The Not So Ordinary Alphabet Book

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Written by Janet Bhardwaj

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Satyoralem

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The Not So Ordinary Alphabet Book

by Janet Bhardwaj

Satyoralem

For Zarabelle and Jordan,

Be unapologetically you.

A a

Alpha the Aardvark

Alpha the Aardvark is an amazing artist.

He likes to paint and finish the fastest.

B b

Bravo the Baboon

Bravo the Baboon is a brilliant baker.

He loves to sprinkle with his chocolate shaker.

C c

Charlie the Cheetah

Charlie the Cheetah is a champion chef.

He’s always cooking until he’s the last one left.

D d

Delta the Dingo

Delta the Dingo is a divine dressmaker.

She’s just simply a magnificent creator.

E e

Echo the Echidna

Echo the Echidna is an excellent editor.

She’s always searching for the next famous writer.

HOLLYWOOD
SCENE
TAKE
DIRECTOR

F f

Foxtrot the Flamingo

Foxtrot the Flamingo is a fabulous filmmaker.

They look for actors that want to be greater.

G g

Golf the Goat

Golf the Goat is a gracious gymnast.

She tumbles and twirls without being reckless.

H h

Hotel the Hippopotamus

Hotel the Hippopotamus is a humorous historian.

He writes about his findings and gives them to the librarian.

I i

India the Iguana

India the Iguana is an incredible industrialist.

She owns plenty of factories and is a proud perfectionist.

PRESS
JULIETT

J j

Juliett the Jaguar

Juliett the Jaguar is a joyful journalist.

She roams the world and is quite the verbalist.

COMMUNITY
KITCHEN

K k

Kilo the Kangaroo

Kilo the Kangaroo is a kind-hearted kitchenhand.

He prepares and serves food then washes his pans.

D.H
SURF RESCUE
AUSTRALIA

L l

Lima the Llama

Lima the Llama is a lovely lifeguard.

She saves hundreds of lives and trains ridiculously hard.

APRIL
MEETING 10 MO
WEEKLY TEAM HIT GOAL
LAUNCH DAY!

M m

Mike the Moose

Mike the Moose is a motivational manager.

He prioritises his work by using a planner and his calendar.

CHILDREN'S
JULIETTE

N n

November the Numbat

November the Numbat is a notable nurse.

She can do tricks on her motorbike like drive in reverse.

EYE CARE FOR ALL!
E
F P
T O Z
L P E D
SAVE OUR OCEANS
OPTOMETRIST

O o

Oscar the Octopus

Oscar the Octopus is an optimistic optometrist.

He examines eyes and is a woke activist.

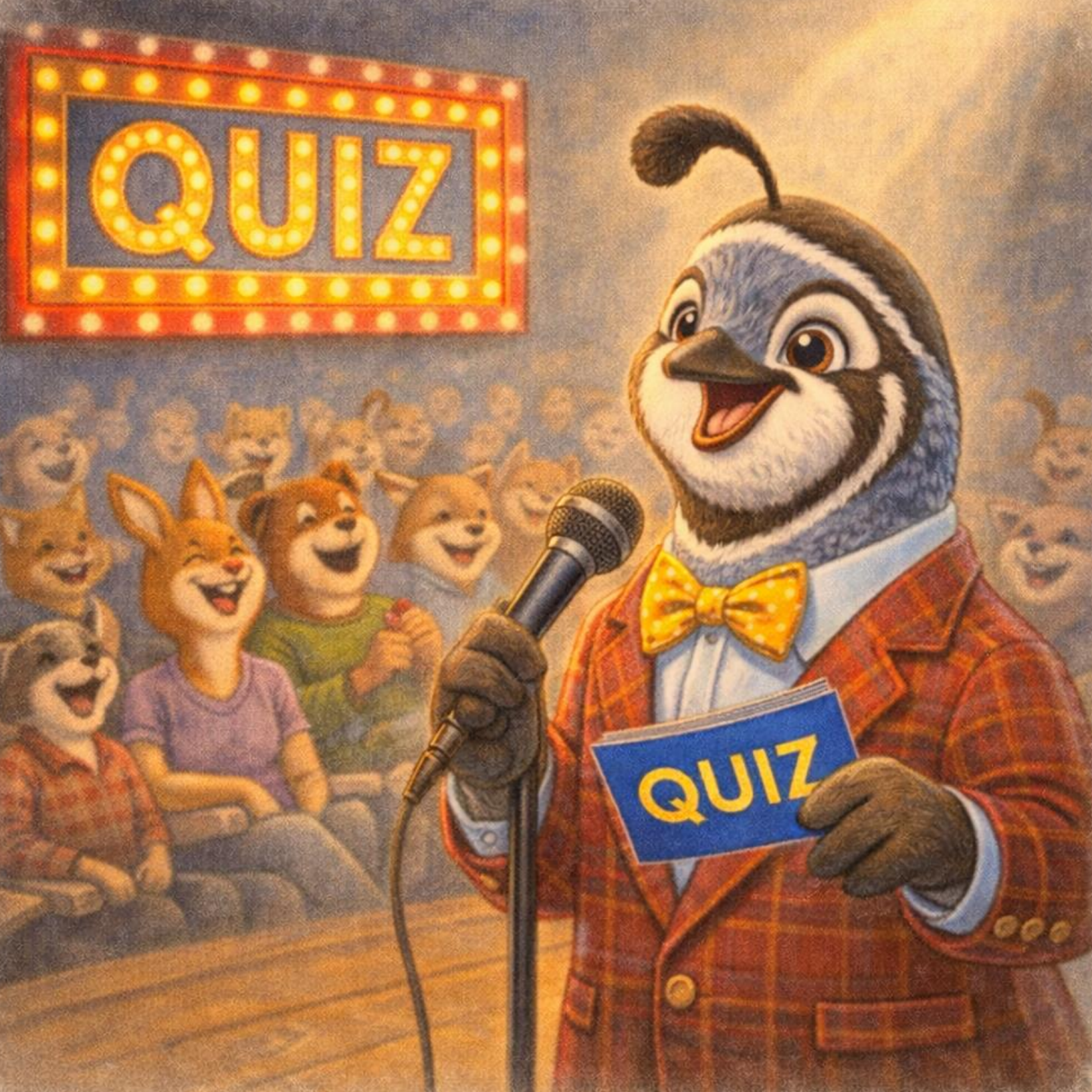
PRESCRIPTIONS
℞

P p

Papa the Penguin

Papa the Penguin is a pragmatic pharmacist.

He'll be helping out at his drama-free chemist.


QUIZ
QUIZ

Q q

Quebec the Quail

Quebec the Quail is a quirky quizmaster.

He fills every room with questions and laughter.

1000s
100% PAPER
White Rhino
Soft & & Sustainable
18 Rolls
CLING KING

R r

Romeo the Rhinoceros

Romeo the Rhinoceros is a resourceful recycler.

Turning unwanted rubbish into everyday toilet paper.

THE
Voice

S s

Sierra the Swan

Sierra the Swan is a spectacular singer.

If she went on ‘The Voice’ she’d be the winner.

HIPHOP
T
T
Tap Tap!
Tap!

T t

Tango the Tiger

Tango the Tiger is a terrific teacher.

His dance lessons are his number one feature.

UNIFORM
THE
URIAL
UPHOLSTERER

U u

Uniform the Urial

Uniform the Urial is a unique upholsterer.

Give her a couch and she'll add a bolster.

V v

Victor the Vervet

Victor the Vervet is a vivid vet.

He vanishes ailments like a vivacious pet.

EXIT

W w

Whiskey the Wallaby

Whiskey the Wallaby is a wonderful watchmaker.

He loves keeping time and is an avid risktaker.

X x

X-Ray the X-Ray Fish

X-Ray the X-Ray Fish is an e**x**traordinary xylophonist.

Her music ripples through the ocean like the words of an etymologist.

Y y

Yankee the Yak

Yankee the Yak is a youthful yogi.

He stretches and breathes extremely slowly.

ZANT
Dr. Ziggy
Dr Zulu

Z z

Zulu the Zebra

Zulu the Zebra is a zealous zoologist.

She idolises her big brother Ziggy, a zany biologist.

Glossary of Some Not So Ordinary Words

Avid
Showing great interest or excitement.

Bolster
To support or make something stronger.

Brilliant
Very clever or shining with great ideas.

Creator
Someone who makes or imagines something new.

Divine
Wonderfully beautiful or special.

Examines
Looks at something carefully to understand it better.

Extraordinary
Very special or far from ordinary.

Extremely
Very much; to a great degree.

Fabulous
So good it makes you smile.

Gracious
Kind, polite, and thoughtful toward others.

Humorous
Having a good sense of fun and laughter.

Idolises
Really admires or looks up to someone.

Industrialist
A person who builds businesses or factories that make things people use.

Magnificent
Extremely impressive or grand.

Notable
Worth noticing because it is special or important.

Quirky
A little unusual in a fun way.

Recover
To get better after being hurt or unwell.

Resourceful
Good at solving problems with what is available.

Risk-taker
Someone who is brave enough to try new or uncertain things.

Ripples
Small waves or movements that spread outward.

Spectacular
Very exciting, impressive, or beautiful.

Unique
One of a kind; unlike anything else.

Vamoose
To leave quickly or disappear.

Verbalist
Someone who is skilled with words and language.

Vivid
Bright, clear, and easy to imagine.

Vivacious

Full of life, energy, and enthusiasm.

Youthful
Full of energy, curiosity, and life.

Zealous
Very enthusiastic and passionate.

Zany
Lively, silly, and full of unexpected fun.

Educational Resource Guide

The Not So Ordinary Alphabet Book **is a rich, playful, and purposeful literacy resource designed to spark curiosity, expand vocabulary, and support inclusive classroom learning. Through humour, alliteration, animal characters, and real-world occupations, each letter introduces children to language structures, identity, and meaningful roles in society in an engaging and memorable way.**

The book draws inspiration from the structure of the NATO phonetic alphabet to support clear sound–letter connections, while reimagining it through playful, inclusive storytelling. This familiar structural approach helps strengthen phonemic awareness and recall, while shifting the focus from uniformity to creativity, individuality, and self-expression.

Each character in ***The Not So Ordinary Alphabet Book*** **is intentionally designed to be unique. Characters differ in personality, interests, strengths, and ways of engaging with the world. Some are bold and energetic, others calm and reflective; some lead, some support, some create, and others problem-solve quietly. No character is presented as "typical" or "perfect", reinforcing the message that there is no single way to learn, work, or belong.**

The book actively supports inclusion and representation. Characters are written to challenge stereotypes and reflect a diverse range of identities and experiences, including neurodivergent-coded characters, gender-inclusive roles, non-stereotypical occupations, and characters who use mobility aids such as a wheelchair. These characters are not defined by limitation, but by their capabilities, interests, and contributions, promoting a strengths-based understanding of diversity.

The Not So Ordinary Alphabet Book **is ideal for Early Childhood, Early Stage 1, and Stage 1 classrooms, with flexible opportunities for extension in older year levels. It supports literacy development while also fostering empathy, identity exploration, and respectful discussion about difference — making it not only an alphabet book, but a tool for connection, understanding, and belonging.**

Key Literacy Concepts Explored

Alliteration & Sound Awareness

Each character is carefully crafted using repeated initial sounds (e.g. *Bravo the Baboon, brilliant baker*), helping students to:

- Recognise letter–sound relationships
- Develop phonemic awareness
- Hear rhythm and flow in language
- Build confidence with early reading and speaking

Teaching ideas

- Highlight the repeated sound and brainstorm new words together
- Create class alliteration charts
- Invite students to invent their own alliterative name and animal

Discussion prompt questions

Use these prompts during read-alouds, small groups, or circle time to deepen understanding and oral language:

- What sound do you hear at the beginning of this character's name?
- Can you think of another word that starts with the same sound?
- How does it feel when we say the words together — fast, fun, bouncy, smooth?
- Why do you think the author chose these words for this character?
- Which word was your favourite to say? Why?
- Can you clap or tap the beat of the repeated sound?

Extension discussion (for Early Stage 1 / Stage 1)

- What would happen if we changed the animal but kept the sound?
- How would the character change if we changed the occupation?
- Can you think of an alliterative name for yourself? How does it sound when you say it out loud?

Rich Vocabulary Development

The text intentionally includes advanced and descriptive vocabulary (e.g. *pragmatic, zealous, resourceful, extraordinary*), encouraging students to:

- Develop exposure to Tier 2 and Tier 3 vocabulary
- Make meaning through context and illustration cues
- Expand oral language and expressive vocabulary

Teaching ideas

- Discuss new words using visuals, actions, and facial expressions
- Create a class "Word Wall of Wonders" to display interesting or powerful words
- Encourage students to use one new word in a sentence, drawing, or oral response

Discussion prompt questions

Use these prompts during read-alouds, guided groups, or vocabulary focus sessions:

- Did you hear a word that sounded new or interesting?
- What do you think that word might mean?
- What clues helped you work it out — the picture, the sentence, or both?
- Can you show what the word means using your body or face?
- Have you ever felt or seen something like this word before?
- Is this a word you might use again? When?

Extension discussion (for Early Stage 1 / Stage 1)

- How would the sentence change if we used a different word?
- Can you think of a stronger or more exciting word to replace this one?
- Which character do you think best matches this word? Why?
- Can you use this word to describe yourself, a friend, or something in our classroom?

Occupations & Real-World Connections

Each letter introduces a profession, expanding students' understanding of the world and their place within it. Occupations include creatives, carers, scientists, leaders, helpers, and trades, encouraging children to see work as meaningful, varied, and connected to everyday life. This supports students to:

- Develop early career awareness
- Build respect for diverse roles in society
- Engage in discussions about interests, abilities, and strengths

Teaching ideas

- Match occupations in the book to community helpers and familiar roles
- Invite students to role-play different jobs using dress-ups or props
- Ask: *"What skills does this job need?"*

Discussion prompt questions

Use these prompts during shared reading, role-play activities, or class discussions:

- What job does this character have?
- What do you think this character does in their job?
- Why do you think this job is important?
- What tools, clothing, or equipment might this job need?
- Who in our community might have a similar job?
- Would you like to try this job? Why or why not?

Extension discussion (for Early Stage 1 / Stage 1)

- What skills or strengths would help someone do this job well?
- How does this job help other people or the environment?
- Could this job be done in different ways or places?
- What job do you enjoy learning about the most so far?

Social & Emotional Learning

The characters in *The Not So Ordinary Alphabet Book* intentionally model a wide range of social and emotional skills, including:

- Confidence and self-expression
- Kindness, empathy, and care for others
- Emotional regulation and mindfulness
- Inclusion, diversity, and individuality

Teaching ideas

- Discuss how each character might be feeling and why
- Identify character strengths and personal qualities
- Connect character traits to students' own experiences and identities

Discussion prompt questions

Use these prompts during read-alouds, circle time, or wellbeing lessons:

- How do you think this character is feeling right now?
- What clues help you understand their feelings?
- What do you notice about how this character treats others?
- What makes this character unique or special?
- How do you think the character feels about themselves?
- Have you ever felt the same way?

Extension discussion (for Early Stage 1 / Stage 1)

- What strategies does the character use to calm down or focus?
- How does the character show kindness or care?
- What strengths does this character have?
- How are you similar to this character? How are you different?

Creative Thinking & Imagination

The Not So Ordinary Alphabet Book **blends humour, exaggeration, and strong character personality to spark imagination and creative thinking. Through playful language and expressive illustrations, students are encouraged to engage deeply with stories and explore ideas beyond the text. This supports students to:**

- Develop creative storytelling skills
- Build visual literacy through interpretation of illustrations
- Practise prediction and inference

Teaching ideas

- Rewrite a page using a new occupation or setting
- Design a new "Not So Ordinary" character using a chosen letter
- Create short oral presentations, storyboards, or mini books

Discussion prompt questions

Use these prompts during shared reading, creative tasks, or group discussions:

- What do you notice first in the picture? Why do you think that is?
- What do you think might happen next? What clues helped you decide?
- How does the picture help tell the story?
- What makes this character funny, surprising, or interesting?
- If you could change one thing about the story, what would it be?

Extension discussion (for Early Stage 1 / Stage 1)

- How would the story change if it took place somewhere else?
- What would happen if the character had a different job?
- Can you create a new character that is "not so ordinary"?
- How could you show your ideas using pictures, words, or actions?

Why Teachers Love This Book

✓ Short, rhythmic sentences that support engagement and recall
✓ Memorable, relatable characters
✓ Inclusive representation that reflects real classrooms
✓ Ideal for read-alouds and shared learning
✓ Easy to differentiate across ability levels
✓ Endless opportunities for extension and discussion

Cross-Curriculum Links

The Not So Ordinary Alphabet Book supports learning across multiple curriculum areas:

- English – phonics, vocabulary, comprehension, speaking and listening
- PDHPE – wellbeing, identity, inclusion
- HSIE – community roles, responsibility, environment
- Creative Arts – drama, movement, visual design
- Science – animals, habitats, caring for the environment

A Classroom Favourite

The Not So Ordinary Alphabet Book is more than an alphabet book — it is a conversation starter, a language builder, and a celebration of individuality.

Perfect for:

- Whole-class literacy sessions
- Small-group intervention and support
- Relief teacher plans
- Library lessons
- Home–school connections