



## To Do: A Book of Alphabets and Birthdays

By Gertrude Stein

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### To Do: A Book of Alphabets and Birthdays By Gertrude Stein

"Alphabets and names make games and everybody has a name and all the same they have in a way to have a birthday," muses Gertrude Stein in *To Do: A Book of Alphabets and Birthdays*. Written in 1940 and intended as a follow-up to her children's book *The World Is Round*, published the previous year, *To Do* is a fanciful journey through the alphabet. Each letter is represented by four names (including Gertrude for "G") and features a short story told in verse. "[This is] a birthday book I would have liked as a child," said Stein of *To Do*.

Publishers rejected the manuscript as too complex for children, and it remained unpublished during Stein's lifetime. A text-only version issued from Yale University Press in 1957. Now, more than seventy years after Stein penned the story, *To Do* is appearing with illustrations, realizing the author's original concept for the book. Giselle Potter's witty and stylish illustrations provide a perfect complement to Stein's uniquely whimsical world of words, creating a truly delightful, often hilarious book that adults and children alike can appreciate and love.

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## To Do: A Book of Alphabets and Birthdays By Gertrude Stein Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #1037451 in Books
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### Editorial Review

#### Review

"Gertrude Stein's long-lost kids' book is bizarre—and a great reflection of how children think. . . . As *To Do* proceeds through the alphabet, it becomes a book not just about language learning, but about pretending, about how children learn to distinguish the abstract from the concrete, the made-up from the real."—Stephen Burt, *The Boston Globe*  
(Stephen Burt *The Boston Globe*)

"The highly original, repetitive, and sparsely punctuated verse may be read rapidly for heightened effect. A one-of-a-kind book that will remind grown-ups how joyful it can be to put sentences together."—*Fore Word*  
(*Fore Word*)

Won Honorable Mention for the 2011-2012 Los Angeles Book Festival in the Photography/Art category  
(Honorable Mention Photography/Art *Los Angeles Book Festival*)

#### About the Author

**Gertrude Stein** (1874-1946) was at the forefront of the development of modern art and literature. Her archive is housed in the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library at Yale University. **Giselle Potter** has worked for the *New Yorker* and has illustrated more than twenty children's books. **Timothy Young** is curator of modern books and manuscripts at the Beinecke.

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##### **Paul Green:**

Throughout other case, little folks like to read book *To Do: A Book of Alphabets and Birthdays*. You can choose the best book if you appreciate reading a book. Provided that we know about how is important a book *To Do: A Book of Alphabets and Birthdays*. You can add expertise and of course you can around the world by a book. Absolutely right, since from book you can learn everything! From your country until eventually foreign or abroad you will end up known. About simple factor until wonderful thing you are able to know that. In this era, we could open a book as well as searching by internet gadget. It is called e-book. You may use it when you feel uninterested to go to the library. Let's examine.

##### **Nancy Sobel:**

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