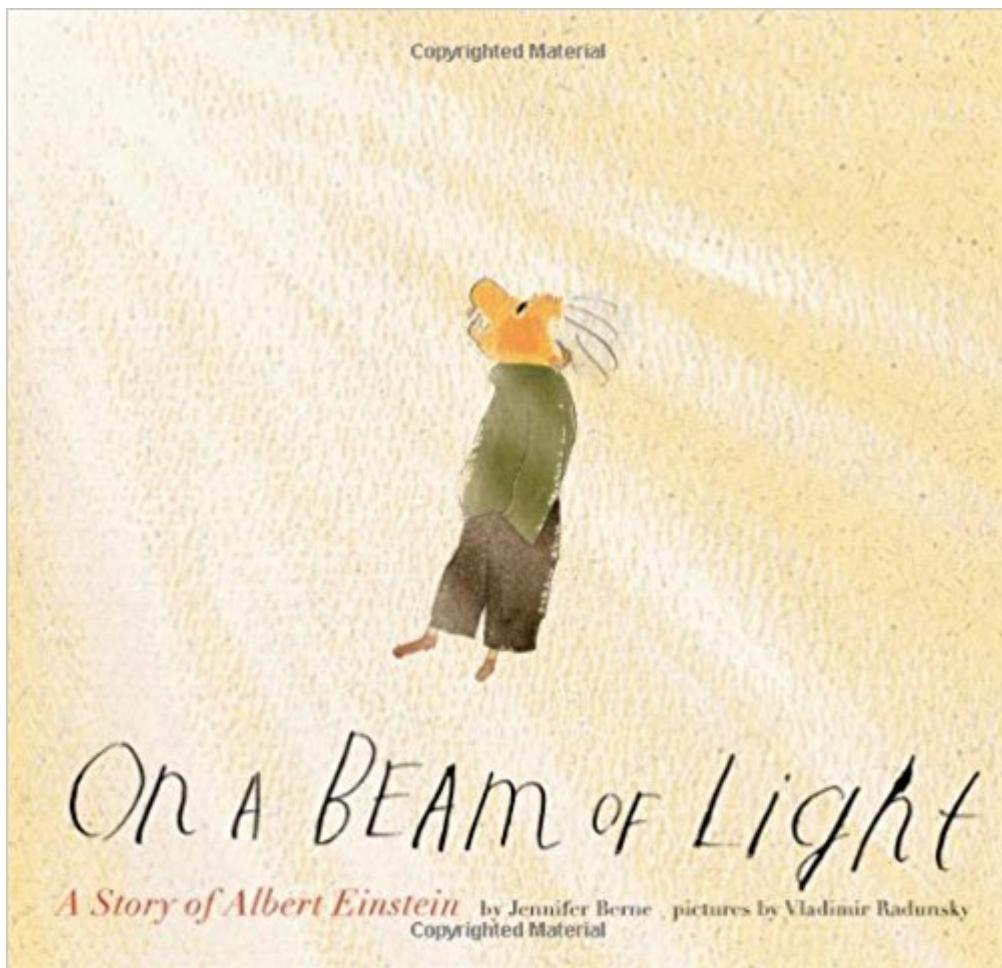


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# On A Beam Of Light: A Story Of Albert Einstein



## Synopsis

A boy rides a bicycle down a dusty road. But in his mind, he envisions himself traveling at a speed beyond imagining, on a beam of light. This brilliant mind will one day offer up some of the most revolutionary ideas ever conceived. From a boy endlessly fascinated by the wonders around him, Albert Einstein ultimately grows into a man of genius recognized the world over for profoundly illuminating our understanding of the universe. Jennifer Berne and Vladimir Radunsky invite the reader to travel along with Einstein on a journey full of curiosity, laughter, and scientific discovery. Parents and children alike will appreciate this moving story of the powerful difference imagination can make in any life.

## Book Information

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Age Range: 6 - 9 years

Grade Level: 1 - 4

## Customer Reviews

\*Starred Review\* It's not easy to explain the work of Albert Einstein to a young audience, but this marvelous book pulls it off. It does so by providing an overview of Einstein's life: the way he thought and how his remarkable ideas changed the way scientists think. Berne begins with baby Albert, who didn't say a word. And as he got older, he didn't say a wordâ "but he looked and wondered. When he was a student, his teachers thought he was too different, but his differences led him to think about natural phenomenon like light and numbers in new ways. The book reroutes the

text around events in Einstein's life, such as his escape from Nazi Germany and his move to the U.S., and it only touches upon his work on the nuclear bomb. This is a more personal look, but still, it explains how he came to the discovery of atoms and his theories about the speed of light. The text could not have better support than Radunsky's artwork. Executed on textured papers, the stylized watercolors outlined in ink sometimes eschew decoration, with the focus on Einstein and others in his life; other spreads are swirled with words and numbers. The book stresses that readers may someday answer the questions that Einstein didn't get to, and an author's note extends the text with paragraphs about Einstein's pacifism, personality, and thought experiments. A book as special as its subject. Grades 1-3. --Ilene Cooper

"A book as special as its subject." - Booklist, starred review "Remarkable." - Mamarama, Redbook's Mom Blog Council "On a Beam of Light reminds us that imagination is important, and that thinking is valuable. A great message for the little scientist in your life!" - Emily, bookseller, Hooray for Books! "Makes genius Albert Einstein seem accessible." - Nerdy Book Club "It's not easy to explain Einstein to young readers, but this terrific book pulls it off." --Booklist Top 10 Biographies for Youth "It's impossible not to be inspired, not only by Einstein himself but also by this dazzling account of his life and imagination." --BookPage "I was wowed by this book." --Robin Smith, The Horn Book Blog "Einstein's lifelong curiosity sings through every page." - Publishers Weekly, starred review "Einstein positively glows, radiating love and intelligence." - The Washington Post "Don't miss this book." - Kid Lit Frenzy "By celebrating Einstein's wonderful curiosity, this book will inspire young kids to find science fascinating." - Walter Isaacson, author, Einstein: His Life and Universe "Awakens a sense of curiosity and mystery in youngsters... an invitation to children to awaken their imaginations." - Shelf Awareness for Readers "An ingenious portrait of genius." - The San Francisco Chronicle "A splendid introduction to a man who never stopped questioning." - Kirkus Reviews, starred review "A perfect introduction to the famous physicist." - Science Books and Films "A great read about a great man." - Walking Brain Cells "A delightful young readers' introduction to several of Einstein's amazing ideas-and an equally valuable celebration of the advantages of being different." - Bob Berman, science author and columnist, Astronomy Magazine "A delightful book and I would use it in my classroom." - Marilyn Cook, PreK-5 teacher, NSTA National Science Teachers Association Recommends "A delight for the sense... this elegant new picture book might just be that physical gift to spur on the next generation of wonderers." - Out With the Kids "A celebration of curiosity." --Design Mom "Something of an It Gets Better Project for mathematically precocious children." --The New York Times "Simply voiced, with word choices and illustrations as exciting as

the subject."--Herald-Sun Best Books of 2013"Richly imagined, beautifully designed, impressionistic biography." - School Library Journal, starred reviewSchool Library Journal Best Books of the YearNew York Times Editor's ChoiceNew York Public Library 100 Titles for Reading and Sharing 2013Kirkus Reviews Best Children's Books of the YearColumbus Dispatch The Best of the Best of the YearBooklist Top Ten Science Book of 2013A Junior Library Guild Selection"Whimsical and illuminating, this beautifully illustrated picture-book biography accomplishes a daunting task: to introduce the life and work of Albert Einstein to young readers."--Book Links, 2013 Lasting Connections"Utterly charming."-The Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books"Truly amazing." - The Horn Book, starred review"This is the best way to humanize such a larger-than-life historical figure." -- North Adams Transcript"Sure to captivate young readers." - ReaderKidz

Young Einstein hardly spoke a word. But he was curious about everything, from the unseen force that pulled on a compass to what it would be like to ride as fast as a beam of light. This beautifully illustrated book has become my five-year old granddaughter's favorite. It made a great "story for all ages" at church, too, in a service on creativity and wonder.

This picture book about Albert Einstein provides some great details about his life and about learning and individuality. Einstein, as a young child, spoke later than most children. As a teacher of English language acquisition, I know listening is far more important than speaking for language development and people should never be forced to speak before they are ready. Often people who wait, show more proficiency in language than someone forced to speak. Einstein was challenged school and education so he was not embraced by educators or allowed to teach. He then took an office job which allowed him free time to think. Since education has morphed into this country as a conformist system that praises empty standards and test them with standardized tests, it is important to stop and think about how truly creative people thrive. They don't wear uniforms, make individual choices, and have confidence to be themselves. Interestingly enough, the book ends with a girl, a boy and a dog wearing the same school uniform and looking quite alike. The opposite of the behavior the author just renounced.

I had to read this book to write a biography on Einstein for my Literature in Childhood Education class. It was cheap enough to just buy it on Kindle instead of hunting down in the library. I didn't think much of the class itself, but this book surprised me. I learned facts about Einstein that were designed to appeal for children, but why wouldn't adults like to know silly facts like Einstein hated

socks? I learned a lot of quirky things about the man and I got a perfect score on my assignment. I'm very happy. The illustrations are consistent with a children's book and parallel the story very well, it would be easy for children learning to read to follow along with this book. Buy it for yourself or your kid! It's good!

Although this book is meant for older children, I read it to my 1.5yo and he was hooked! Obviously he doesn't understand many of the main concepts, but he knows who "Albert" is and recognizes him in other situations. And he sits quietly and listens to the entire book which does not happen very often. I wish the authors would do more books like this about other prominent people.

This book has become a favorite in our house! While this book is recommended for the 6-9 age group, my 4 year old gets a kick out of it. She doesn't yet understand some of the scientific words and concepts (i.e. atoms, magnetism, etc;) but that doesn't stop her from enjoying the story. What I love about this book is that it's based on a real person and true events - finally, a children's book that's not based on farm animals! It starts out by detailing how little Albert didn't talk much when he was a child, was mischievous in class and getting in trouble and didn't relate well to the other children. It then goes into his career - how he wanted to be a teacher but ended up working in a government office. Eventually, the book talks about Albert's ideas and recognition. You also learn about Albert's quirks - how he didn't like to wear socks, enjoyed ice cream and the violin and liked to wear the same baggy clothes. Unfortunately, it does talk about his smoking pipe which I had to explain to my daughter - I turned that into a lesson about how smoking is bad for you but it was something they used to do in Albert's time because they didn't know any better! The hardcover version is definitely sturdier but the new paperback version holds up well. I do wish that they didn't put the font in a red color on some pages - it's hard to see with the background color.

Amazing story about the life of Albert Einstein. I'm glad that this book exists so I have the means to introduce this truly amazing man to my young son in a way that he can enjoy.

This is a wonderful story that presents Albert Einstein in a fascinating and whimsical way. The author has made Einstein relatable, and has done a terrific job emphasizing the importance of creativity to her young audience. The text is incredibly engaging and presents Albert's theories in a way that is exciting for young readers. My six year old and I had a fairly decent conversation about Atoms and molecules after reading. Also now he refuses to wear socks, so thanks a lot, Albert :P

We kept checking this book out from the library so I decided to add it to our personal collection. My kids love the artwork and the story is fun while being informative. A must read!

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