

# Too Smart for School

Mari Arbach

**BEFORE YOU READ:** This story is *apocryphal*. It has been told many times, but the details are not accurate. Still, it is an interesting story. It teaches a lesson. Do you know any stories (or fables) that may or may not be true but that teach a lesson?

## The Teacher Said He Could Not Learn

He was ten years old when he was expelled from school. His teacher said he was stupid and unable to learn. He was always distracted in class. He acted like he didn't hear what the teacher was saying. One day, the teacher handed him a letter asked him to deliver it to his mother. The letter was sealed.

## The Mother Did Not Believe It

The child gave the letter to his mother. The letter said that the boy could not learn. He was expelled. When she read it, she was shocked and angry. However, the mother stayed calm. She did not

show her anger. She told her son a *white lie*. She said, "The teacher says he is sorry, but you are too smart for the school. You need a special school, so I will be your teacher here at home."

## He Became a Famous Inventor

This mother became her son's teacher. She worked with him until he became a young man who filled the world with amazing inventions. He is the scientist Thomas Edison, the inventor of the electric light bulb and many other inventions.

### AFTER YOU READ:

1. What is this story trying to teach us? What is a *white lie*?
2. Read the box below and click on the link to find out more about Thomas Edison's life.

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## What Really Happened?

Try researching Thomas Edison online and see what you can learn about him. Here is a fact-based version of the story you just read:

Edison was not a "good student." One teacher said he was "addled." This made his mother furious! She took him out of school and taught him at home. Years later, Edison said, "My mother was the making of me. She was so true, so sure of me, and I felt I had someone to live for, someone I must not disappoint." Edison was interested in science from an early age. He was fascinated by mechanical things and chemical experiments.

Source: <https://www.loc.gov/collections/edison-company-motion-pictures-and-sound-recordings/articles-and-essays/biography/life-of-thomas-alva-edison/>

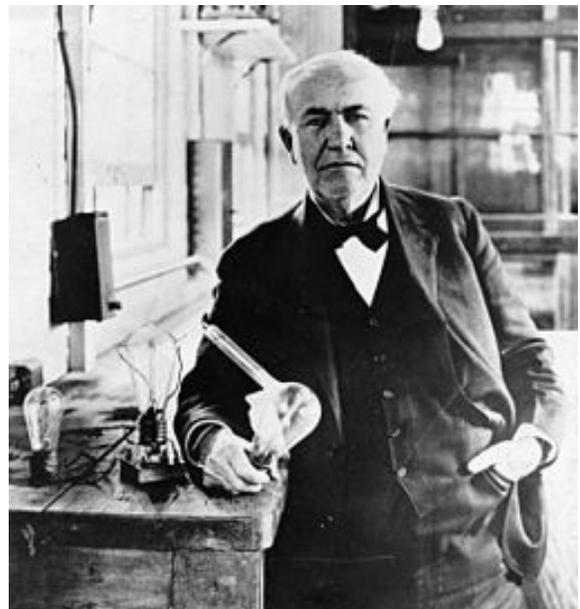


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