

# On a Beam of Light

## A STORY OF ALBERT EINSTEIN

### A RIF GUIDE FOR PARENTS AND FAMILIES

**Themes:** Science, Creativity, Biography

**Book Brief:** Curious about the mysteries of the world, young Albert is full of questions! This picture book explores the life of Albert Einstein and how he became one of the most famous scientists in history.

**Author:**  
Jennifer Berne

**Illustrator:**  
Vladimir Radunsky



### TIME TO READ!



**Before reading, build background:** Ask if your child has heard of Albert Einstein. If not, explain that he was a scientist that many believe was a true genius.

**While reading, make**

**connections:** Have you ever known anyone like Albert? What types of things are you curious about?

Have you ever been scared to ask a question? Do you and Albert have anything in common?

**After reading, ask questions:**

- ◆ How did Albert gather knowledge?
- ◆ Why do you think Albert liked not wearing socks?
- ◆ How would you feel if Albert was in your class?
- ◆ What would happen if everyone stopped asking questions or being curious?

### RELATED ACTIVITIES

#### FROM LIQUID TO SOLID

Materials: 1 cup half and half, 2 Tbs. sugar, 1/2 tsp. vanilla extract, 1 gallon ziplock bag, 1 pint ziplock bag, ice cubes, 1/2 cup salt

Combine half and half, sugar, and vanilla in pint-sized bag and seal closed. Place salt and ice in gallon bag. Place pint bag inside gallon bag and seal closed. Shake bags until mixture hardens—about 5 minutes. Remove the pint bag, open it, and enjoy your ice cream!

#### MAGNETIC MYSTERY JAR

Materials: clear jar, rice, variety of small metal objects, strong magnet

Fill the jar 3/4 full with rice. Add small metal objects. Shake jar until objects are hidden. Seal jar with lid.

Use the magnet on the outside of the jar to find the objects hidden in the rice. How many objects can you find? Why does the rice not move toward the magnet?

#### TREASURE HUNT

Albert became very excited about his compass. Have an adult download a free “geocaching” app onto a phone, iPod, or Android device. Use the virtual compass and coordinates to find hidden treasure around your town. Be sure to always go with an adult!

#### TECHNOLOGY LINK

Visit the American Museum of Natural History online for more information about Albert and his work: [www.amnh.org/exhibitions/past-exhibitions/einstein](http://www.amnh.org/exhibitions/past-exhibitions/einstein).

### ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

#### OTHER BOOKS ABOUT ALBERT EINSTEIN

*Odd Boy Out*, Don Brown (2004), *Dear Professor Einstein: Albert Einstein's Letters to and from Children*, Alice Calaprice (2002), *Who Was Albert Einstein?* Jess Brallier (2002).



Reading Is Fundamental