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Edison's Fantastic Phonograph



Synopsis

Can you imagine life without CDs and videos, without television and radio? Over 100 years ago, none of these things existed, but then Thomas Edison invented a machine that would change the world. This is the story of a scientific genius and how he recorded sound for the first time.

Book Information

Hardcover: 32 pages

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Customer Reviews

Grade 1-3
This picture book shows how Thomas Edison's young daughter encouraged him in the development of the phonograph. Kimpton sets the scene by explaining that there was no radio or television 100 years ago. After showing Dot (who was nicknamed for a Morse code symbol) one of his contraptions, the inventor promises her an exciting surprise and works feverishly until he accomplishes his goal. At the end, he explains to her that people will now be able to listen to music whenever they want to, and the final illustration depicts a 21st-century family sitting on a blanket, with the mother using a CD player with headphones. A one-page biography of Edison is appended, but there is no specific information about the events described in the narrative. The large, realistic paintings are of average quality. On some pages, sketches done in brown ink suggest scientific drawings. The text falls flat, though, and there is no real excitement about the invention. Readers would be better served by a straightforward biography that would provide information without leaving them to wonder what is true and what has been supposed by the author.
Susan Lissim, Dwight School, New York City Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

"Diana Kempton has cleverly woven the science together with the storyline...this book will appeal to children who may not be readily interested in science' School Librarian" --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

This was a wonderful story my 2.5 and 5.5 y.o. both enjoyed. I like that it incorporates Edison's daughter into the story, giving kids a character they can relate to. It is exciting to see his phonograph invention come into fruition! Great non-fiction, historical and scientific read for kids!

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