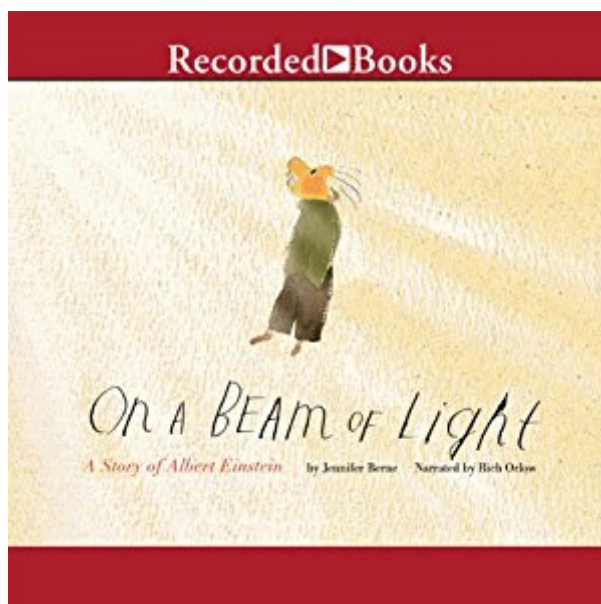


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# On A Beam Of Light: A Story Of Albert Einstein



## 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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## Customer Reviews

My precocious five year old read this aloud to herself and her little brother(after some convincing from the that she would actually like it, since it wasn't about princesses) and THOROUGHLY enjoyed it! It was very relatable because it starts out talking about Einstein as a child and gives cute quirky details from his later life (like how he didn't like to wear socks) and progresses on from there. We had recently talked about atoms and how everything was made from them, and it gave some nice examples to illustrate the concept, which is a difficult one for young children to conceptualize. It was also a great lesson about how people eventually use math to make great discoveries (good motivation for persevering and figuring out that stubborn word problem in your homework). It definitely puts all that math homework into perspective. In general, I would say that this book is appropriate for the third grade and up set in terms of content and readability (there are a few difficult

words) but it really is a well-written, beautiful, and simple summary of the life of Albert Einstein. It also has gorgeous illustrations, so it is the whole package. Highly recommend for your budding scientist or mathematician.

My eldest daughter of approximately age 3 loves this text. Being a mathematician, I bought this text as well as *The Boy Who Loved Math: The Improbable Life of Paul Erdos*. But my very inquisitive daughter loved this text more. And while it breaks my numerical heart to think she may not like mathematics (sniff sniff), this story is very engaging and the artistry is extremely well done. On top of this, she actually asked what else Einstein did during bedtime. I responded by talking about general relativity and she fell asleep. Mission accomplished! So the moral of the story is: book engaging, dad boring.

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.

As a boy, Albert Einstein was not like other children. He talked late, but when he started talking, he asked questions and more questions -- so many questions that he was a disruption in class. But the most amazing things about Albert were his thoughts. He read, he learned, he imagined. And imagined. He grew up, and thought and imagined some more, and he wrote down all his new ideas. Soon other scientists were coming to Albert to learn with him! This is a rather dreamy book, dreamily illustrated with wispy strokes, muted colors, and dashing sketches in pen and ink. Although written in picture book format, this story is unlikely to appeal to preschoolers. Three-fourths of the book is about Einstein as an adult, and his adult ideas and theories. Small children are attracted to things that they can relate to on their own level. This would be of more interest to 3rd or 4th graders, if they could overlook the childish format. That being said, there are a few young children who do think on a different level than other children and feel out of place with children their own age. This book could speak to them.

Love this little book, beautifully done with great text. I am reviewing it in my column: "About Books" in the 2eNewsletter, an electronic publication for parents and teachers of twice exceptional students (gifted and learning disabled). Art work is gorgeous -- should be a leading contender for the

Caldecott!!!

This is a nice pairing of Jennifer Berne's words and Vladimir Radunsky's illustration. Not only does it tell about Albert Einstein's life from birth to his passing, it has an inspiring quality to it. It encourages the reader to question and investigate. Great for STEM focus.

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.

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