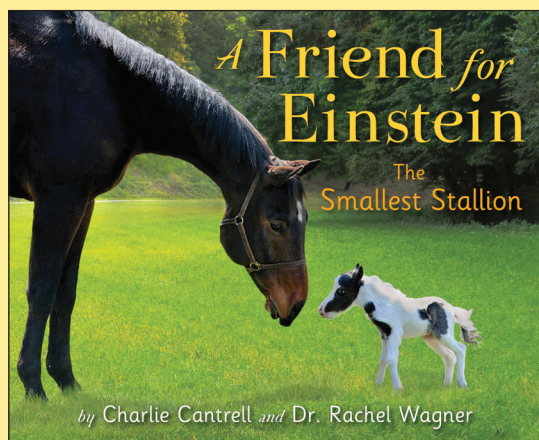




This guide was created by Dr. Rachel Wagner, M.D., M.Ed.

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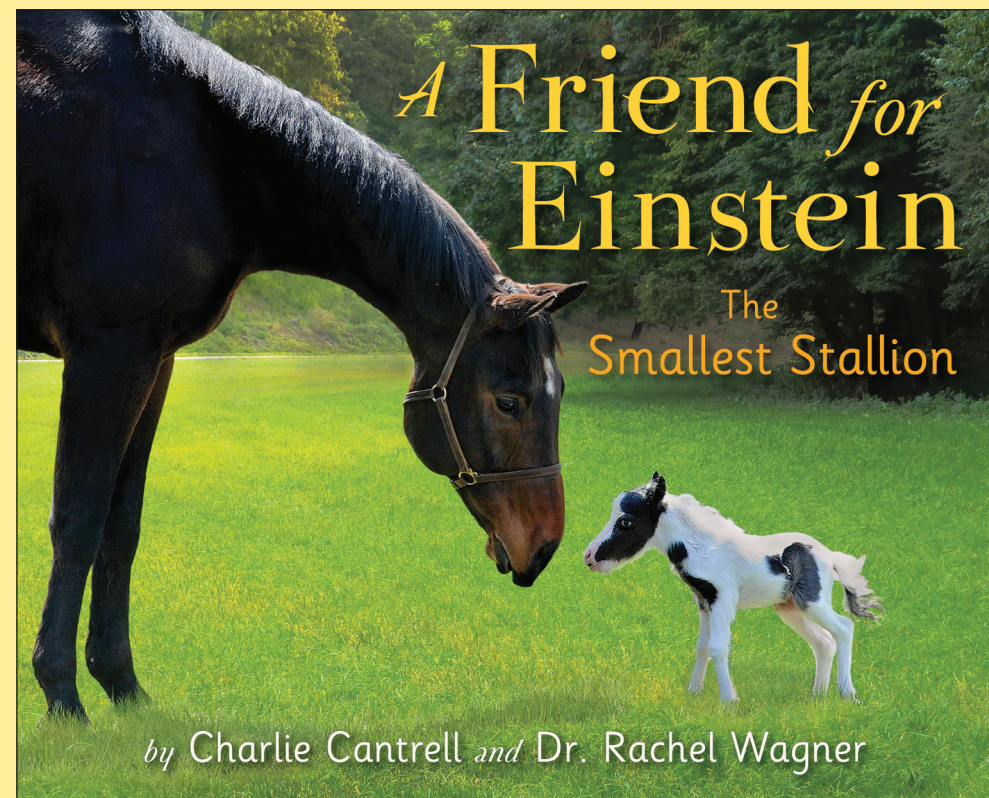


**A Friend for Einstein:  
The Smallest Stallion**

*Hardcover*

978-1-4231-4563-9

\$16.99



“Difference is of the essence of humanity . . . the answer to  
difference is to respect it. Therein lies a most fundamental  
principle of peace: respect for diversity.” —*John Hume*

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**DISCUSSION GUIDE**

**Disney • HYPERION BOOKS**



## About the Book

*A Friend for Einstein, The Smallest Stallion* is a book about a horse that is born different from the rest of the herd. He is unique in the world of horses. He is too small to interact with his own kind, so he is forced to interact with and ultimately befriend an animal that is not his own species. In fact, he chooses an animal that would have been a natural predator to be his best friend.

## Using this Book

The friendship described in this book between Lilly the white boxer and Einstein the miniature horse is a wonderful metaphor for friendships experienced between children of diverse backgrounds. This is not limited to different races, cultures, classes, or genders, but also includes people who are “born different” due to physical or mental impairments. This book can be used to teach children to value all types of people they encounter, even those who seem different from them.

Einstein may be used as a role model for children in three main areas:

1. **Self-acceptance** – I am okay and my differences make me unique in the world, I can enjoy the characteristics that make me different
2. **Acceptance of others** – the people I meet in the world who are very different from me should not be feared and might be my friend
3. **Friendship building** – I know how to look for and find a friend so that I don't have to be lonely.



## Self-acceptance

Einstein approaches the world from a positive perspective. He is born facing adversity that other horses have never experienced. He is unable to run with the other babies and mothers in the herd due to his tiny size. He is truly one of a kind, and therefore he is alone in the world. Einstein rises above this adversity, reminding the reader of all of the wonderful things his miniscule size is good for—e.g., being closer to the grass, and being able to see and appreciate the details overlooked by his larger herd mates. This part of the book may be used to model self-acceptance to children.

- Ask your class to express one thing about themselves that they think is different from most other people.
- Then open a discussion about how this quality could be viewed as a benefit. This sort of brainstorming teaches children to value those qualities in themselves that are not typical and therefore promotes higher self-esteem.

## Acceptance of Others

Einstein is required, due to his size, to look outside the ordinary herd of horses for an appropriate friend. This can be compared to the notion of seeking a friend outside the ordinary classroom, family, or even culture for a child. As Einstein encounters animals of different species, he approaches each one with the same attitude—curiosity. He does not fear the other animals, and even, as in the case of meeting Lilly, when he encounters a big mouth full of sharp teeth, he moves in close and takes a risk. This positive and curious approach provides a model for children to use when they meet people who appear quite different.

- Ask your class to think of people they know who are very different from themselves. If there are students at your school with disabilities, bring them up as an example of someone who might appear different or act different from the other students.
- Discuss the positive aspects of having friends who are different from them. Example—a friend who is from a different culture might introduce them to new games, foods, etc. A friend who has disabilities might help them see the world in a new way.



- Discuss bullying and ask whether any of them has been picked on for being different or picked on someone else. Ask them how this made them feel.
- Discuss the ways in which we can be kind to one another and accept one another.

### Friendship Building

Einstein and Lilly had barely met, and they instantly knew they were to be the best of friends. It is important to help children understand what it means to be a good friend.

- Ask your students what it means to be someone's friend.
- How do you make friends?
- Break your class up into pairs.
  - Have one student be Lilly and the other Einstein.
  - Have them work together on a coloring page or puzzle.
 Emphasize the importance of taking turns, just like Lilly and Einstein do in the story.

## Across the Curriculum

### Language Arts

1. Read the book *A Friend for Einstein, the Smallest Stallion*. List the different types of animals found in this story. Write a story using two of the animals described, other than Einstein and Lilly, that ends with the two of them becoming friends.
2. Give Einstein advice—break into small groups and read the story *A Friend for Einstein* until the page where it says “Einstein was lonely.” What advice would you give Einstein? How should he go about finding a friend? What sort of friend should he find? Does the friend have to be just like Einstein, or can they be different from him?
3. Write a letter or send an e-mail to Einstein. Talk about what you thought about the book, or just ask any questions you may have.

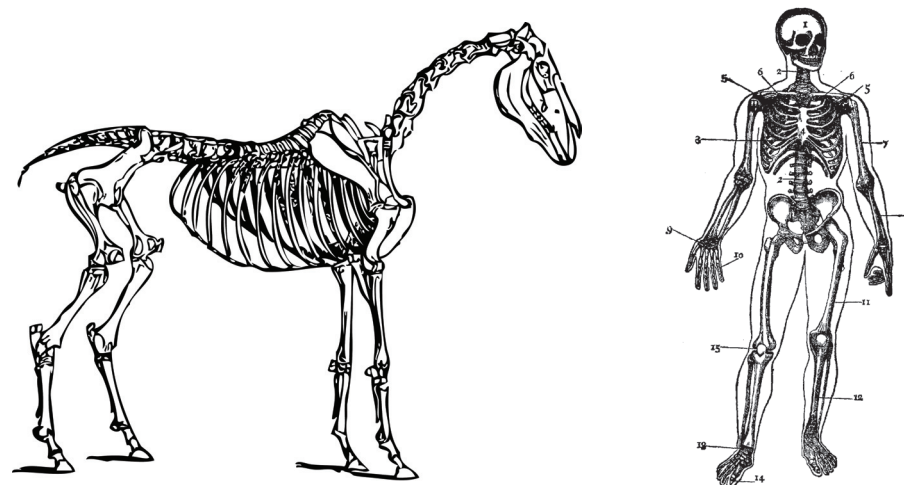
### Current Events

Read the Author's Note on the back page of the book, and then do research for more information about Einstein the miniature horse (newspapers, Web sites, TV shows, etc.). Bring in any news or information you find, and make an Einstein the Miniature Horse billboard in your classroom.

Optional: Einstein might be able to visit your classroom—try to schedule a Skype visit from Einstein!

### Science

1. Read about Eohippus, the original prehistoric horse. How big was this horse compared to Einstein?
2. Read about the American Miniature horse breed. How tall is an average miniature horse? What do they eat? Where can they live? What do people usually do with miniature horses?
3. Einstein liked to observe flowers and objects very closely because he was born so tiny. Choose a small area outside (about a square yard). Write down at least five objects you observe and describe them.



4. Compare the skeletons of horses and humans. Label the different parts of each type of skeleton. What parts of the two bodies are the same? Name three things that horses have but that humans do not have.

## Math

1. Einstein was 14 inches tall when he was born. His mother was 32 inches tall. What is the difference between the two heights?
2. Use subtraction to find out the difference between 14 inches and Lilly's height (20 inches), the big horse (68 inches), the kittens (4 inches), the ducks (12 inches), the bunny (5 inches) and the tortoise (3 inches).



$$\begin{array}{r} \text{Lilly: 20 inches} \\ - \text{Baby Einstein: 14 inches} \\ \hline = \end{array}$$



$$\begin{array}{r} \text{Horse: 68 inches} \\ - \text{Baby Einstein: 14 inches} \\ \hline = \end{array}$$



$$\begin{array}{r} \text{Baby Einstein: 14 inches} \\ - \text{Kitten: 4 inches} \\ \hline = \end{array}$$



$$\begin{array}{r} \text{Baby Einstein: 14 inches} \\ - \text{Ducks: 12 inches} \\ \hline = \end{array}$$



$$\begin{array}{r} \text{Baby Einstein: 14 inches} \\ - \text{Bunny: 5 inches} \\ \hline = \end{array}$$



$$\begin{array}{r} \text{Baby Einstein: 14 inches} \\ - \text{Tortoise: 3 inches} \\ \hline = \end{array}$$

3. Use a ruler to find objects that are 14 inches tall in your home. Bring in a list and compare. Alternatively, use a scale at home and find objects that weigh approximately six pounds. Bring in a list to compare.
4. List all of the animals in the story. Use a greater-than or less-than symbol  $<>$  to show which ones are larger or smaller than Einstein.

## Art

### Materials Needed:

- Crayons or markers, poster tape, scissors (to be used by grown-ups only)

1. Draw a picture of Einstein and Lilly playing together. Use your imagination to show where they are and what they are doing. Remember they are best friends. Show what friends would do together to have fun.
2. Color in Einstein and Lilly. Use whatever colors you like—make them look as different as you want in celebration of how pretty different colors are—they keep the page from looking boring!

## Music

1. Listen to the song "You've Got a Friend" by James Taylor. Talk about what the lyrics mean when they say: "When you're down and troubled and you need a helping hand."
2. Alternatively, listen to Randy Newman's song "You've Got a Friend in Me." Discuss what it feels like to know you have a friend as described in the song.

## Physical Education

1. Divide into small groups and play the basketball game HORSE.
2. Play "Einstein Says" instead of "Simon Says."
3. Using the reproducible sheet on pages 10–11, play "Pin the Tail on Einstein."

## Community Service

Read the book jacket about the ASPCA, and then discuss why it is important to be kind to animals and take care of them.

1. Organize a fund-raiser to raise money for the ASPCA Equine Fund or a reputable animal rescue group near your school.
2. Make a field trip to an animal rescue shelter.



## Host a Birthday Party for Einstein!

Einstein was born on April 22, 2010. Have a party in honor of his birthday, or his half birthday, or any day that you want to celebrate!



### Pre-Party Planning

Make the most of your Einstein Birthday Party with these planning suggestions!

### Birthday Snacks

As a treat for your guests, why not set out some fun treats for all to enjoy? For healthier options, look to Einstein for inspiration! While horses live on the grains, grass, and hay in their diet, occasionally they are given treats such as carrots, apples, and other fruits and vegetables (only on special occasions!). Set out apple slices and carrot sticks and dip for your guests as the main “feed,” and provide apple and grape juice for drinks.

As a special treat for the birthday celebration, pick up black-and-white cookies or decorated cupcakes in honor of Einstein’s coloring! You can also purchase animal crackers from your local store and decorate them with black-and-white icing as a tribute to Einstein! And whether you do cake or cookies, don’t forget the birthday candle for Einstein’s first birthday!



### Party Activities

Use the reproducible activities on the following pages to make your party even more fun!

## Pin the Tail on the Einstein!

### Oh no! Einstein has lost his tail!

In this activity, use the image of Einstein and hang it up in your classroom, inviting your guests to pin the tail on the Einstein!

Make a copy of the sheet and place it on the wall at your event.

Use scissors to cut out his tail on the right side.

The child who places the tail closest to the right location wins.



✂ Cut out tail along dotted line





# Happy Birthday Name Tags

Make a copy of this sheet and cut along the dotted lines to use these as name tags for your guests!



My name is:

My favorite animal is:



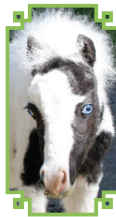
My name is:

My favorite animal is:



My name is:

My favorite animal is:



My name is:

My favorite animal is:



My name is:

My favorite animal is:



My name is:

My favorite animal is:



My name is:

My favorite animal is:

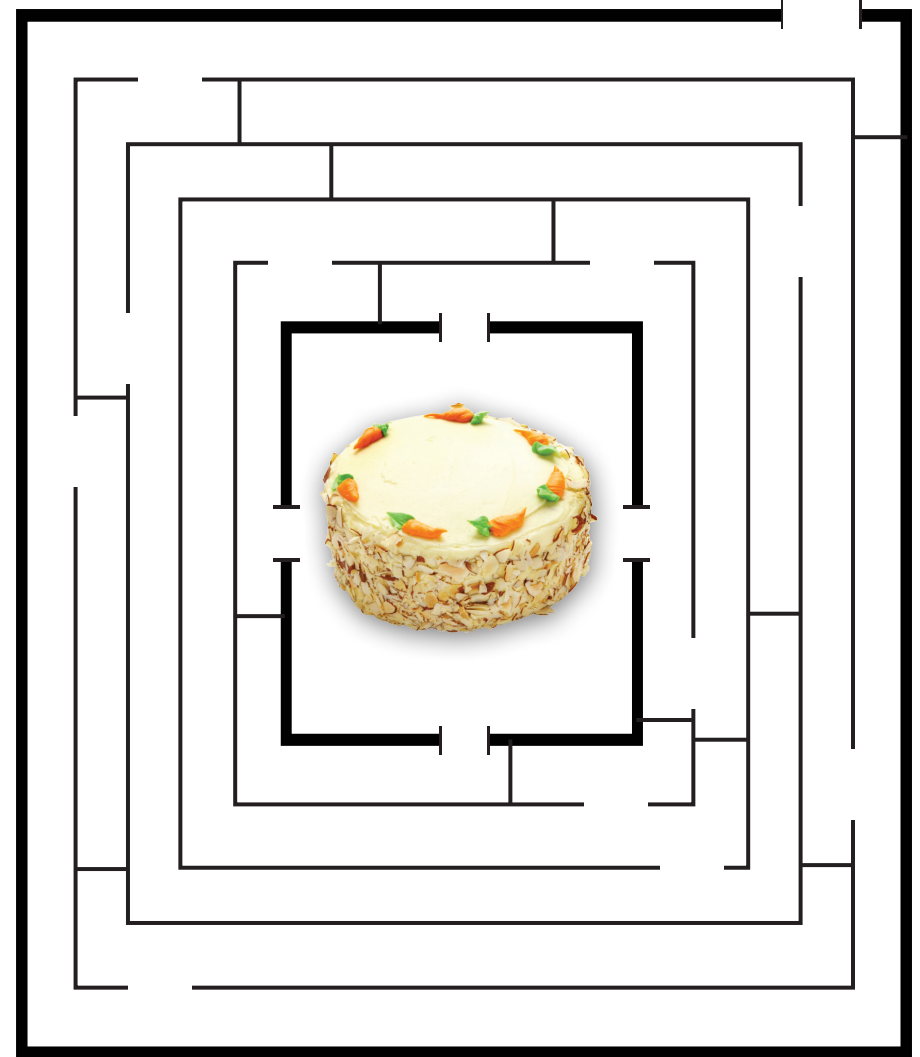


My name is:

My favorite animal is:

## A Miniature Maze

Einstein is searching for the perfect birthday cake. But in order to get there, he needs to work his way through the maze below. Can you help him? Don't get lost!



## A Birthday Card for Einstein

No birthday celebration is complete without a proper birthday card, and Einstein would love to receive birthday cards from all of you! Design your own Einstein birthday card for everyone's favorite miniature birthday boy.

When your birthday card is complete, return it to the party leader, who can send all of the cards here:

**Disney Book Group – Marketing**  
**44 S. Broadway, 9th Floor**  
**White Plains, NY 10601**

To be delivered to *Einstein himself!*

Below are some image suggestions for your birthday card (but feel free to use your own creativity).

### Materials needed:

- Blank piece of paper
- Crayons or markers
- Scissors (for grown-ups only)
- Glitter
- Paint



## About the Authors



**Charles Cantrell** is a freelance writer and photographer who has traveled the globe capturing the beauty and mystique of nature. Mr. Cantrell maintains a wild animal sanctuary on his 105-acre estate in the Lakes Region of New Hampshire. He has enjoyed horses for most of his life and acquired his first miniature horse, Karma, in 2007. When not rescuing animals, enjoying his horses, and traveling the world in

search of the perfect nature photo, he hangs out with his pet birds, mice, and dog friend, Lilly, the white boxer, at his home in Bellingham, Washington.

**Dr. Rachel Wagner, M.D., M.Ed.** is a family practice physician with a master's degree in special education. An avid horsewoman, Dr. Wagner started riding at age five, when she met a woman named Judy Smith. Judy is the person who first introduced Dr. Wagner to miniature horses and ultimately bred the pair of horses that produced Einstein, the mini horse. Dr. Wagner lives a life dictated by her "fur babies." She has horses, birds, mice, two dwarf Nigerian goats, a sulcata tortoise and a very spoiled but wonderful white boxer named Lilly. She is an ardent advocate for animal rights and a proud member of the ASPCA.

## Q&A with the Authors

**1. When did you first become interested in animals? Were horses your favorite?**

**Charlie:** I was raised as a child with animals in our family. I have always been crazy about animals, and I have traveled around the world photographing them. I have never met an animal I did not like. Some times I think I was a dog in a previous life. Horses are definitely my favorite; there is a bond between a horse and a person that just can't be



explained with words; one has to experience the magic for themselves. To have a horse as your friend is a very special thing. Einstein is the most amazing horse of all the horses I have been friends with.

**Rachel:** I can't remember a time I was not obsessed with animals. When I was about three years old, the neighbors in our suburban neighborhood used to allow their dogs to roam free with no fences. They all used to congregate at my house in a big dog pack. My parents tell me I used to play in the middle of the pack with all of the neighborhood dogs. Yes, I would have to say horses were my favorite from the moment I met them. When I was very little, I think I thought they were giant dogs, but you could ride on their backs—how cool is that?

## 2. How did Einstein become part of your “fur family”?

**Charlie:** One morning our dear friend Judy Smith, who is a miniature-horse breeder, told us about the newborn foal in her barn that was only a few hours old. She invited us over to meet him. Rachel had told me the night before she wanted a miniature black-and-white colt, so it was no less than a miracle when we ran into Judy that morning. As fate would have it, when she introduced us to the newborn foal, he was black-and-white. It was love at first sight and he became our fur baby that very day. Our lives have never been the same since.

**Rachel:** I had been dreaming about getting another miniature horse (we had owned a miniature horse named Karma and then given her to my 12-year-old niece the year prior). I had been dreaming about a black-and-white colt. The next day I broke the news to my husband that I really wanted another mini, but this time I wanted a black-and-white boy. We decided we would approach our friend Judy Smith about the issue the next day. That following morning, we saw Judy in our local diner and she told us she had just delivered the smallest foal she had ever seen. He was a black-and-white colt. The rest is history.

## 3. What made you want to tell Einstein's story? What do you hope people learn from it?

**Charlie:** Shortly after news of Einstein made it around the world, we

knew we were the proud parents of a very special little horse. When thousands of people came to the farm and stood in the cold rain just to get a glimpse of him, shutting the roads down in our small town, we decided we needed to find a way to share his story with the world. Share it in a way that would not disrupt his life as a happy, carefree little horse. Einstein was only six pounds when he was born, which would be similar to a person being born the size of a squirrel! It is a miracle he survived, let alone is still alive and healthy. He was born too small to play with the other little baby horses who were much larger than him. He was forced to make friends with other animals. He is an inspiration to anyone who is perhaps smaller or physically challenged in a way that makes them special. He is also a role model for all of us in a multicultural world. To us, he is what America is all about—reaching out past ourselves toward others, regardless of their size, color, or in Einstein's case, even species. He constantly reminds us to never underestimate the power of love that resides in one small horse.

**Rachel:** I thought the story of Einstein's birth was so remarkable that I would want to read a book about it. I was so blown away by Einstein; I had never seen anything like him. I felt others would want a chance to see him and share his story. This was the only way I felt I could share him with the world so that they could experience the sense of wonder he has inspired. I also thought the story of being born so different and learning how to make friends and appreciate being unique would be very valuable for children.

