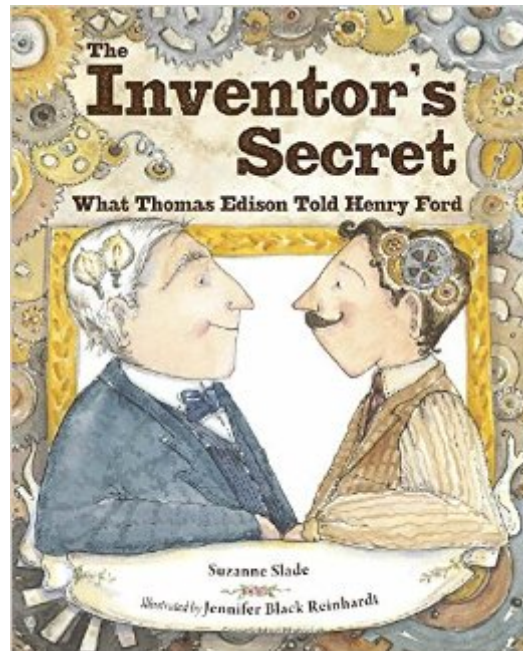


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# The Inventor's Secret: What Thomas Edison Told Henry Ford



## Synopsis

\* NSTA 2016 Outstanding Science Trade Book for Students K-12 \*Thomas Edison and Henry Ford started off as insatiably curious tinkerers. That curiosity led them to become inventors--with very different results. As Edison invented hit after commercial hit, gaining fame and fortune, Henry struggled to make a single invention (an affordable car) work. Witnessing Thomas's glorious career from afar, a frustrated Henry wondered about the secret to his success. This little-known story is a fresh, kid-friendly way to show how Thomas Edison and Henry Ford grew up to be the most famous inventors in the world--and best friends, too.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: AD590L (What's this?)

Hardcover: 48 pages

Publisher: Charlesbridge (September 8, 2015)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1580896677

ISBN-13: 978-1580896672

Product Dimensions: 8.4 x 0.4 x 10.3 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.6 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (7 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #339,901 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #86 in [Books > Children's Books > Science, Nature & How It Works > Inventions & Inventors](#) #241 in [Books > Children's Books > Biographies > Science & Technology](#) #428 in [Books > Children's Books > Cars, Trains & Things That Go > Cars & Trucks](#)

Age Range: 6 - 9 years

Grade Level: 1 - 4

## Customer Reviews

Delightful. The author reveals how Edison and Ford both spent a lot of time "trying out" various models of their inventions. This is an important lesson for our students to learn--change/improvement/innovation takes time. AND another lesson implied in the book is that inventors sometimes need encouragement from each other. In the book, Ford, looking for advice from Edison, finally gets a chance to talk to him about his plans for a motor car and Edison exclaims, "Keep at it!" That's his advice--and so Ford does. This could be read aloud in 2nd-4th grades as a way to launch a science or integrated ELA/Science unit of study focused on inventions

or on the daily practices of scientists/inventors. Prompts for writing in response might be, "What is one of the main ideas in this book?" and "Why is this main idea important to people today?" BTW - It's a long picture book. Worthy of reading aloud more than once and then placing in the classroom library for independent or shared reading. Suzanne Slade is a "go to" author for nonfiction to include in your classroom library and to read aloud to students.

I loved reading biographies as a child. *THE INVENTOR'S SECRET: WHAT THOMAS EDISON TOLD HENRY FORD* is a book about curious and imaginative creators I would have cherished. The opening immediately draws one in with wonderful language and the enticing lure of a secret. Author Suzanne Slade begins the story focusing on the younger years of Thomas Edison and Henry Ford (16 years younger than Edison). The reader observes the thoughts and experiences of Thomas and Henry through Jennifer Black Reinhardt's rich and detailed watercolor and ink illustrations. As Henry grows up and keeps hearing about Thomas's inventions, he is beyond curious and wants to know how they work. I love how Slade crafts their first time meeting in person over several pages. This meeting where the secret is shared changes both of their lives forever and a 30-year friendship forms. Beyond the skillful story and inspired illustrations, all of the information shared at the end of the book is a phenomenal bonus. From the joint timelines of each man's life and an explanation of their friendship to details about their inventions and informative source notes, this book is a wonderful addition to any personal collection (it is now in mine) as well as being a great gift (I got one for my sister's third grade classroom too). It has been awarded the National Science Teachers Association's 2016 Outstanding Science Trade Book for Students K-12.

Ms Slade writes so well for the young audience bringing the spirit, not just the factoids, of science alive for them. I purchased this with a 7 y.o. in mind. He's very curious and very bright and working on his tenacity. He really enjoyed the book as did his little sister and a 13 year old cousin who started off humoring me but asked some good follow-up questions. Next year we're off to the Ford Edison house in Fort Myers!

This delightful story starts when Thomas and Henry were curious boys who spent most of their time running experiments "and getting into trouble! This book is filled with history nuggets and an afterward sharing Thomas and Henry's special friendship, how the author came to write the book, and the challenges the illustrator had to accurately illustrate the book. It also includes snippets of information on several inventions of both Thomas and Henry. A great introduction to two twentieth

century men who changed the world. It was awarded the NSTA 2016 Outstanding Science Trade Book for Students K-12. Susan Roberts, Book Reviewer Books4theCuriousChild.com

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