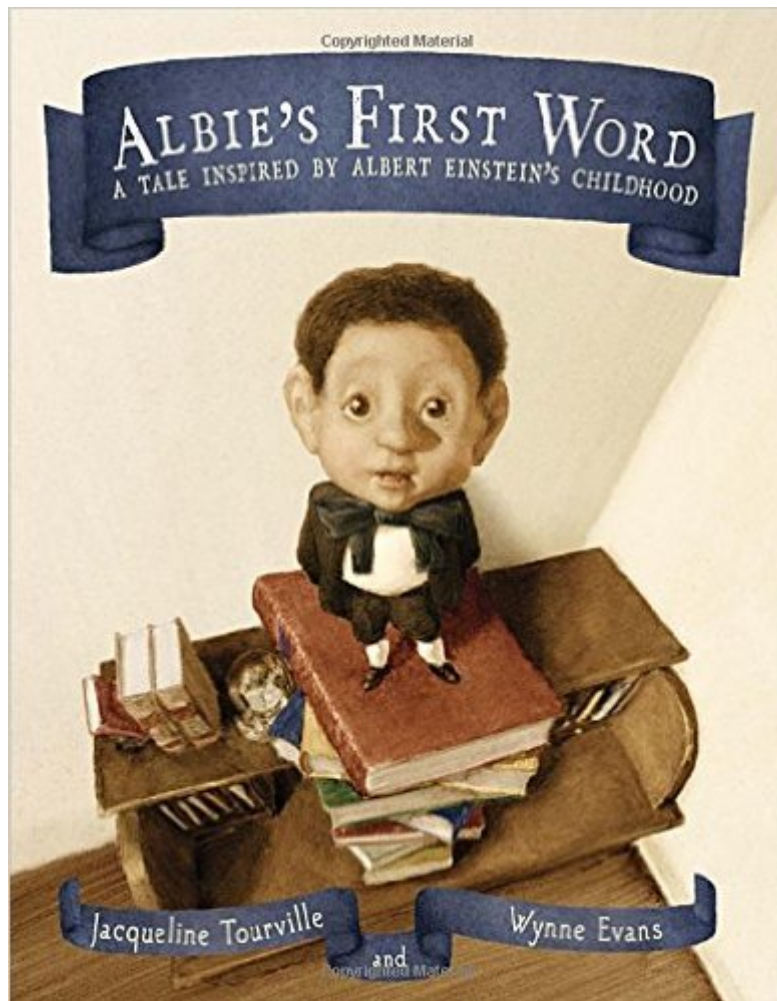


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# Albie's First Word: A Tale Inspired By Albert Einstein's Childhood



## Synopsis

Here's a beautiful historical fiction picture book that provides a rare glimpse into the early childhood of Albert Einstein, the world's most famous physicist. Three-year-old Albie has never said a single word. When his worried mother and father consult a doctor, he advises them to expose little Albie to new things: a trip to the orchestra, an astronomy lecture, a toy boat race in the park. But though Albie dances with excitement at each new experience, he remains silent. Finally, the thoughtful, quiet child witnesses something so incredible, he utters his very first word: "Why?" Kids, parents, and teachers will be delighted and reassured by this joyous story of a child who develops a bit differently than others. "More than a distinctive introduction to Albert Einstein, this book promotes both understanding of difference and scientific curiosity." --Kirkus Reviews, Starred

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: AD720L (What's this?)

Hardcover: 40 pages

Publisher: Schwartz & Wade (October 28, 2014)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0307978931

ISBN-13: 978-0307978936

Product Dimensions: 8.9 x 0.4 x 11.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 14.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (12 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #989,851 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #90 in [Books > Children's Books > Biographies > European](#) #694 in [Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Historical Fiction > Europe](#) #14646 in [Books > Children's Books > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Fantasy & Magic](#)

Age Range: 4 - 8 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 3

## Customer Reviews

The book is beautiful. While the cute realistic illustrations could lead you to believe that it is a fairy-tale about the Little Red Riding Hood or a similar character, the actual actual child who is the hero of the story is a boy who would actually become much more famous than the Little Red Riding Hood. I won't tell you what this child was saying or excited about and what was his first word but you may guess (it is possible to make the right guess!) and read the book to verify whether your guess

was right. As a good fairy-tale, the story has a happy end. An adult will be able to read the fairy-tale quickly, it will give much more quality time to a curious child, but the book looks so pretty - not only because of the tensor calculus that beautifies the cover - that every household with someone who likes science will feel luckier to have the book.

I love this beautiful book for so many reasons that I'm making a list.<sup>1</sup> It's a great and very well-told story. Every word is perfectly chosen.<sup>2</sup> It's based on a true story of a very famous person -- Albert Einstein, at around three years of age.<sup>3</sup> It's a relatable story for kids of preschool and early elementary school age.<sup>4</sup> In this day and age of constant comparisons, and growth and learning charts, it is a great reminder to parents, especially first-time parents, that every child will develop at his or her own rate. I have one child, who is now six, and I still need to be reminded.<sup>5</sup> It's a beautifully, wonderfully illustrated book. The illustrations are absolutely perfect for the text and story.

Abie's First Word is a tale about Albert Einstein as a child. Albie won't talk and his parents are willing to try anything to get him to do so. When he does finally speak, it's a great lesson for children today, not only about Albert Einstein, but also about thinking before we speak (in Einstein's case, quite literally for years). The illustrations are rich and beautiful. There are not too many words, and so it could be read to a younger child. I read it to my 3 year old. She picked up most of the story but some meaning was lost on her. She has no idea who Einstein is, so the fact that he didn't speak for so long as a child doesn't mean anything to her. Still we were able to have a discussion about thinking about things, and why she thought Albie didn't speak. Einstein was German born, so they have included some German vocabulary. It seems past the point of being merely to make the story sound authentic, and borders on trying to teach the child reader German, which seems a bit like overkill. But it's there, and exposure to new words is always good I guess. I would love to see more books like this about historical figures as children. Especially women. Being that it is Women's History month, our library put out a selection of books, and none were for young readers. This is definitely an area where we could use more titles. Spoiler: For those who are curious, his first word was "Why?"

This is a story based loosely on the childhood of Albert Einstein. He did not speak even though his little sister did. He was otherwise normal. The doctor suggested bringing Albert to new places where he would be encouraged to ask questions. His parents took him to the symphony, to a scientific lecture, and a boat race. Albert enjoyed every experience, but he still did not speak. When his

mother came up to tuck Albert in for the night, he was looking up at the stars. He looked at his mom and asked, "Why?" The illustrations are rendered in oil glaze and finished digitally. They have a different look making the people look like wax figures, but they are very interesting to look at. Although this story was only based on Albert Einstein's childhood, it is a wonderful portrayal of kids who do not talk because they are busy observing and thinking about all of the things around them. One of the best parts was how encouraging the parents and the doctor were throughout the story. The last page of the book gives a short biography of Einstein. This book is advertised for grades k-3. I think it may be a little abstract for the k-1 range, but they would still enjoy the pictures and the basic concept of the story.

"Albie's First Word" by Jacqueline Tourville is a wonderful book which will enrich every child's bookshelf. It invites us to Albert Einstein's childhood showing us his interests and passions and...lack of will to talk! The author shows us the parents' different attempts at convincing their little one to speak. We all know that they succeeded but do you know what Albie's first word was? This book offers comfort to every parent worried about their child's slower development. After all, that toddler who didn't speak became one of the greatest geniuses of all times. It also allows children to get to know Albert Einstein in a very accessible manner. I truly enjoyed this book and I am looking forward to more titles from this author. Alinka Rutkowska, award-winning children's author of *Maya & Filippo Look for Whales*

Gorgeous art and story. Albie will melt your heart and inspire curiosity in all readers. A must read! Albie is the perfect gift for budding scientists and inquisitive children.

Very sweet book. Shows that everyone is amazing, even when not the same as everyone else. The art work is beautiful, with wonderful scenery and detail.

A wonderful story and so inspiring to every parent who wonders if their child will develop normally.

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