



Who Was Albert Einstein?

By Jess Brallier

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Everyone has heard of Albert Einstein-but what exactly did he do? How much do kids really know about Albert Einstein besides the funny hair and genius label? For instance, do they know that he was expelled from school as a kid? Finally, here's the story of Albert Einstein's life, told in a fun, engaging way that clearly explores the world he lived in and changed.

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Grade 3-5-This biography describes Einstein's early struggle to harness and focus his extraordinary abilities; his relationships with his family and first wife; and, lending depth to the story, his most significant scientific discoveries. Brallier does an adequate job of presenting the facts and injects touches of humor into his text. He also discusses Einstein's exile from Germany in the early 1930s and his political views and activities, including the irony that the man who strove for a world without war helped to create the atomic bomb. There are several full-page sidebars, including one on "The Magnetic Earth" and another on "Hitler and the Nazis," and two time lines that contrast world events with those of the scientist's life. Black-and-white cartoon illustrations do little to enhance the text.

Carol Fazioli, formerly at The Brearley School, New York City

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About the Author

Jess Brallier is the publisher of Planet Dexter and the author of more than 20 books. He lives in Reading, MA.

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"For an idea that does not at first seem insane, there is no hope."

—Albert Einstein

Did you know that Albert Einstein was a very poor student who got kicked out of school? Well, he was. Yet he was one of the most brilliant people that the world has ever known.

Did you know that Albert was a peace-loving person who hated war? Well, he was. Yet his work led to the creation of the most destructive bomb ever.

Did you know that Albert was shy and hated publicity and attention? Yet he was a media superstar. Even now, fifty years after his death, Hollywood still makes movies about him—and T-shirts, coffee mugs, and posters are decorated with pictures of his famous face.

Who was Albert Einstein? You are about to find out.

Chapter 1

Born to Think

“There are only two ways to live your life. One is as though nothing is a miracle. The other is as though everything is a miracle.”

—Albert Einstein

Albert Einstein made his entrance into the world on March 14, 1879, in Ulm, Germany. He certainly didn't seem like an extraordinary child. He was chubby and pale with thick, black hair. He was so quiet and shy that his parents worried that there was something wrong with him. They took Albert to doctors. “He doesn't talk,” his parents explained. The doctors found nothing wrong.

The story goes that Albert didn't speak a word until he was three or four years old. Then suddenly, over supper one night, he said, “The soup is too hot.” Greatly relieved, his parents asked why he had never said anything before. “Because,” little Albert replied, “up to now, everything has been fine.” Is this story true? There's no proof.

Most boys his age played soldier and other rough-and-tumble games. Not Albert. When Albert saw real soldiers marching with their blank faces, they frightened him. Albert preferred to stay by himself and daydream. He enjoyed playing with blocks and building houses out of playing cards—some of them were fourteen stories high.

His parents continued to worry about their lonely and quiet son. They took him to more doctors. “Could there be something wrong with his brain?” his parents asked. Once again, doctors found nothing wrong with the boy. It was just his nature. He was quiet. He was a thinker.

Albert's father and uncle had a business that sold batteries, generators, and wire. Electricity fascinated Albert. It was invisible, powerful, and dangerous. Electricity was like some mysterious secret. Albert pestered his father and uncle with lots of questions. How fast is electricity? Is there a way to see it? What's it made of? If there's electricity, could there be other strange and mysterious forces in the universe?

Albert enjoyed thinking about a world beyond the one that could be seen or explained. As he later said, “Imagination is more important than knowledge. Knowledge is limited. Imagination encircles the world.”

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Patricia Vasquez:

The book *Who Was Albert Einstein?* will bring that you the new experience of reading any book. The author style to explain the idea is very unique. When you try to find new book to study, this book very suited to you. The book *Who Was Albert Einstein?* is much recommended to you to learn. You can also get the e-book from your official web site, so you can quicker to read the book.

Jesse Reid:

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