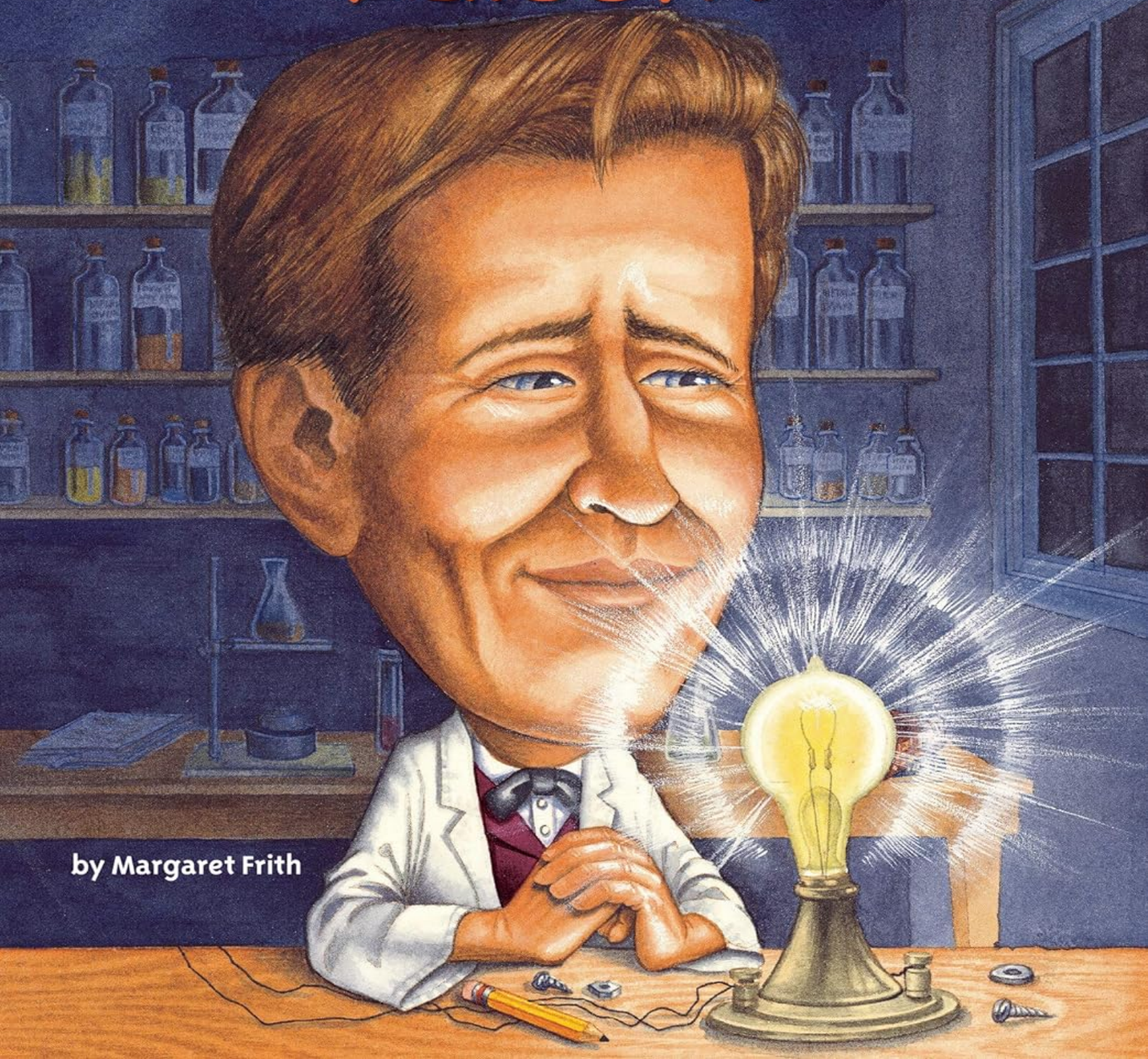


The #1 New York Times Best-Selling Series

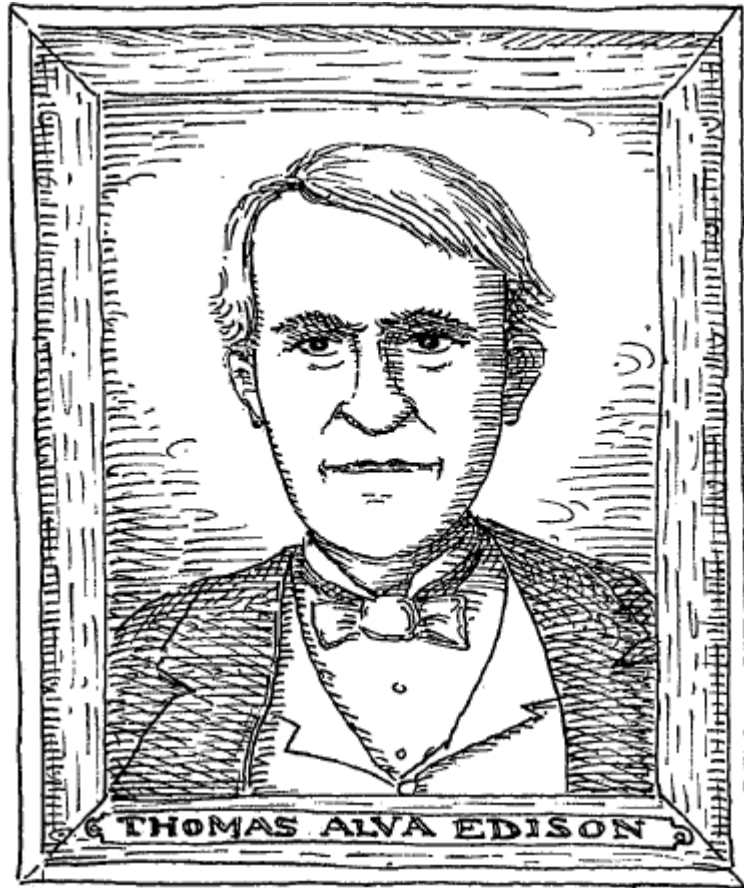


Who Was Thomas Alva Edison?



by Margaret Frith

Who Was Thomas Alva Edison?



Who Was Thomas Alva Edison?

By Margaret Frith
Illustrated by John O'Brien

Grosset & Dunlap

For David, ever curious—M.F.
For Linda—J.O.

GROSSET & DUNLAP

Published by the Penguin Group

Penguin Group (USA) Inc., 375 Hudson Street, New York, New York 10014, U.S.A.
Penguin Group (Canada), 10 Alcorn Avenue, Toronto, Ontario, Canada M4V 3B2 (a division
of Pearson Penguin Canada Inc.)

Penguin Books Ltd, 80 Strand, London WC2R 0RL, England

Penguin Ireland, 25 St Stephen's Green, Dublin 2, Ireland (a division of Penguin Books Ltd)

Penguin Group (Australia), 250 Camberwell Road, Camberwell, Victoria 3124, Australia (a
division of Pearson Australia Group Pty Ltd)

Penguin Books India Pvt Ltd, 11 Community Centre, Panchsheel Park, New Delhi-110 017,
India

Penguin Group (NZ), Cnr Airborne and Rosedale Roads, Albany, Auckland 1310, New
Zealand (a division of Pearson New Zealand Ltd)

Penguin Books (South Africa) (Pty) Ltd, 24 Sturdee Avenue, Rosebank, Johannesburg 2196,
South Africa

Penguin Books Ltd, Registered Offices: 80 Strand, London WC2R 0RL, England

The scanning, uploading, and distribution of this book via the Internet or via any other means
without the permission of the publisher is illegal and punishable by law. Please purchase only
electronic editions and do not participate in or encourage electronic piracy of copyrighted
materials. Your support of the author's rights is appreciated.

Text copyright © 2005 by Margaret Frith. Illustrations copyright © 2005 by John O'Brien.
Cover illustration copyright © 2005 by Nancy Harrison. All rights reserved. Published by
Grosser & Dunlap, a division of Penguin Young Readers Group, 345 Hudson Street, New
York, New York 10014. GROSSET & DUNLAP is a trademark of Penguin Group (USA) Inc.
Printed in the U.S.A.

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Frith, Margaret.

Who was Thomas Alva Edison? / by Margaret Frith; illustrated by John O'Brien.

p. cm.

Includes bibliographical references.

ISBN: 978-1-101-63992-4

1. Edison, Thomas A. (Thomas Alva), 1847-1931—Juvenile literature. 2. Inventors—United
States—Biography—Juvenile literature. 3. Electric engineers—United States—Biography—
Juvenile literature. I. O'Brien, John, 1953- II. Title.

TK140.E3F736 2005

621.3'092—dc22

2005003386

20 19 18 17

Contents

Who Was Thomas Alva Edison?

Always Curious

Young Inventor

Tom and His “Boys”

His Invention Factory

Turning on the Light

Making Moving Pictures

Always Inventing

Bibliography

Who Was Thomas Alva Edison?

One day the Edisons couldn't find six-year-old Al, as his family called him. They were visiting Al's older sister and her husband on their farm. It was just outside of Milan, Ohio. The year was 1853.



Suddenly Al's uncle had an idea. He ran out to the barn and there he found Al sitting on a pile of straw. He was trying to hatch a goose egg. He had seen a hen sitting on her eggs when some baby chicks came out. Al wanted to make a baby goose come out of the egg.



The Edisons weren't surprised. They had three other children, but their youngest, Al, was the most curious. He would be that way all of his long

life.



The world was very different when Thomas Alva Edison was a child—no electric light to see by, no recorded music to listen to, no movies to watch. It was Edison who made all of these possible and much more, changing our lives forever. Edison firmly believed in inventions, ones that could make everyday life easier and more comfortable. That is exactly what he accomplished.



Thomas Alva Edison was, perhaps, the greatest inventor of his time.