

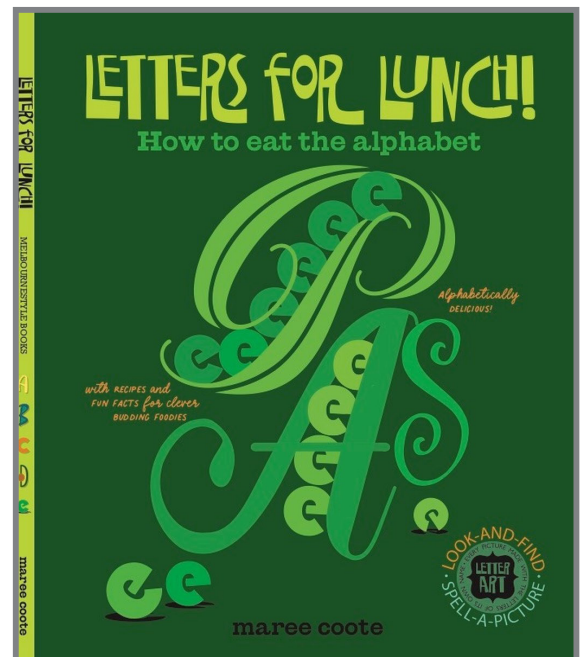
# Letters for Lunch!: How to eat the alphabet

AUTHOR/ILLUSTRATOR  
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RECOMMENDED FOR: Lower to Mid Primary



## SYNOPSIS

This is a unique and fun way to learn about food and about words. The book explores different ingredients via illustrations made entirely of letters. And not just any letters—only the letters that spell the object itself. The Letter Art device connects letters (spelling) to real objects in a memorable and visual way.

As the reader meets each new fruit or vegetable, they will learn about its name, personality, uses or history. The reader can also then unscramble the image by finding the letters that construct each picture. Every page has a 'letter key' showing the exact letter shapes used to create each image.

An introduction to food knowledge and cooking, the book also aids spelling and letter recognition, and introduces the art of typography and graphic design.

## ABOUT THE CREATOR

Maree Coote is a Melbourne-based writer, illustrator and designer. She has enjoyed an award-winning career in writing and design, and her work spans script-writing, design and art direction for all types of media including cinema, TV, print, packaging, online, etc.

In 2003 Maree created a publishing imprint Melbournestyle, and has written and published 25 books including 20 children's titles. Her books have been awarded at the Bologna Children's Book Fair, winning the Bologna Ragazzi Special Mention Award for Non-Fiction in 2017 for *Spellbound: Making Pictures with the A-B-C*. Maree has twice won the New York Independent Publishers' Gold (Regional) Award, and also the Royal Historical Society of Victoria Gold Award. *Spellbound* and *Azaria* were both short listed in the CBCA Edith Pownall Award,

Visit her website at [www.melbournestyle.com.au](http://www.melbournestyle.com.au).

## THEMES

- Creative arts—typography (spelling, puzzles)
- Study of different foods (cooking and ingredients)
- Study of design in everyday environment
- Visual literacy (awareness/observation /ideas /lateral thinking)
- Humour/character

**STUDY NOTES**

- There are letters everywhere you look, in the kitchen, in shops, in the classroom. In the book *Letters For Lunch!*, ingredients are made from letters. Can you notice letter-shapes in your surroundings? Can you find letters in objects around you? How observant are you?
- Look around the classroom and walk around your school—see if you can find any shapes that look like letters. Take note of shapes in the architecture: in crayons, umbrella handles, taps, roof gables, windows, seats and bikes . . . everywhere!
  - Take photos of the letters and make an alphabet of your school. Make a poster of this alphabet. Maree Coote has created lots for her book. You can see an example of these these photographic alphabets in Maree Coote’s book *Alphabet City Melbourne* <[www.alphabet-city.com.au](http://www.alphabet-city.com.au)>
- Letter Art is the art of making pictures using the actual letters of the alphabet. Maree Coote’s rules for Letter Art are as follows:
  - First, practise making pictures using any letters you like. Look at a capital A—is it like a roof?
  - When you become advanced, you can make the picture using only use the letters that spell the word you are making, but you are allowed to repeat letters if you like. You can turn the letters around or upside down to fit the design you are making. Maree Coote has created some easy guides and basic lessons on Letter Art in her book *Spellbound: Making Pictures with the A-B-C*.
- In *Letters For Lunch!*, there are Letter Art pictures of fruit and vegetables made from lots of different letter shapes. Can you make a vegetable from the letters of its name? Choose a food ingredient that is not in the book, spell its name, look at the letters and then see if you can make a picture of it from those letters.
- What funny things did you notice in the book?
- After reading the book, answer the following questions:
  - What are the career dreams of Apple, Pear and Leek?
  - What happened to Tomato’s cousin?
  - Why Garlic is feeling ‘crushed’? Why does Garlic think people avoid it?
  - Why does the author say ‘nothing rhymes with orange’? Can you think of anything?
  - How many different dishes can you think of that feature a banana?
  - Which is the only ingredient in the book that is NOT a plant?
  - How many descriptive action words (verbs) can you think of to describe cooking instructions? (Look at the front opening endpapers in *Letters For Lunch!*: . . . ‘Flake, Shred, Scatter, Boil, Steam . . .’)
- Design your own recipe using your favourite food. Create the recipe by listing the ingredients, describing the cooking actions, and drawing pictures of the raw ingredients and the cooked dish. Make a recipe booklet.
- Look at the front opening endpapers in *Letters For Lunch!*. Here you see the word ‘Hello!’ has been made from ingredients. Get some real veggies and make the word from them. Try round ingredients, long thin ones, try slicing them to find new shapes inside.