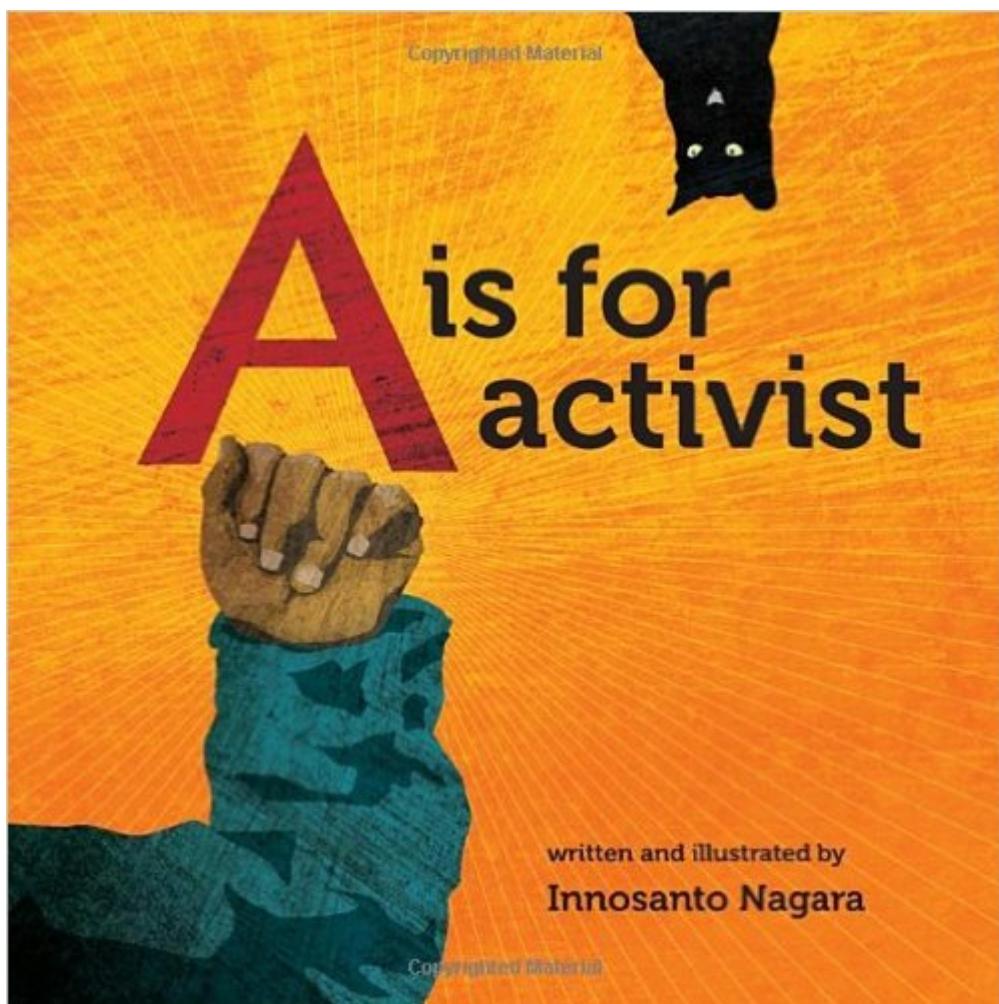


The book was found

# A Is For Activist



## Synopsis

â œReading it is almost like reading Howard Zinn's A People's History of the United States, but for two-year oldsâ "full of pictures and rhymes and a little cat to find on every page that will delight the curious toddler and parents alike.â "Occupy Wall StreetA is for ActivistÂ is an ABC board book written and illustrated for the next generation of progressives: families who want their kids to grow up in a space that is unapologetic about activism, environmental justice, civil rights, LGBTQ rights, and everything else that activists believe in and fight for.Â The alliteration, rhyming, and vibrant illustrations make the book exciting for children, while the issues it brings up resonate with their parents' values of community, equality, and justice. This engaging little book carries huge messages as it inspires hope for the future, and calls children to action while teaching them a love for books.

## Book Information

Board book: 32 pages

Publisher: Triangle Square; Brdbk edition (November 19, 2013)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1609805399

ISBN-13: 978-1609805395

Product Dimensions: 5.7 x 0.9 x 5.7 inches

Shipping Weight: 9.1 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.0 out of 5 starsÂ See all reviewsÂ (180 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #4,469 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #3 inÂ Books > Children's Books > Biographies > Social Activists #5 inÂ Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > Government #16 inÂ Books > Children's Books > Early Learning > Basic Concepts > Alphabet

Age Range: 3 - 7 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 2

## Customer Reviews

I bought this book for my son, and there are parts of it that are wonderful. The illustrations are beautiful and overall it does a great job of introducing many justice concepts to young children. However, I think it struggles with not knowing its audience. Some pages are perfect for the board-book set. The "K" page - "Kings are fine for storytime/knights are fun to play/but when we make decisions/we will choose the people's way" - is one of my favorites. It's a great, age-appropriate introduction to anti-imperialism. The "W" page has an absolutely beautiful poem about celebrating diversity. Several pages have a very lyrical rhythm to the writing that reminds me

of rap music or spoken word poetry and is very fun to read. Others, however, aren't really age appropriate. The "R" page, for example, uses a facetious/sarcastic tone that is way beyond the understanding of young children, especially when it's such a departure from the tone of the rest of the book. The "S" page has a great little poem celebrating solar power, but follows it up with "silly selfish scoundrels sucking on dinosaur sludge? Boo! Hiss!", a line I could easily imagine leading to a rather upsetting conversation for a sensitive preschooler, since right now the vast majority of families simply don't have access to fully sustainable power sources. The "D" page references, and is solely illustrated by, the donkey/elephant symbols of American party politics, which besides being internationally limiting is way over the heads of the target audience. On the more academic side of things, there's the issue that this is, ostensibly, an \*alphabet\* book. The page for "U" - which says "U is for..."

A is for Activist, written and illustrated by Innosanto Nagara, takes your classic alphabet book and adds a twist of political motivation. Written in a format usually meant to teach kids their ABCs, Nagara takes this intention of educating a step further. Each page follows a theme of civil rights and political activism, while promoting values such as peace, acceptance and independent thought. In emphasizing these values, Nagara also directly calls attention to contemporary topics in social justice. From A to Z, each page is dedicated to a different value or movement, with colorful, emotive illustrations to match. Nagara covers everything from feminism, to LGBTQ rights, interracial tolerance, to environmental justice; and across it all, the ability to think critically: "Q is for Question/ Querying Qualities counter false assertions." On the "K" page the words read "Kings are fine for story time/ Knights are fun to play/ But when we make decisions/ we will choose the people's way!" with an image of two kids playing with toy swords. This page not only emphasizes revolution and resistance, and the danger of centralized power, but also counters gender norms by showing a little girl in pink pigtails playing with a sword. On the "R" page the words read "Radical Reds! the headlines said/ "Ruinous Rioters! the Rumors spread/ "Rabble Rousing Riff Raff/ |Really?â •, mocking misguided, public perceptions of activists and protesters. The image shows a large crowd of people in solidarity at a candle light vigil, and many of the faces can actually be recognized as prominent, historical figures. Nagara, on his book's Facebook page, provides a "Who's Who" of the faces he illustrated, and they include Martin Luther King, Jr.

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