

***R. S. V. P.***  
*An Abecedarian of Nonsense*  
By  
*Meera Thompson*

***INTRODUCTION***

*R. S. V. P. is a creative activity book designed for parents to enjoy with their young children or teachers to use with their middle-school students. Reading the text aloud will give rise to entertaining conversations and sharing. As an art teacher, I wanted to write this book to encourage kids to give free rein to their imaginations and unleash their natural abilities to draw pictures and tell stories.*

*On the following pages, there are whimsical letters (playfully arranged alphabetically) supposedly sent by one animal to another. Some invite replies and others spark speculation. Adults can enhance the way children respond by asking questions and helping them look up information in atlases, dictionaries and encyclopedias*

*The “letters” are at the top of the page and the rest of the page can be filled with art work and creative writing.*

*All you need to get started is a printer, paper (card stock works well), markers or crayons.*

*Meera Thompson*  
*March 31, 2020*  
*New York City*

Dear Alligator,

The assorted ants and aphids that you sent me from Australia were awfully appetizing, and I ate them all at once. A thousand thanks—it takes admirable taste to arrange such an amusing gift!

Are you still driving your antique automobile? Remember all the amazing adventures we had motoring around Africa? We should do it again!

Affectionately,  
Armadillo

Dear Bear,

I'm baking brownies for our picnic so this will be quick. I just wanted to remind you to bring your binoculars tomorrow so that we can do some bird watching--don't forget your field guide to berries and brambles. I'll meet you at the boathouse!

Bye for now,

Bunny

Dear Cat,

Those cuties the canary and the cow are giving a concert at the chameleon's castle in Cannes during the carnival, and I've convinced some other critters to join their act. Your old crowd is coming! The crab will be on castanets, the cheetah is going to play the cornet, and I'll be conducting. Can I coax you into accompanying us on your clarinet? It'll be cool.

Consult your calendar—

Cricket

Dear Dodo,

    Please deliver a complete description the diamonds that disappeared in  
Denmark. Details are decisive in detective work.

    Digging desperately!

Dog

Dear Eagle,

I'm organizing an exciting expedition to Easter Island and would like to employ you as an expert guide.

Eagerly awaiting your reply,

Elephant

Dear Flamingo,

I'm afraid I lost you fancy flip-flops. I am so sorry! Please forgive me!  
They fell off when I was dancing the fandango with a ferret. To replace them I  
found a fabulous pair for you in Fiji--they should arrive fairly soon.

From now on, I'll stick to the fox trot.

Faithfully,

Frog

Dear Giraffe,

Greetings from the Galapagos! I'm having a great time here galloping through the gorgeous landscape. Guess what! I've made good friends with a giant gecko and we're going to tour Greece together.

Give the gorillas my regards,

Goose



Dear Hippo,

Hi. How are you? I'm not so hot. I had a hundred hamburgers on my hike in the Himalayas. Now I have hiccups. Do you happen to have a cure?

Hurry over!

Hedgehog

Dear Impala,

In response to your interesting inquiry about igloos, I regret that I have no idea how much Italian ice cream you would need to build one in India.

Intrigued,

Inchworm

P.S. I would welcome an invitation to inspect it. Please keep me informed.

Dear Jaguar,

I am writing to apply for the job of Jellybean Judge which was advertised in today's edition of The Jungle Journal. I enjoy their jewel-like colors and juicy flavors. Since January I have been juggling jam tarts in Jamaica, and that's been jim-dandy, but I would jump at the chance to join your candy company. I hope I am

Just who you're looking for,  
Jack Rabbit

Dear Kuala,

Pack up your old kit bag, kiddo and get ready to kiss your cares and Cairns good bye! Picture circling the world on a kite—you, the Katydid, the Kitten, and me! We'll call at a kaleidoscope of sites! Kansas City and Kyoto! Key Largo and Katmandu! Count on me--I know you'll get a kick out of Kenya!

Keep checking your email!

Kangaroo

Dear Lion,

London is a very lonesome place without you, despite the liveliness of the season. I love the way you fill my life with laughter. Even the legendary landmarks seem lackluster in your absence. Still, it lifts my spirits to know that you are on the last leg of your journey home. Don't linger!

Longing to see you,

Lamb

My Dear Mallard,

If my memory serves me, Monday is your birthday—come for a meal! I'll make a Mississippi mud pie. My marvelous recipe calls for a million chocolate wafer cookies, a mountain of mocha ice cream, magnums of hot fudge, and mounds of whipped cream. I just got some mouth-watering cocoa from Mexico in the mail, so we'll toast your day with mugs of hot chocolate and I'll wish you

Many happy returns,

Moose

Dear Nessie,

What's new in Loch Ness? I thought I'd drop you a note to see if I could nudge you away from Scotland for New Year's Eve. Why don't you come visit me in Nevada? I'll show you all the neon lights of my noisy neighborhood. If you say no, I'll know you're a naughty old monster.

It would be nice to see you.

Your nephew,

Newt

Dear Owl,

Only three more days until the Oscars! Oooh I'm so excited! I was overjoyed to be nominated and I know I'll fly out of my seat if it's my name that they call when they open the envelope!

I need your opinion on which outfit to wear—the orange one or the olive one. (I want to look original for all my folks back home in Oklahoma who'll be watching the Academy Awards on TV.) Come on over around two o'clock and I'll try them on for you.

OK?

Ostrich



Dearest Puppy,

You must be pleased as punch! The press is full of praise for your painting, "*Portrait of a Parrot with a Purple Parasol.*" We have just been to the Palazzo to see the picture and it is perfection! I was particularly impressed by the way you have her posed in profile while pondering the Pyramids. Very pretty! Popsy and I are

Tremendously proud of you,  
Poodle

Dear Quail,

On my recent trip to Quebec I stayed in a quaint inn in a quiet quarter of that colorful city. Part of what made my visit so comfortable was the magnificent quilt that covered my canopied bed. It contained quantities and quantities of feathery down of unequaled quality. Indeed, I was quite reluctant to quit its fluffy warmth. Could you please question the innkeepers as to where they purchased it and endeavor to acquire one for the royal bedchamber. I trust that the result of your quest will be quick.

Quivering from the cold,  
Your Queen

Dear Reindeer,

You're right about the tree in Rockefeller Center! It is radiant and Robin and I can't stop raving about it. We're rushing around doing all the things you recommended. After we saw the Rockettes at Radio City Music Hall, we went ice skating at the rink. What a riot! They were playing rock and roll tunes and we kept landing on our rears. I can't remember having more fun!

Must run—

Retriever

Dear Squirrel,

I'm sending you snail mail so I can enclose some snapshots of that swell surprise party you put together for me in San Francisco. See how silly we all got scarfing down sassafras sodas—especially once the submarine sandwiches and alphabet soup was served. Notice how serene the swan was even when she was playing shuffleboard with the squid. Did you suspect that the spider was squeezing the skunk's snout all through supper?

I still can't figure out how you managed to stage the whole shebang and keep it a secret! It was a spectacular success. You're a sweetie!

Sorry about my sloppy script,  
Seal

Dear Tortoise,

Thanks for the telegram telling me that you're back in town. I took those terrific picture postcards of your travels to Tahiti, Tokyo, and the Eiffel Tower and tacked them to the walls of my tree house.

Did I tell you that I trimmed the twigs off the top branches and attached two trapezes? I can teach you to do triple twirls and yell like Tarzan. Don't worry about taking a tumble---I put a trampoline on the ground near the trunk. Toddle by and give it a try.

Toodle-ooo

Tabby

Dear Undersea Creatures,

We understand that you feel that the team from the UFO indulged in unsportsmanlike conduct, but we urge you, in the spirit of unity, to overlook the uproar they unwittingly created. Clearly, they think that ukuleles, umbrellas, and cooking utensils are the usual equipment for the game; however, when you play them in the United States (home of baseball) everyone will have uniform mitts and bats.

Trust us,  
The Umpires

Dear Vervet,

My Vet tells me that I need a vacation. I have booked a leisurely sea voyage from South America to Italy where I will spend time resting my enviable vocal chords.

I have rented a villa in Venice. My agent promises me that I will have a view of the Grand Canal from my veranda, and I will hear the violins playing in the Piazza San Marco as I watch the water turn to vermillion at dusk.

I need a companion. I plan to venture out in the evenings to various operas to hear the divas who vie to surpass me. You should solve this vexing problem by flying over for a visit. It is vital though that you vow to be very well behaved.

Don't forget to bring your velvet vest—when you wear it, no one would know you aren't a viceroy.

Leave a message on my voice mail,  
Vicuna

Dear Walrus,

I will be covering your whirlwind tour of the White House for the Washington bureau of WOW radio. Our listeners in Wisconsin would like to know the who, what, when, where, and why of your invention of the widget, and how you began working with them in the first place.

I hope you will have time to answer a couple of questions about creating a website and to share some words of wisdom. I'll call you Wednesday, but you can always give me a whistle on my walkie-talkie.

By the way, my kids think you're a wizard.

Way to go!

Woodchuck



DEAR DOG

EXTRAORDINARAY DEVELOPMENTS

YOUR LETTER IS MISSING

THE MAP YOU DREW VANISHED

FAX DUPLICATES

MARK THE EXACT SPOT WHERE YOU ARE DIGGING WITH AN

**X**

EXTREMELY EXERCISED

DODO

Hiya Yellow Bird,

Who are you going to root for at the big game? I yo-yo back and forth, but  
I'm guessing I should do my yelling for Yale since they'll be the home team.

What do you think?

I hope the weather won't be yucky.

The yak's bringing yummy treats.

See you on the thirty-yard line,

Yorkie

Dear Zebra,

Your friends here love reading about your zany shenanigans as you zigzag across zip codes and zoom from one time zone to another. You must have traveled a zillion million miles by now! Zowie! Keep the letters coming!

We're crazy about you!

The Zoo