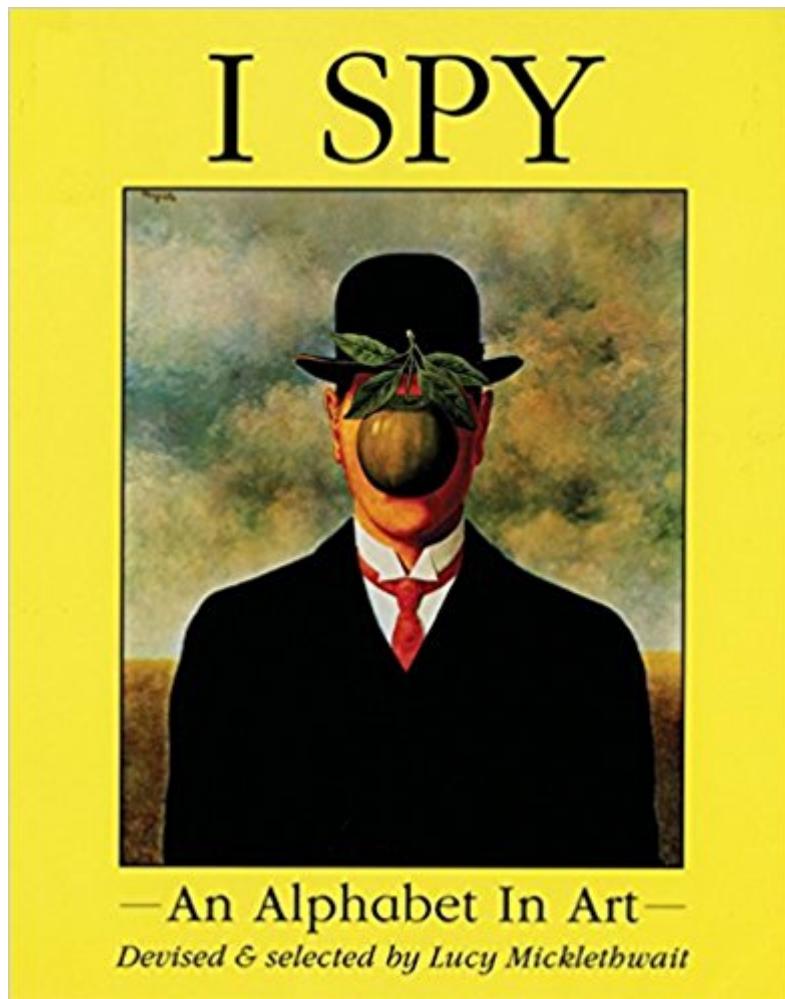


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I Spy: An Alphabet In Art



Synopsis

"I spy with my little eye something beginning with A..." Even the very youngest art lovers can spy out the apple in Magritte's Son of Man through the zigzags in de Geest's Portrait of a Child. Interact with twenty-six of the world's greatest paintings in this educational, entertaining, and beautiful pairing of a classic game with timeless art.

Book Information

Series: I Spy

Paperback: 64 pages

Publisher: Greenwillow Books; later printing edition (October 21, 1996)

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Product Dimensions: 8.5 x 10.9 inches

Shipping Weight: 12 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 stars 29 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #182,858 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #62 in Children's Books > Activities, Crafts & Games > Games > Questions & Answers #611 in Books > Children's Books > Arts, Music & Photography > Art

Age Range: 4 - 8 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 4

Customer Reviews

The perfect art book for small children is one that opens their eyes and makes them want to keep looking. I Spy, surely the most cultured alphabet book around, is just right. Parents can leave it out on a table and let it work its magic silently. Its cover picture--RenÃƒÂ© Magritte's Son of Man, a painting of a man in a Homburg and overcoat who inexplicably has a green apple where his face ought to be--has just the right touch of whimsy to grab a toddler's attention, but older children (up to about age 80) should love it, too. Inside, there are 26 paintings: large, clear, colorful, and one to a page. Across from each plate is an alphabet letter, shown both capitalized and lowercase, and the words, "I spy with my little eye something beginning with..." The Magritte starts off the alphabet (A is for apple, of course), and then Henri Rousseau's Football Players keeps the ball rolling, so to speak. Lucy Micklethwait includes wonderful selections of pictures children can dream about, including an Indian painting, Workmen Building the Palace of Fatehpur Sikri (E for elephant), Goya's

incomparable Don Manuel Osorio Manrique de Zuniga (M for magpie), and MirÃƒÂ¡'s Woman and Bird in the Moonlight (S for star). Click to see the spread with Marc Chagall's The Bride and Groom of the Eiffel Tower (V for violin). Compilation and text © 1992 by Lucy Micklethwait. Permission by Greenwillow Books. (Preschool and older) --Peggy Moorman

From the simplest of premises, Micklethwait has fashioned a remarkably rich investigation into the pleasures of looking at paintings. In search of an object beginning with a specific letter, the reader's eye roams pictorial worlds ranging from a 15th-century manuscript illumination to a David Hockney poolside. Spotting the clues hidden in abundant Dutch still lifes, vibrant genre scenes or a Goya portrait can be tricky, but the hunt is never dull, thanks to the author's unusually creative choices and their faithful reproduction. Often, more than one object in a painting satisfies the letter requirement, a subtle hint that art may prompt many questions and reward an alert viewer with multiple answers. Micklethwait understands this truth and uses it well; the images she has chosen will linger with children. All ages. Copyright 1992 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

I enjoy buying abecedarians which will grow with the children. The "I Spy" element in this book is not as fun and useful as I had hoped. Each painting has only 1 "official" thing to look for, and as a child grows, the fun of already knowing the location of the apple wears off. I appreciate the limitation which Micklethwait was working with - I can't imagine trying to locate a a gorgeous, high-quality pre-existing artwork with *multiple* items beginning with A, with B, with Q (!). I still think it's a good book. The reproductions are truly, truly gorgeous and represent a wealth of artists and art movements. A wonderful imaginative book, especially for rainy days and car rides.

Lucy Micklethwait is a thoughtful children's book creator. When her daughter was small, Lucy would sit with her and look at art books. They would talk about each item in the painting. While they may not have discussed the meaning, the first step in developing art appreciation and understanding is art awareness. What better way to teach a child awareness than literally let the child point out items in the painting? Even though I am now a children's librarian bringing this book to you, in another life time I was a high school teacher. One course I taught was a kind of art appreciation. The first activity I did was post a dozen famous prints across the board, then ask students to pick their favorite and write why and least favorite and say why. Examining a painting without knowing a thing about it is the first step in art awareness. In "I Spy" there are 26 famous paintings. The one on the

cover is "Son of Man" by Rene Magritte (a man). The words on the left page inside the book say: "I spy with my little eye something beginning with Aa." On the right side is the painting. Here is a sampling of other included paintings: Picasso's "Sitting Woman with a Fish Hat" (let their little imagination roam with this one!), Goya's "Don Manuel Osorio Manrique de Zuniga," Matisse's "Interior with Etruscan Vase," Renoir's "Umbrellas," and Hockney's "A Bigger Splash." What a wonderful way to reinforce the alphabet, introduce the child to masterpieces of art, show cultural and time differences in clothing, style, and customs. Perhaps at some point you could locate a book in the library which has those paintings. Take one at a time to discuss meaning, technique, painter. Ms Micklethwait has several other books to consider: Colors: A First Art Book, I Spy Two Eyes: Numbers in Art, Child's Book of Art: Discover Great Paintings, A Animals: A First Art Book.

I like the use of classic art. The illustrations are well done. Some of the pictures have more than 1 image to find. I think it is fun the first couple times, but not something kids will want to look at over and over. There really isn't a story to keep them engaged either. My other concern is that the binding and pages of this book will not hold up for the age group in which this book is useful. It is too simplistic for older children, but too longer for younger children, so I am not certain who the target audience is.

Some of the items that were supposed to be spied were pretty tricky (I have a master's degree and I still had to cheat and look some answers up in the back of the book). Sometimes words were used that I don't think would be in a pre-schooler's vocabulary -- even when looking right at the floating vehicle, I think a pre-schooler would say "boat" and never make the leap to "yacht".

This is a lovely book with which to introduce the alphabet and classical art to your child(ren). Each two-page spread contains, on the lefthand page, the jingle "I spy with my little eye something beginning with ... " and the upper and lower case of a letter of the alphabet, while the righthand page contains a large reproduction of a work of art by one of the masters -- Rousseau, Hogarth, Picasso, Botticelli, Vermeer, Sargent, Renoir, Seurat, etc. Kids can think about the alphabet while being exposed to some great art. Terrific idea!

This is a fantastic book. There is a different picture for every letter of the alphabet. Each picture is different in style, type, artist etc. There might be Japanese woodcuts, Picasso, watercolors and so on. This is an excellent introduction to art and types of art and styles and artists. Also, in each picture

is something that goes with the letter of the alphabet. Ball for b and so on. A great way to practice beginning sounds and letter recognition. This is a lovely book with great pictures and there are many educational type things you can do while enjoying time with your child. Well worth the money. Enjoy.

perfect for my dad with Alzheimer's

This is a really fun book and you can learn something about art at the same time.

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