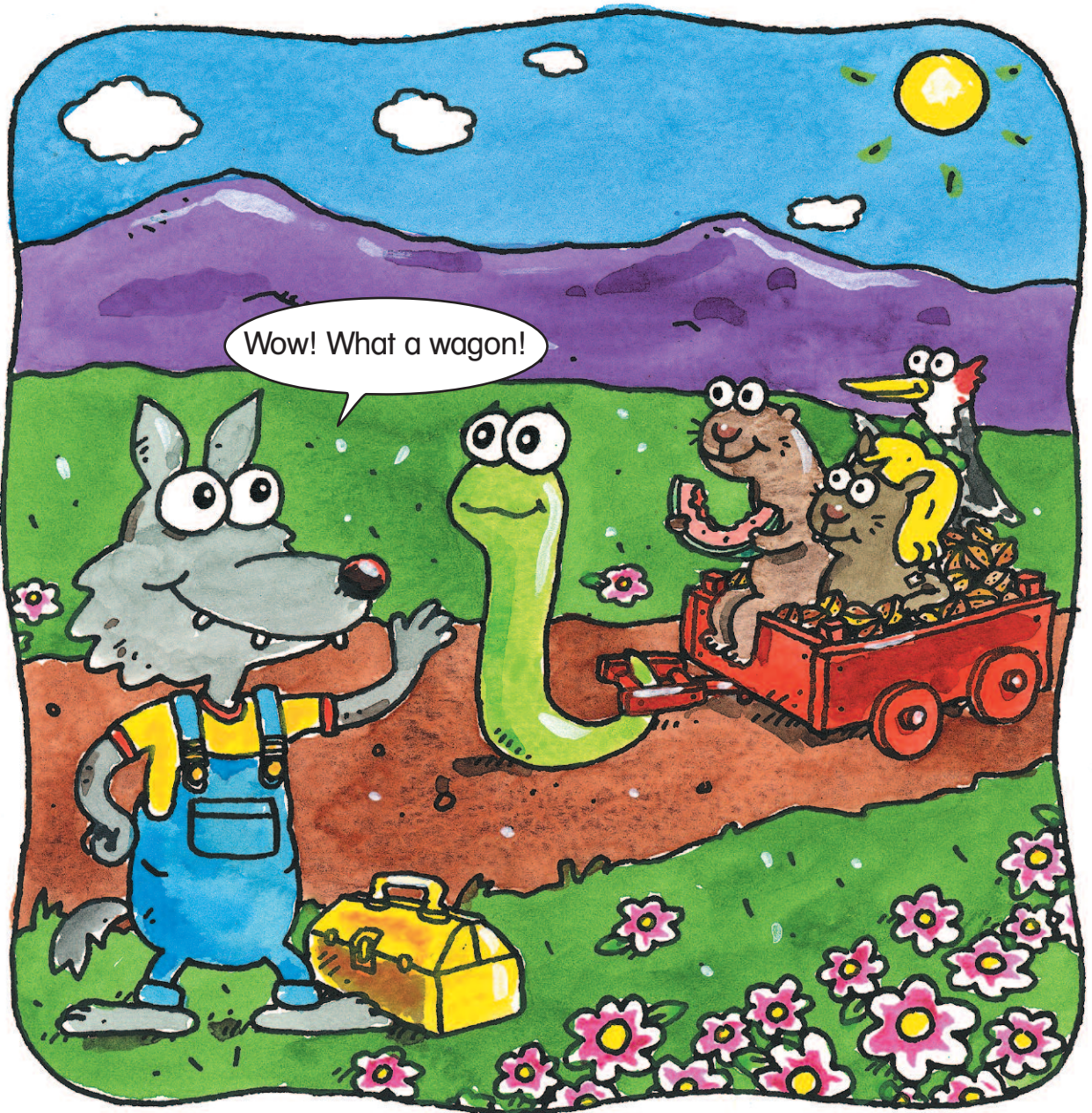


Wow! What a wagon!

Worm wiggled along, pulling Woodpecker in his wagon. Soon they came upon Weasel eating watermelon. Weasel asked Worm for a ride.



Worm wiggled along, pulling Woodpecker and Weasel in his wagon. Before long, they bumped into Wombat wearing her new wig. Wombat asked Worm for a ride.



Worm wiggled along, pulling Woodpecker,
Weasel, and Wombat in his wagon.
Next, they met Wolf on his way to work.
Wolf asked Worm for a ride.



Worm wiggled along, pulling Woodpecker,
Weasel, Wombat, and Wolf in his wagon.
Soon they saw Walrus winking and waving.
Walrus asked Worm for a ride.



Worm wiggled along, pulling Woodpecker, Weasel, Wombat, Wolf, and Walrus in his wagon. Up ahead, they saw Whale playing in the water. Whale asked Worm for a ride.



Worm wiggled with all his might trying to pull Woodpecker, Weasel, Wombat, Wolf, Walrus, and Whale in the wagon. But the wagon would not move. The wheels started to wobble.



WHAM!

The weight was too much for the wagon.
It crashed to the ground.

“Oh, no! My wagon!” Worm wailed.



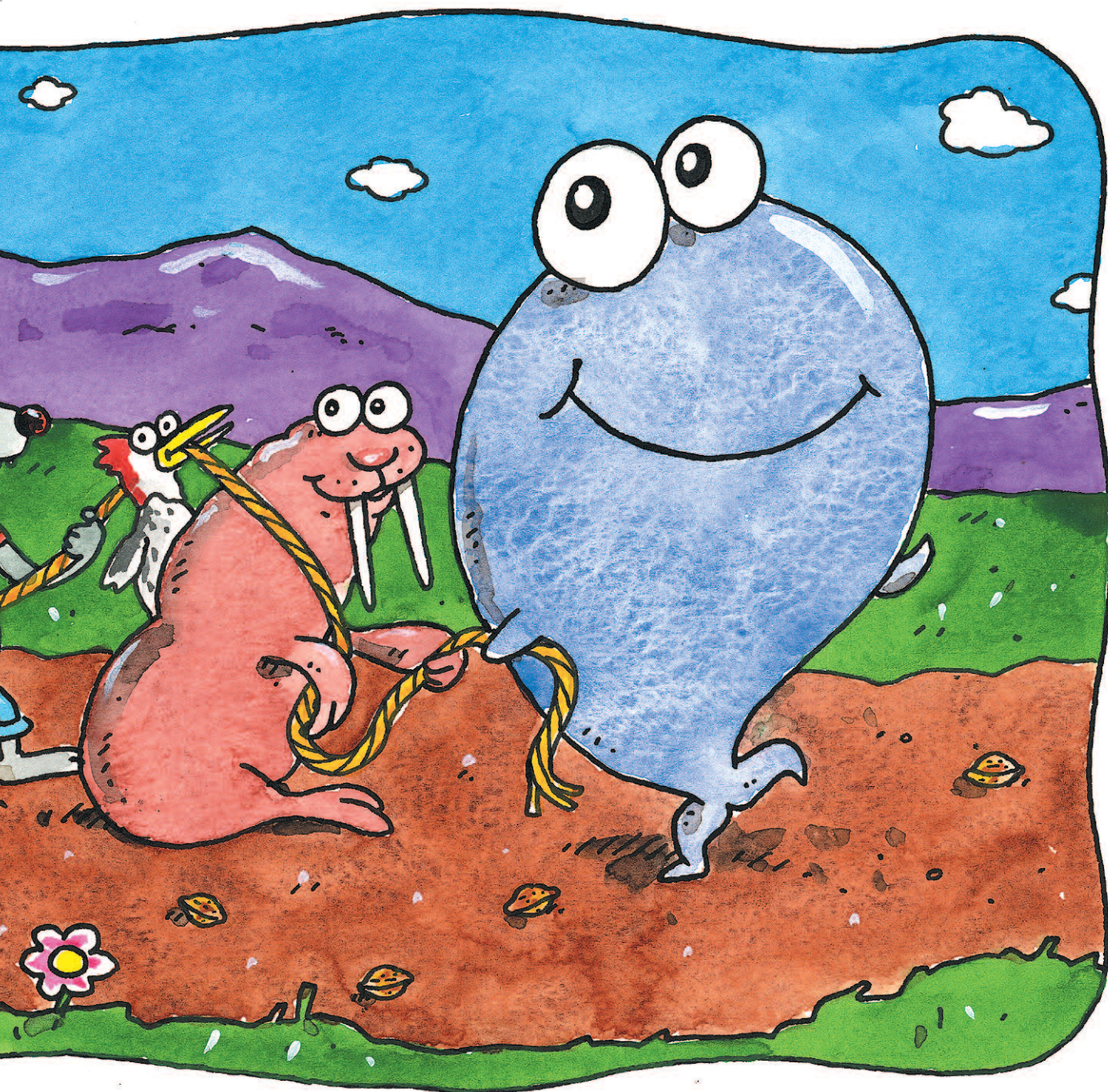
“Don’t worry, Worm,” the animals said.



Worm's friends worked on the wagon all afternoon.



When the wagon was fixed,
Worm wiggled into it.



Then Wombat, Weasel, Wolf, Woodpecker,
Walrus, and Whale pulled Worm all the way home.
And weary Worm had a wonderful ride.

How many things can you find that begin with the letter W?





See page 19 for answers.

Ww Cheer

W is for worm and a wagon to pull

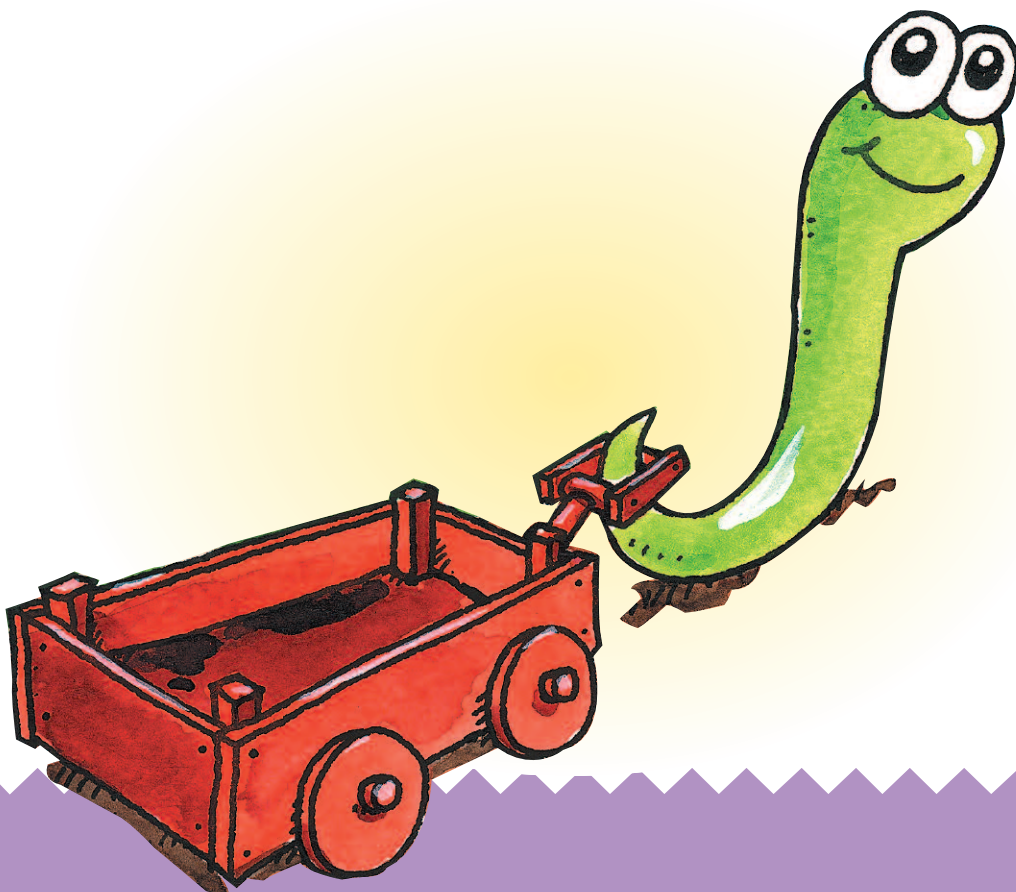
W is for wig, whale, wave, and wool

W is for watermelon, juicy and sweet

W is for walnuts, waffles, and wheat

Hooray for **W**, big and small—








the wildest, wackiest letter of all!



Reading Tips

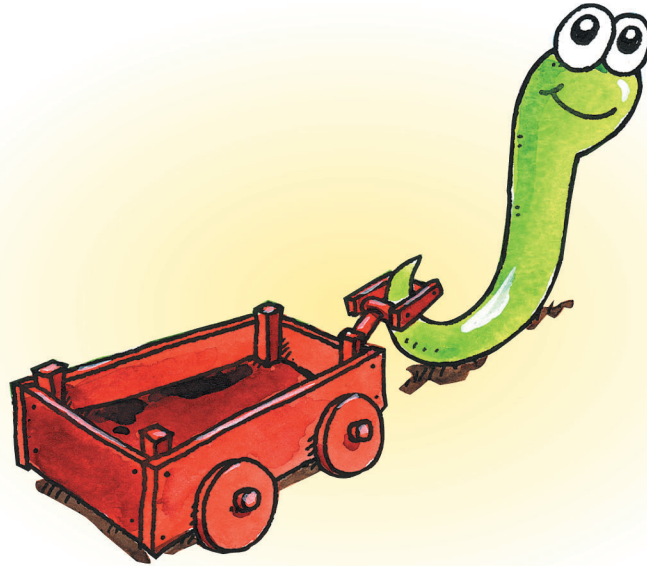
W w

Here are some quick and fun ways to use this story to help children build important alphabet recognition skills.

-  Ask children to find big W and small w at the top of the front cover. Review the W/w sound with children. Can they find two words in the title that begin with the letter W/w? Read the title aloud, emphasizing the W/w sound as appropriate.
-  Flip the book over and read the story summary on the back cover. Ask children to point out words they hear or see that begin with W/w. Explain that the story you are about to read includes many more words that begin with the letter W/w. Can they help you find them?
-  Read the story aloud once for pleasure and enjoy together the whimsical illustrations. Then reread the book, emphasizing the initial W/w sound in the appropriate words. Ask children to listen closely for and identify all the words that start with W/w. Point out these words in the text, and make a list of them.
-  Write each of the words from your list on an unlined index card. Read each word on the cards aloud with children. On another reading of the story, children can match the words on the index cards with the words in the story.
-  Pages 16-17 of the book depict a busy scene full of W/w words. Some of these words have been introduced in the story, but a few are new. Ask children to find as many W/w words as they can. Add any new words to your list. The W/w words depicted in the scene include: worm, wall, wagon, wheels, window, walnuts, wolf, watch, whistle, woodpecker, whale, water. (Children may come up with other W/w words on their own!)
-  Read aloud the cheer on page 18 several times, with lots of energy and enthusiasm. Invite children to join you in reciting the cheer when they feel ready. Encourage them to find any new W/w words in the cheer. Again, add these words to your list.
-  Don't let your exploration of the letter W/w end with the story! Display your list of words in a place where children can easily see it. During the rest of the day or week, children can add new W/w words that they encounter in other books, on signs, on food labels, and so on.

W w

Everyone wants a ride in Worm's wonderful wagon. Will the wagon be able to pull the weight?



AlphaTales are humorous stories designed to help young children recognize letters and the sounds they make. Lay the foundation for reading success with these kid-pleasing books — one for each letter of the alphabet!