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Little Guides to Great Lives

# STEPHEN HAWKING



Written by
Isabel Thomas

Illustrations by
Marianna Madriz

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Stephen Hawking was a scientist. He used his brilliant brain to explore time and space. Stephen lived with an illness that slowly stopped his body from working. Yet no matter how challenging life became, Stephen kept asking questions and seeking answers. He discovered some of the secrets hidden among the stars and helped us all to understand the universe better.

This is the story of Stephen's journey from ordinary schoolboy to science's brightest star. It begins on a cold winter's day, when the world was at war ...

As a child, Stephen was always busy! He loved ...

... dancing,

... finding exciting ways
to climb into the house,

... board games

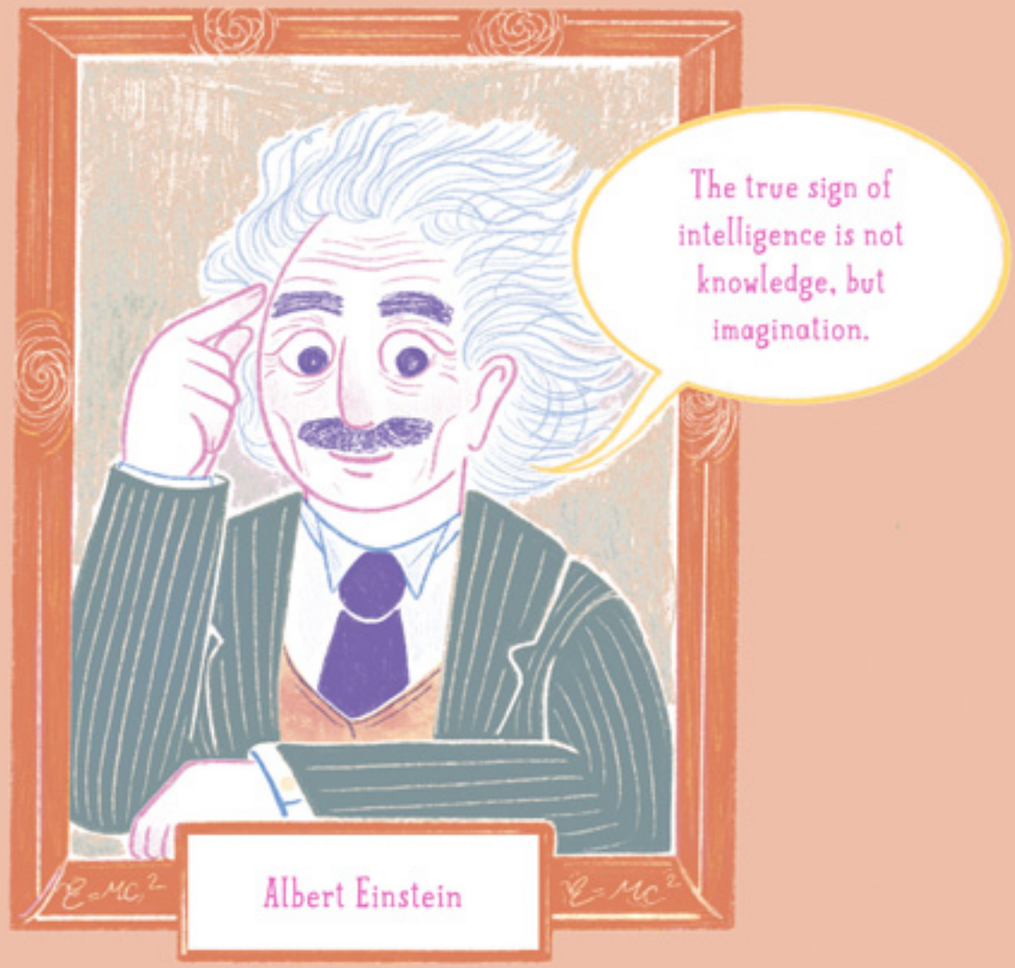
... and model trains,
planes and boats.

Most of all, he loved
tinkering with complicated
things to find out how
they worked.



Stephen often found school too easy and too boring, so he didn't work very hard.




While Stephen was at school, Albert Einstein was the world's most famous living scientist. He had won a Nobel Prize for explaining how space, time and gravity work. His explanation is called the general theory of relativity. Most people didn't understand the general theory of relativity, but they did know the name 'Einstein' meant 'genius'!

After three years of learning what other physicists had found out, Stephen was ready to join the hunt for answers himself.

He moved to the University of Cambridge to learn how to carry out research.

Stephen's favourite part of physics was cosmology – the study of how the universe began and developed. Cosmologists ask some of the BIGGEST questions of all ...

Has the universe always been like it is today?...

or is it changing?

Did the universe have a beginning?

Will it have an end?

Where did all the stars and galaxies come from?

