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Awesome Alphabets

Draw your own *Slimy*
Electric
Tool
Furry
Pencil
Sports
Boney
Broken
Animal
Wooden **letters**

Written and Illustrated
by
Mike Artell

A GOOD YEAR BOOK™

Good Year Books
Culver City, California

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Contents

Introduction	**5**
How to Use This Book	**6**
Getting Started	**7**
Section One: Cartoon Alphabets	**9**
Bone Alphabet	**10**
Logs Alphabet	**12**
Wooden Board Alphabet	**14**
Pencil Alphabet	**16**
Tool Alphabet	**18**
Plastic Pipe Alphabet	**20**
Clothes Alphabet	**22**
Sports Alphabet	**24**
Superhero Alphabet	**26**
Broken Letter Alphabet	**28**
Slimy Letter Alphabet	**30**
Fuzzy Letter Alphabet	**32**
Stone Letter Alphabet	**34**
Carved Letter Alphabet	**36**
Lightning Letter Alphabet	**38**
"It's Alive!" Animal Alphabet	**40**
"It's Alive!" Human Alphabet	**44**
The Special Letters: ABDOPQR	**48**

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Section Two: Cartoon Words 53

Drawing Your Words in the Shape of Things 54

Making Your Words Shake, Rattle, and Run 58

Making Your Words look Hot, Cold, and Wet 62

Making Your Words Look Like What They're Saying 66

Section Three: Special Effects 69

Arcs, Twists, Loops and Other Weirdly Shaped Words 70

Backgrounds 72

Making Your Words Break the Margins 74

Details, Details 75

Section Four: How to Use Your Skills 79

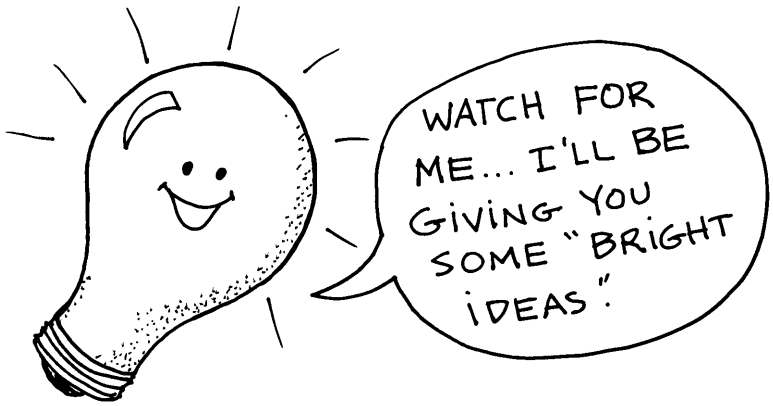
Book Illustrations 80

Signs, Posters, Banners 82

Comic Books & Strips 84

Other Uses 85

A Final Word 86



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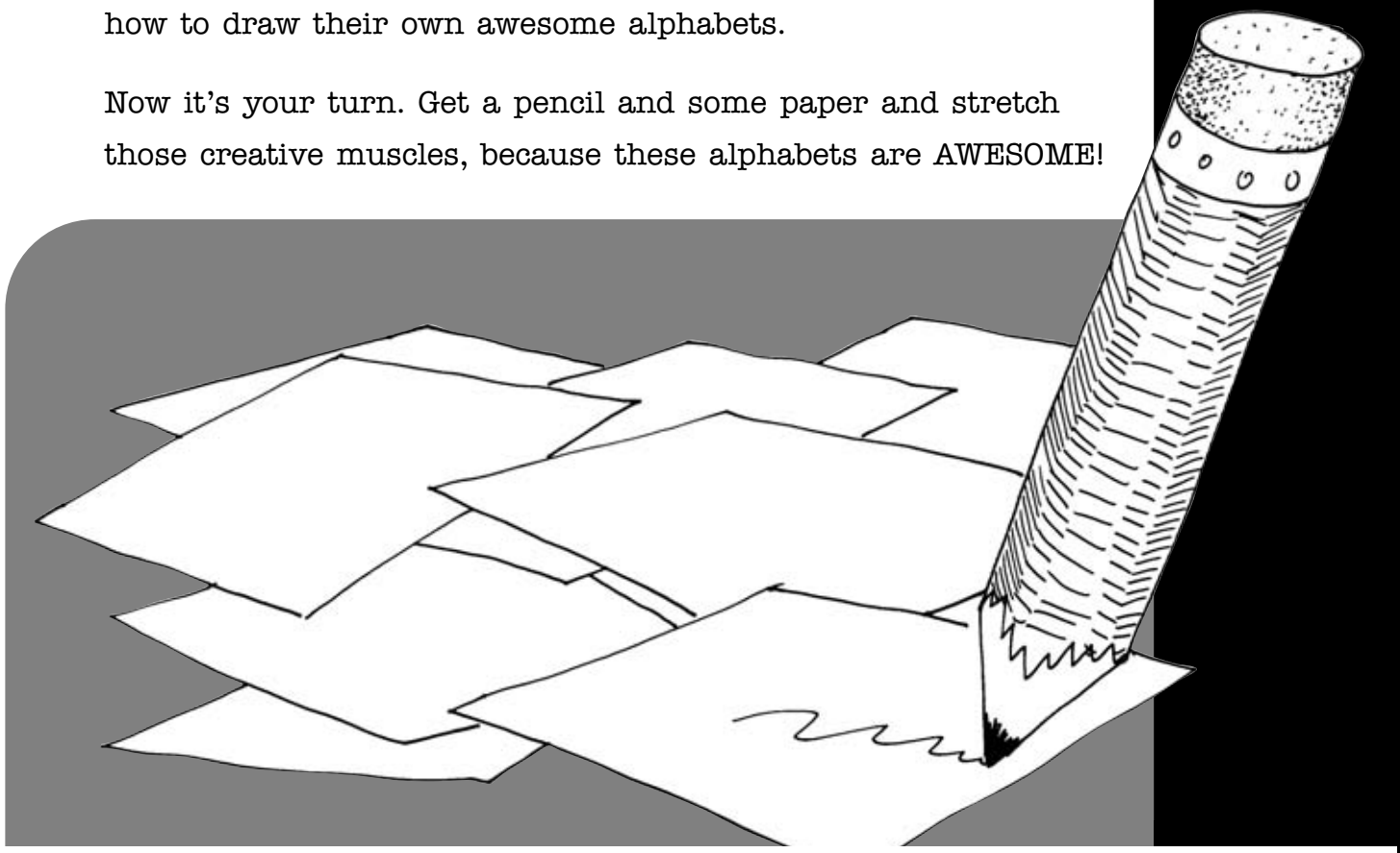
Introduction

As a children's book author and illustrator, I am invited to visit dozens of schools each year. During my school visits, I share with the students my ideas for thinking, writing, and drawing more creatively. This book is the result of something that happened at one of those schools. I remember helping some young authors write and illustrate their own books, and I was showing them how to create unique lettering for the covers of their books.

I didn't think the lettering I was doing was any big deal, but the reaction from the students was overwhelming. Many of them already knew how to draw "bubble" letters, but few had ever tried to create their own unique lettering. They "gobbled up" all the ideas I gave them and begged for more.

I was so delighted with the response of the students that I decided to create a book showing young people (and adults too!) how to draw their own awesome alphabets.

Now it's your turn. Get a pencil and some paper and stretch those creative muscles, because these alphabets are AWESOME!



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How to Use This Book

I wrote this book especially for young authors and illustrators who are creating their own books. When you create a book, it's important to spend some time and effort on the cover. Why? Because if you're an unknown or unpublished author (as most kids are), the thing that will make a reader notice your book among all the other books on the shelf is the cover. You have to have a great title, a great cover illustration, and great lettering.

This book can also be a big help to students who want to create banners, posters, or signs for their school or bedrooms. Sure, there are a lot of computer programs that let you create signs and banners, and there are lots of terrific computer fonts, but those fonts lack one thing . . . uniqueness. Regardless of what computer font you use, thousands and thousands of other people probably have the same font on their computers. Hand lettering gives you the freedom to create a font unique to your needs. Hey! There's room for both kinds of lettering. When you need computer fonts, use 'em. But when you need something special, create an awesome alphabet of your own.

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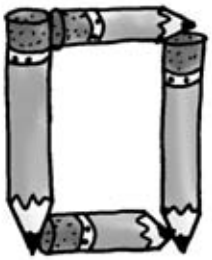
Getting Started



ne of the nice things about drawing these alphabets is that you don't need a bunch of fancy materials. All you need is a pencil, an eraser, and some paper. That's it!

You can practice these alphabets by looking at the ones I've drawn and then drawing the same ones on your paper. Once you feel comfortable with the alphabet, you might try experimenting a little. Try to think of other objects that look like letters of the alphabet. See if you can create your own unique alphabets.

You can also experiment with different-sized alphabets. Try creating HUGE letters. Draw one letter per page. Then arrange the letters on the floor to form words.

Sometimes, it's also fun to experiment with color. Try coloring your alphabets bright colors. Then see how the same alphabet looks colored with dark shades. In Section 3 of this book (Special Effects), I'll show you some other things you can do to add magic to your alphabets.

Now . . . let's draw!

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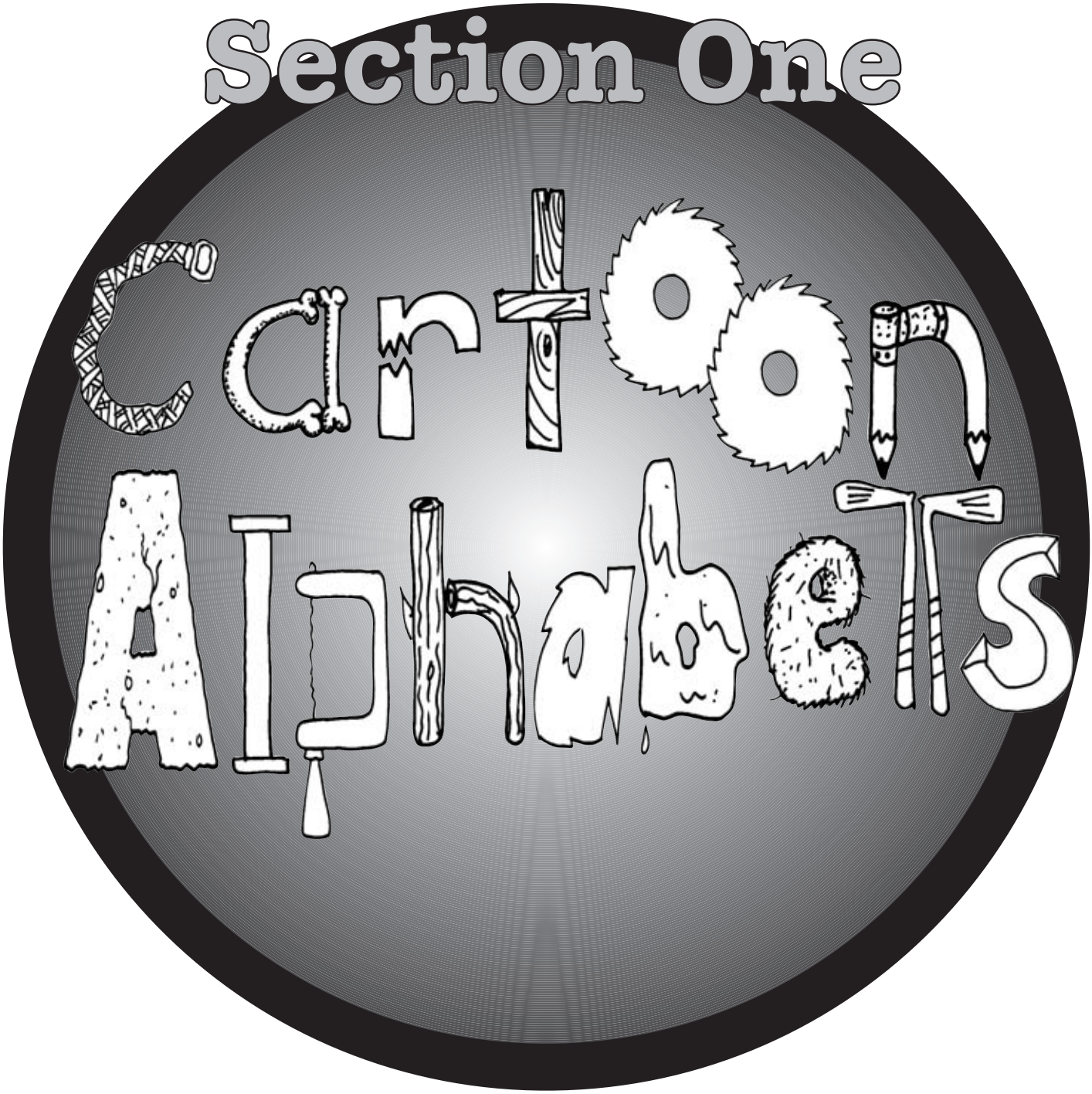
Section One



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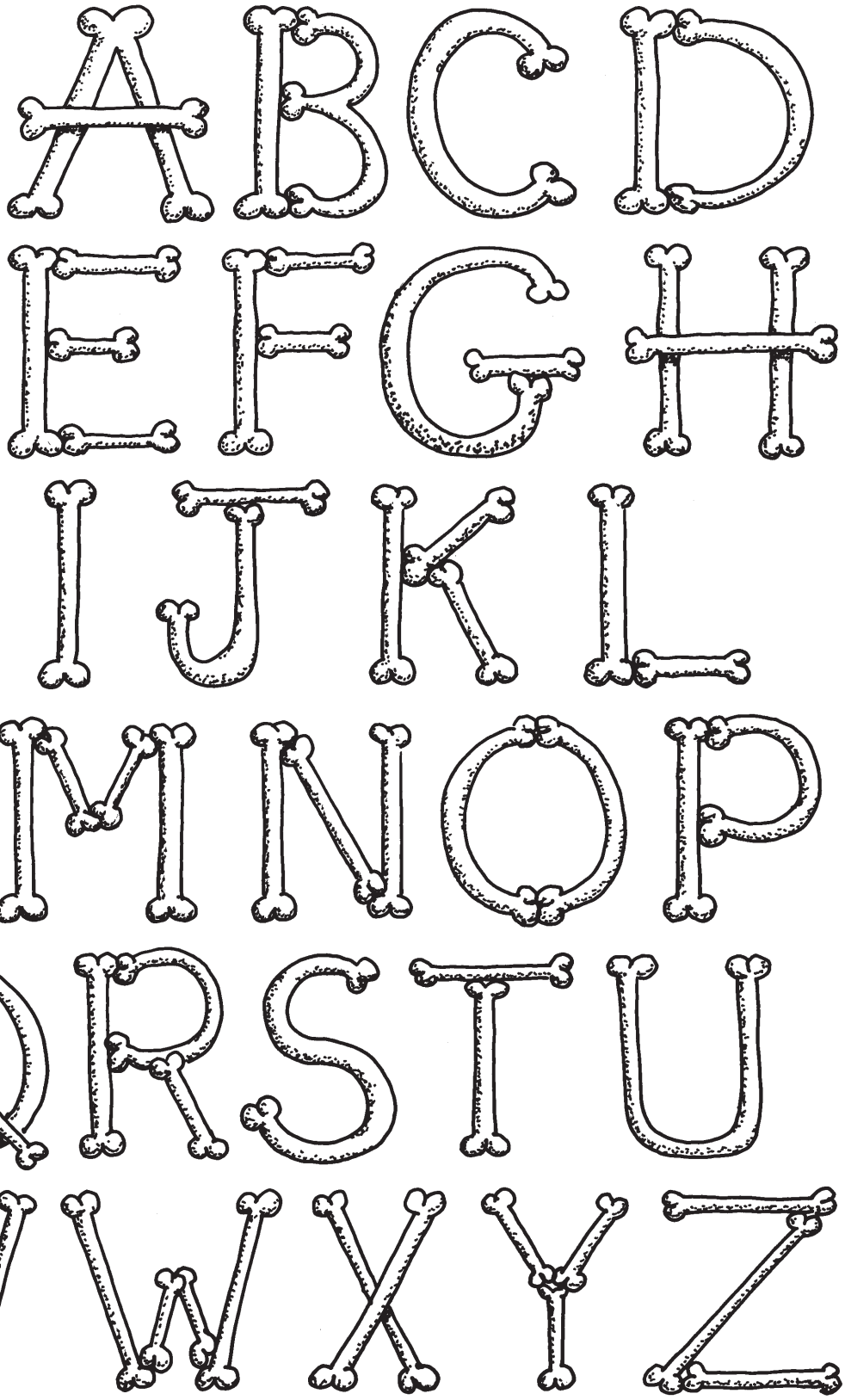
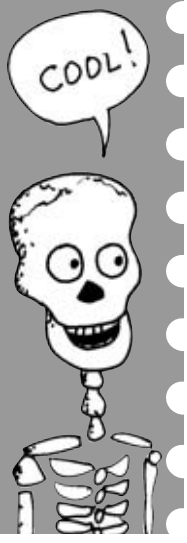
Bones

The bone alphabet comes in handy when you want to add eye-catching text to a story about skeletons or dinosaurs. Just draw bumps on the ends of two parallel lines, and you have a bone!





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