

## ALPHABET STORIES

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The letters of the alphabet, recited in order, conceal various short stories. The first of these was devised by the novelist and Oulipian Harry Mathews, who cited it in a letter dated April 17, 1976:

Hay, be seedy! He-effigy, hate-shy jaky yellow man, oh peek,  
you are rusty, you've edible, you ex-wise he!

"The Awful Bed & Count Inbuk", copyright 1976 by Scott MacGregor and Minnie Jardine, incorporates the numbers one through ten as well.

Hey Bee! Is he deaf? Gee!  
Hey Chi! D'ya kill'em?  
Nope.  
Curious to you, Vita?  
But you ask, "Why is he one too?"  
Tree for fire.  
Since Stephan ate mine.  
(th'end)

On October 31, 1979, Darryl Francis sent in one composed by Allan Simmons, a Scrabble-playing friend from Sidcup, Kent. Note the 'zed' pronunciation for Z common in England.

Eh!  
Be seedy, ye effigy, at shy Jake.  
A lemon, opaque  
You are a stew --  
Feed a bull  
You ex!  
Why said?

Finally, two recent ones from Louis Phillips of New York City:

Abby seized  
Dee's effigy,  
Hijacked  
Elle's minnow  
Piqued  
Curest tease  
"You've  
Double-used,"  
Ex-wised Zee.

A beast's sea deaf  
Gee  
High jockey elm  
An O  
Peas cue arrest  
You  
V double-U  
Ex-wide  
Z.