

Author's Introduction

I began these alliterative tales, one day, with a casual remark to a friend about the similarity between the words juggler and jugular. He suggested I write a story about it, so I did. It was called **The Juggler in the Jungle**. After that, it was only a matter of time before I began to write stories using all the letters of the alphabet.

An artist friend, Christine Shibly, was visiting, not long after these stories were written, and I thought she might be a good one to illustrate them. She agreed to do that, and this book was born.

Some people are concerned that the vocabulary in these stories is too advanced for most children, but I believe that all children enjoy being read to, even if they don't understand everything they hear. And, I believe, in time, that readers and listeners alike will be inclined to learn the words that are unfamiliar, out of curiosity, with a sense of interest and delight in the pleasure and power of language.

Steve Abhaya Brooks