

Learn to Read with Rocket



wag



nap



wind



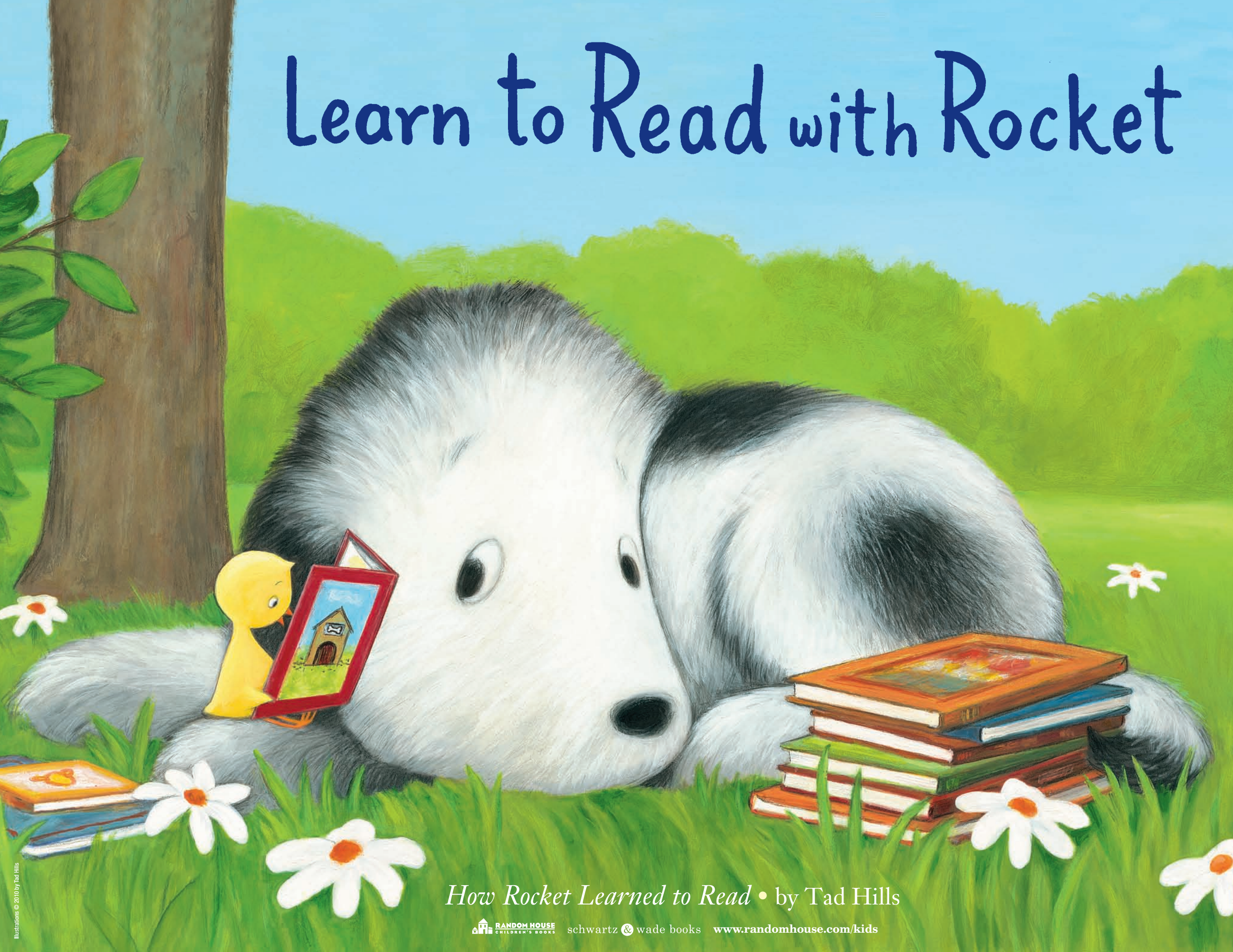
dig



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read

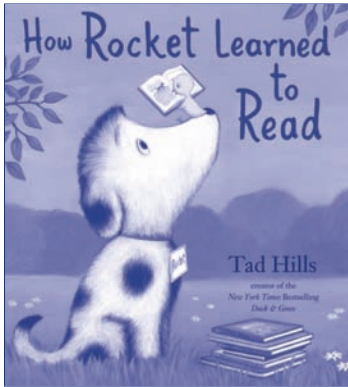


How Rocket Learned to Read • by Tad Hills



schwartz & wade books www.randomhouse.com/kids

Introducing Rocket and the “wondrous, mighty, gorgeous alphabet”!



Rocket is an emergent reader who knows what books are but cannot decipher them by himself. He *L-O-V-E-S* to be read to, like all young soon-to-be readers do! His friend, the little yellow bird, starts by reading aloud to him and showing him how much fun stories are. Rocket can't get enough of them. But the bird also knows that reading starts with the “wondrous, mighty, gorgeous alphabet,” so she shows Rocket not only the shapes of the letters but also the sounds they represent. Soon Rocket is able to spell words that he knows well, like *M-U-D* and *W-A-G*. Once he is able to do that, there's no stopping Rocket and his reading!

Ages 3–7 • Schwartz & Wade Books
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ALPHABET MEMORY GAME

Divide the class into small groups of 3 to 4 children. Begin by choosing 8 to 10 of the Rocket alphabet cards on this poster. (Any more than that and children might be overwhelmed. Increase the quantity of letters as the class progresses.) Enlarge, photocopy and cut two sets of the selected cards for each group. Have the groups sit on the floor or at tables. For each group, spread one set of cards facedown on the floor or table; place the other shuffled set in a stack nearby. Children take turns selecting an alphabet card from the stack and then trying to match it by turning over a card from the set spread out on the floor or table. If they succeed, they place the matching pair in front of them and continue. If not, the turned card is again placed facedown and the card in hand is placed at the bottom of the stacked set. It is the next child's turn. Remind the children to watch as the cards are being turned over so they can remember where each letter is when their turn comes. Once all the cards in the stack have been matched, the game is over. The child with the most pairs wins. This game reinforces letter recognition.

ALPHABET SEQUENCING

Enlarge and photocopy the full set of Rocket alphabet cards on this poster and cut them into individual cards. Turn the cut cards facedown and mix them up; then place them in front of a group of 3 to 4 children. The first child turns a card over and lays it on the floor or table. The second child selects the next card and places it either before the previous card or after it, depending on where it belongs in the alphabet. This continues until all the cards are in order. At first, children should have an alphabet strip available to support them as they work through this activity. Later, when they are more familiar with the sequence of the alphabet, they can do it on their own.

ALPHABET DRAW AND LABEL

Enlarge and photocopy the full set of Rocket alphabet cards on this poster and cut them into individual cards. Depending on your class's ability, you can choose to remove the vowels or challenging letters such as q and x. With cards facedown in your hand, walk around the classroom and have each child take one. Then have the children write that letter in their notebooks and draw a picture of an object that begins with that letter. Ask them to try to spell it as well as they can. This activity is meant to bolster their sense of where a word begins and ends.

BEGINNING SOUND SORT

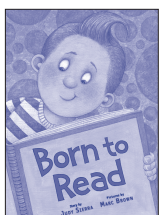
Give a set of the word image cards on this poster, photocopied and cut out, to each child. The children then write the words—as best they can—in their notebooks, then draw what that word represents. This activity can be extended by asking the children to come up with other words starting with the same sounds as the chosen images. They will then write these new words and draw corresponding pictures. This activity lets children practice matching sounds with printed letters.

PRACTICE, PRACTICE, PRACTICE

Children should practice writing every day. To start this activity, read aloud from *How Rocket Learned to Read*. Then ask and discuss with the class: What do you think Rocket liked about reading? What do *you* like about reading? The children can use the reproducible on this poster to write and draw their responses.

READ, READ, READ

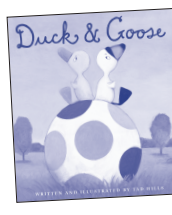
Here are other great read-alouds to share with your class.



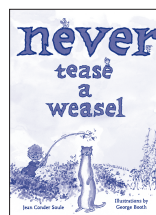
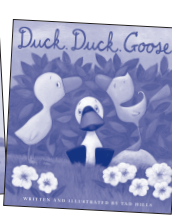
Born to Read
by Judy Sierra
Illustrated by Marc Brown



The Donut Chef
by Bob Staake



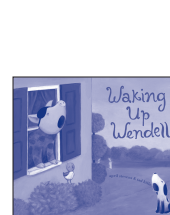
Duck & Goose and Duck, Duck, Goose
by Tad Hills



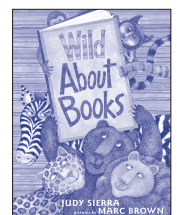
Never Tease a Weasel
by Jean Conder Soule
Illustrated by George Booth



The Police Cloud
by Christoph Nieman



Waking Up Wendell
by April Stevens
Illustrated by Tad Hills



Wild About Books
by Judy Sierra
Illustrated by Marc Brown

Name: _____

READING IS FUN!

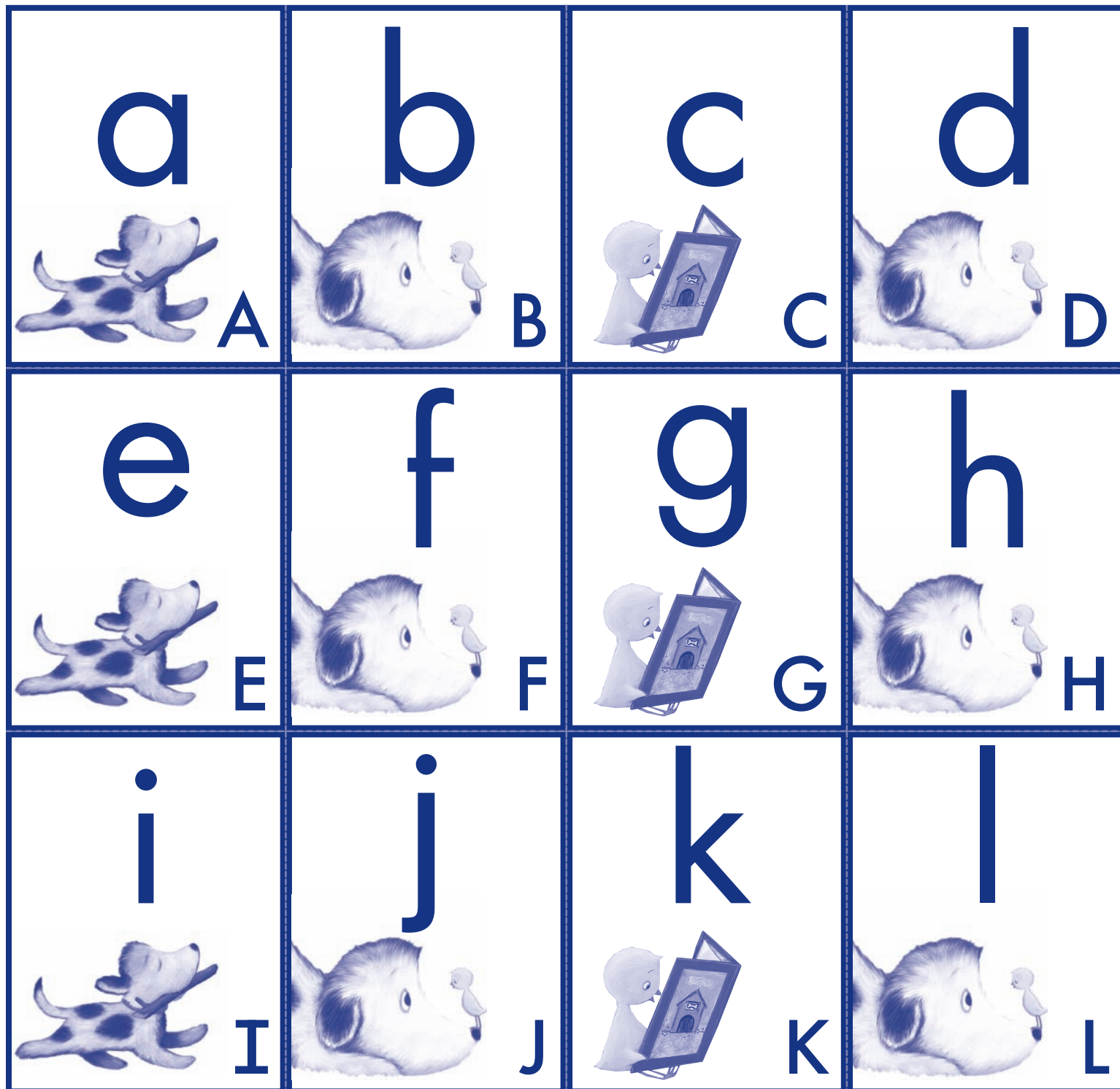
What do you think Rocket liked about reading?

WHAT DO YOU LIKE ABOUT READING?

Write it and draw it!



Illustration © 2010 by Tad Hills



IT ALL STARTS WITH THE ALPHABET!

Photocopy and enlarge the alphabet cards for these activities and any others requiring alphabet cards or a frieze.



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