

Little People, **BIG DREAMS**

# Alan Turing



Written by Maria Isabel Sánchez Vegara

Illustrated by Ashling Lindsay





*Little People,* **BIG DREAMS**  
**ALAN TURING**

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**Frances Lincoln**  
Children's Books



Little Alan was a boy from London who went to boarding school when he was very young. He was shy, and nobody expected much from him. But often, the quietest people achieve the most extraordinary things...



PLATFORM 1





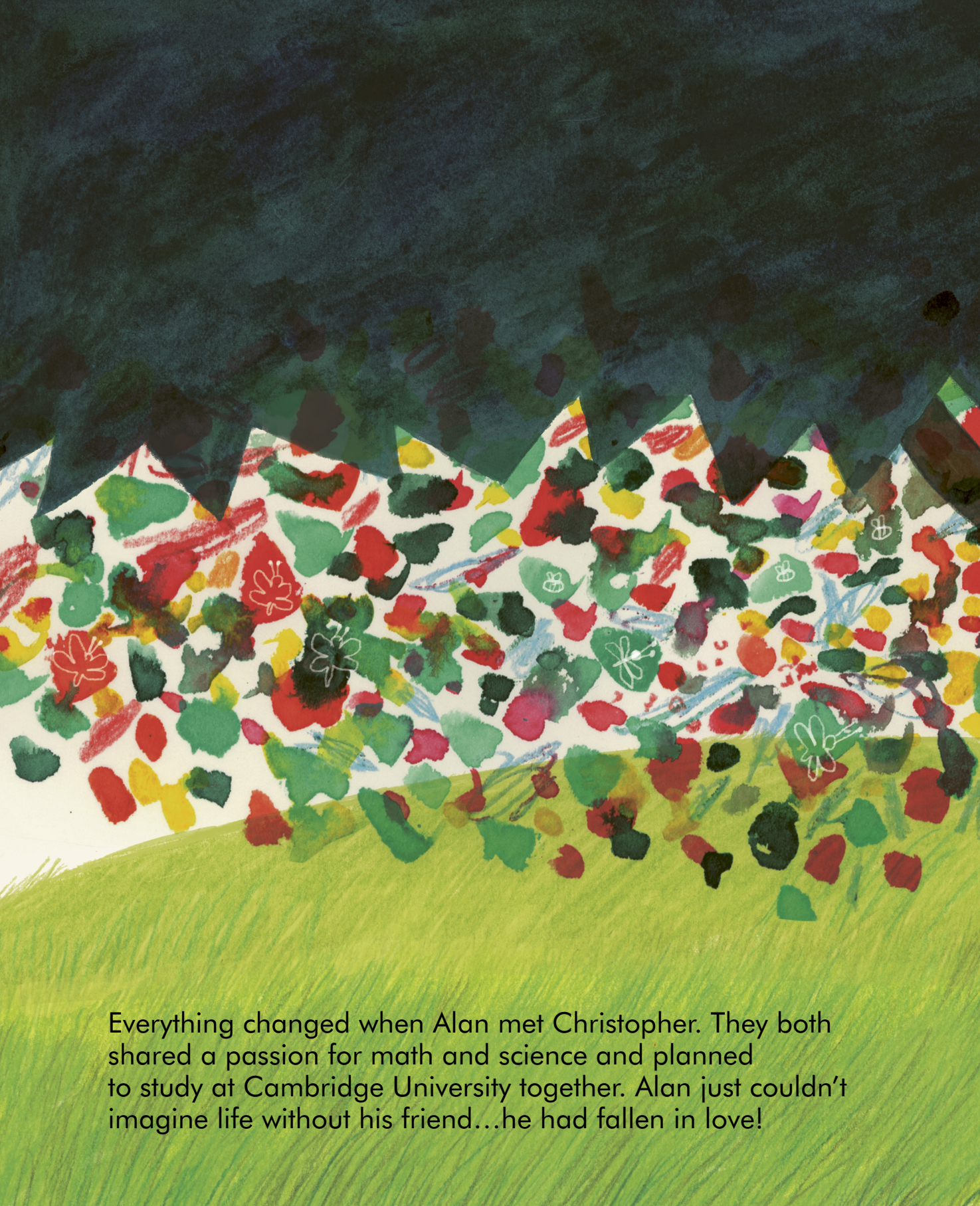






At school, Alan spent so much time alone that he learned to read all by himself. He could also solve mathematical problems in his head before his teachers taught him how.





Everything changed when Alan met Christopher. They both shared a passion for math and science and planned to study at Cambridge University together. Alan just couldn't imagine life without his friend...he had fallen in love!









He was ready to move to Cambridge when he got some terrible news: Christopher had died suddenly.





Alan—who had always been  
lonely—felt more alone than ever.



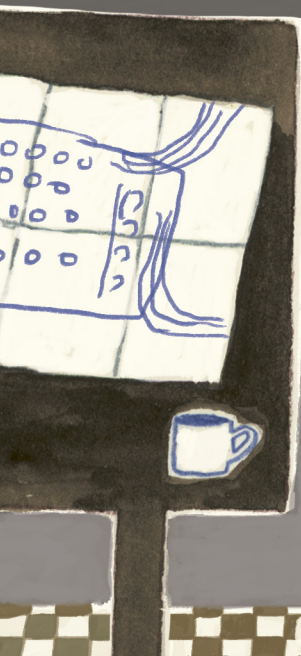
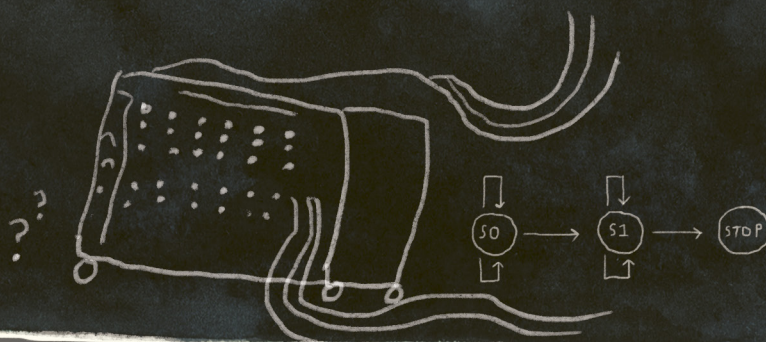
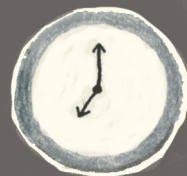


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College couldn't cure his broken heart, but it kept his brain busy. Soon, Alan was working on a crazy idea: a machine that could calculate any sum.



Alan's machine was the ancestor of the computers we use today, but he didn't have the chance to build one. Half of Europe had been invaded by Germany, and Alan's destiny was about to change forever.















When Britain joined the war against Germany, Alan and other brilliant minds were hired to break the code used by the Germans to send secret messages to their soldiers.



WORLD MAP







Mathematicians, chess players, engineers...they all failed to crack Enigma, the code-making machine built by the Nazis. Alan knew that another machine—not a human mind—was the only thing to beat it.



Nobody believed in Alan's idea, so he wrote to the prime minister asking for help to build his device.





Once he got permission, it was just a matter of time  
before his machine solved the first of many riddles.





Alan's machine helped to win the war and saved millions of lives!





But his name was kept secret and no one knew he was a hero.  
Alan was just happy to go back to work on his computers.





Tragically, Alan became the victim of an unfair law against gay people. He lost his job and was forced to take a bizarre treatment that made him feel very sad.







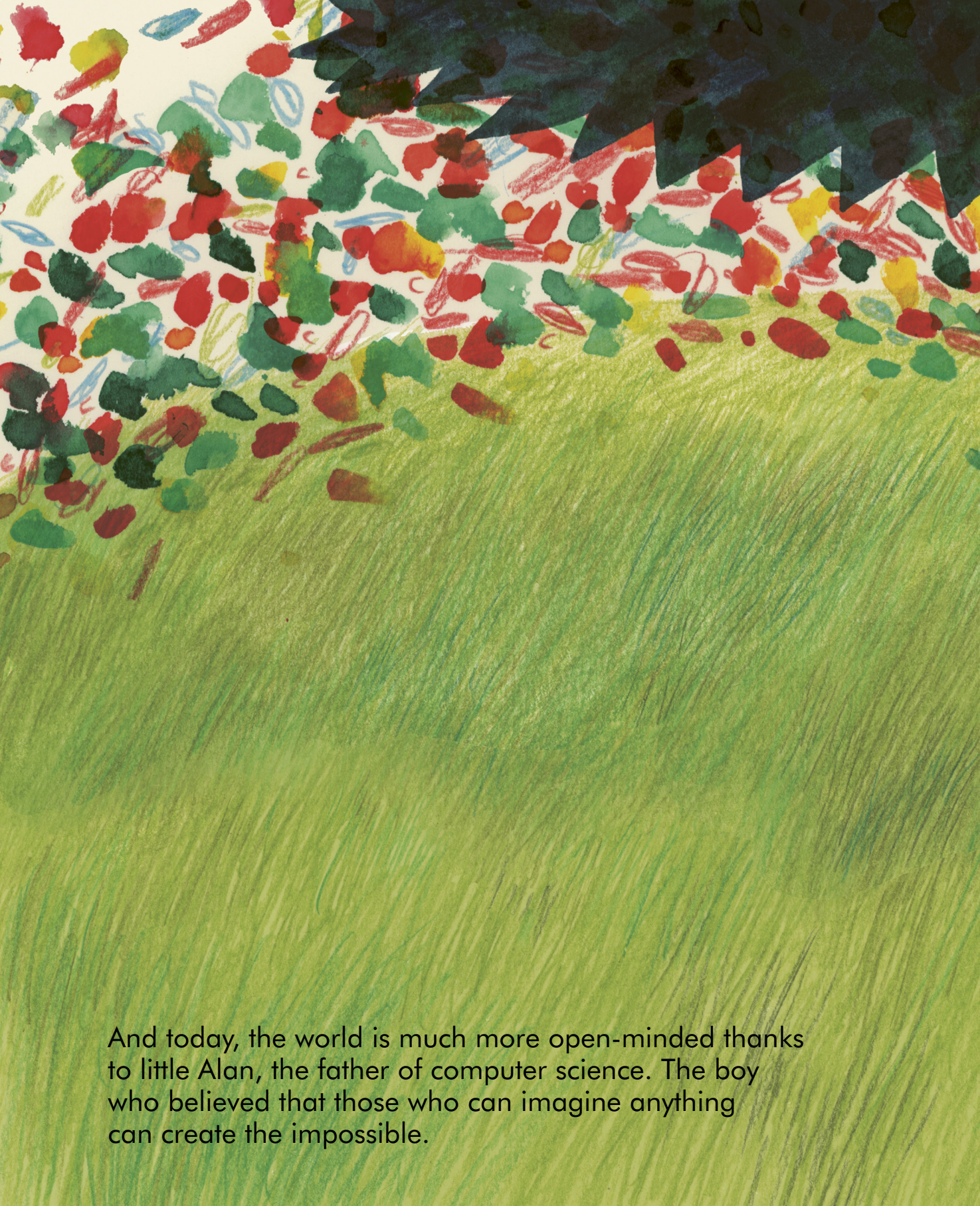


It took more than 50 years for the British government to apologize for treating Alan—and thousands of gay people—so terribly. They showed great courage by being themselves in a time of great prejudice.









And today, the world is much more open-minded thanks to little Alan, the father of computer science. The boy who believed that those who can imagine anything can create the impossible.







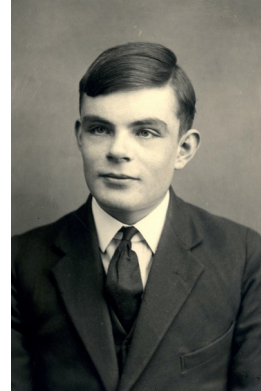
# ALAN TURING

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(Born 1912 • Died 1954)



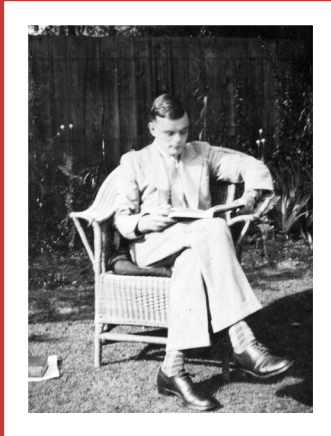
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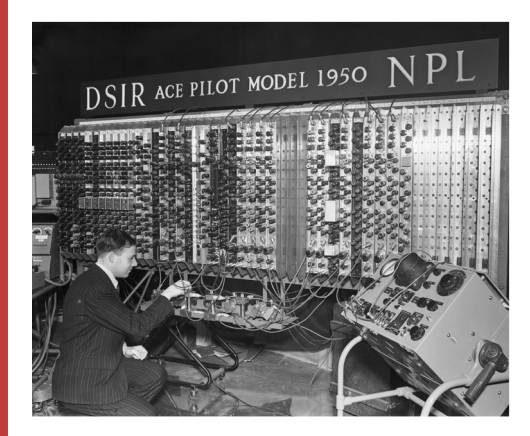
c. 1930s

Alan Mathison Turing was born in Paddington, London, as the second son to a civil servant, Julius, and his wife, Ethel. While his parents lived and worked overseas in India, Alan and his brother, John, grew up in houses across England. As a young boy, he was given a copy of *The Natural Wonders Every Child Should Know*, which quickly prompted an interest in the scientific world. Educated at Sherborne School, he met Christopher Morcom—a student in the year above him with whom Alan fell in love. Christopher's sudden death at age 19 made Alan more determined than ever to achieve great things. Alan went on to study mathematics at King's College in Cambridge and later at Princeton in the US, nurturing an interest





c. 1930s



1950

in probability and logic. He was already working part-time for the British government's Code and Cypher School before World War II broke out. In 1939, Alan began to decipher the military codes used by Germany and its allies at Bletchley Park. He invented a machine that intercepted messages sent by the Germans, which alerted Allied forces to attacks and saved millions of lives. Despite terrible persecution and prejudice for being gay, Alan went on to create the early modern computer in the years after the war. More than half a century later, Britain formally apologized for mistreating Alan and millions of other gay men who suffered in Britain. Today, Alan is considered to be the father of computer science and artificial intelligence.



Want to find out more about **Alan Turing?**

Read this great book:

*Code-Breaker and Mathematician Alan Turing (STEM Trailblazer Bios)* by  
Heather E. Schwartz



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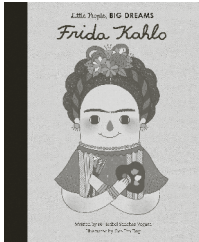
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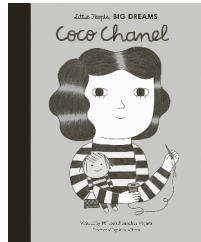
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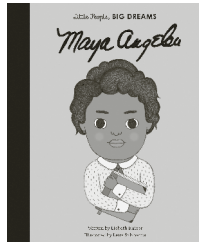
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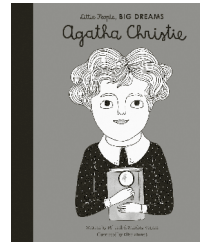
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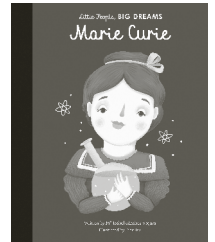
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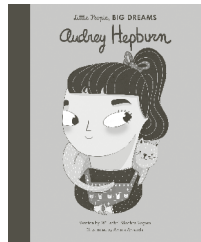
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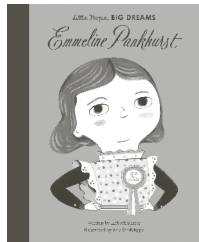
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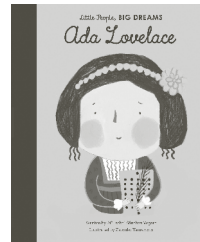
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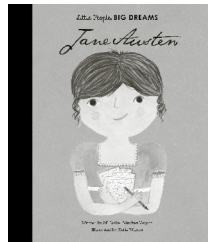
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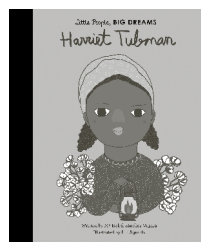
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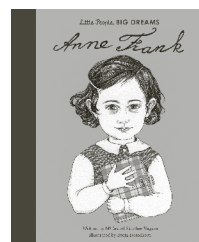
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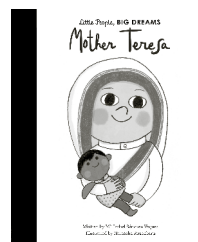
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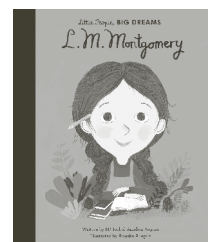
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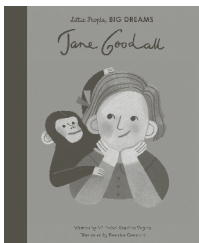
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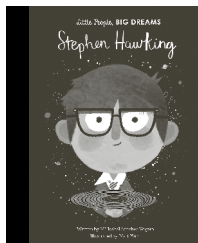
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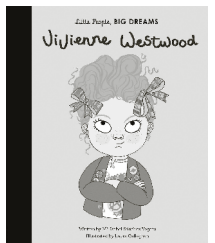
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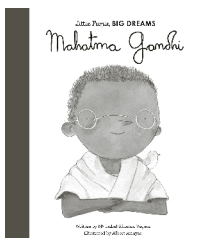
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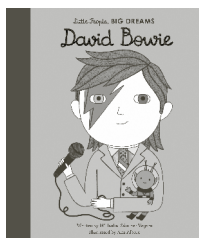


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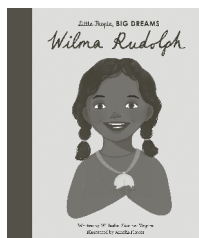
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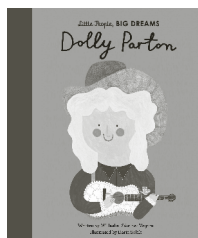
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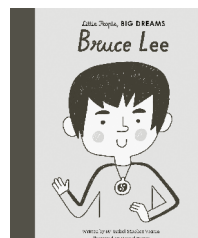
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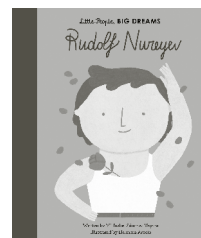
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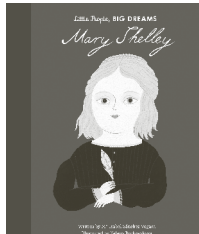
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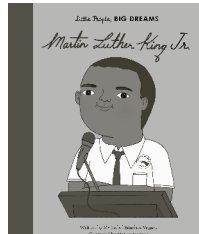
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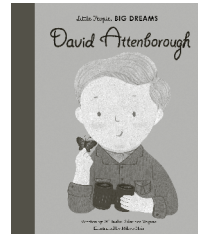
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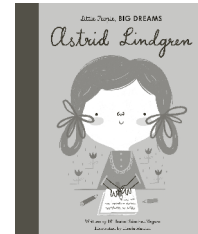
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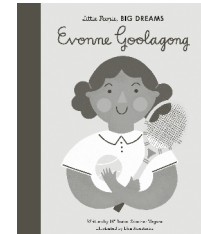
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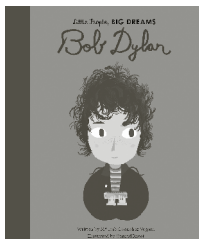
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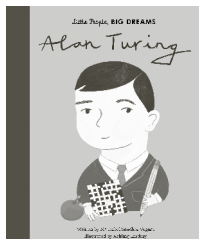
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Little People, **BIG DREAMS**

# Alan Turing

Discover the lives of outstanding people,  
from designers and artists to scientists. All of  
them achieved incredible things, yet each began  
life as a child with a dream.

As a young boy, Alan fell in love with science in everyday  
life. At school, he went on to conduct his own chemistry  
experiments, and by the time he was at university, Alan  
began to invent ways to change the world with human-  
built machines that could outwit people. This inspiring  
story of the mathematician, code breaker and scientist  
features a facts and photos section at the back.

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