

Einstein the Penguin

By Iona Rangeley, illustrated by David Tazzyman

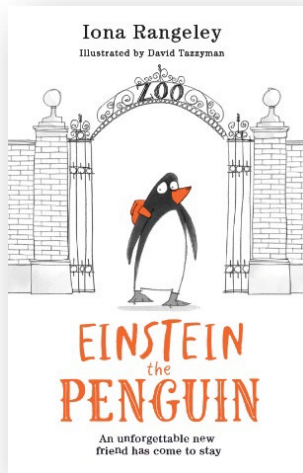
Before reading the book

- Read the text on the front and back covers or jacket flaps. Imagine a penguin staying at your house. How would you feel about that?

After reading the book

- What character traits would you use to describe each member of the Stewart family? Find examples in the story where each character demonstrates these traits.
- Which of the characters in the book is your favorite and why?
- What do you think of the illustrations in this book? How do they make the reading experience more fun?
- Find examples of figurative language – similes, metaphors, personification. How do they make the story more interesting? Research these terms if they're unfamiliar.
- Talk about some ways the author has mixed fantasy with reality in the story.
- The book is filled with humor. What scene did you find the most amusing?
- Discuss any words or unusual phrases that might have been unfamiliar. Make a glossary to go with the book.
- Can you find examples when the characters aren't entirely truthful in their conversations with others? Do you think it is ever OK to lie?
- Describe how Imogen figures out why Einstein is there and how to help him achieve his goal.
- How has life changed for Imogen, Arthur, and Einstein by the end of the story?
- Describe your favorite part of the story. Why is it your favorite?





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- Imagine you come upon a penguin accompanying someone walking along a street in your neighborhood. Write a short story or play about what happens next. Add illustrations if you like.
- What is a detective story? Do you have a favorite? Find one to read if you haven't ever done so. Try writing your own by yourself, or with a friend.
- Act out your favorite scene in the story with some friends or classmates.
- Ask a grown-up family member or caregiver to help you find a recipe for one of the tasty treats mentioned in the story, such as shortbread, apple crumble, pancakes, scones, or carrot cake, and with their help, make the recipe. Share and enjoy!
- Draw a picture of your favorite scene from the story.
- The Stewarts take Einstein to Edinburgh to reunite with Isaac. Learn more about this city and its landmarks. Create a travel brochure with interesting facts for visitors.
- Imagine what it would be like to take a train journey as the Stewarts do in this book. Write or draw a story about making such a journey. Where would you go? Who would accompany you? How would you feel?
- Zoos are an important part of the story. Have you ever visited a zoo? If so, tell or write about your experience. If you haven't, would you like to? Why or why not?
- Learn more about penguins on the internet or by visiting the library: what kinds there are, their habitats, their diet, etc. Make a list of your favorite five facts about them. If possible, visit a penguin enclosure at your local zoo or aquarium.
- Create penguin artwork using colored paper, scissors and glue, paint, crayons, markers, or colored pencils. You can find ideas for making penguins using common craft materials on the internet, if you'd like.

