When Carl Sagan was a young boy he went to the 1939 World’s Fair. This trip further spurred his need for information and creativity. His life is followed from a young boy wondering about the universe to becoming an internationally renowned scientist who worked on the Voyager missions.

*Imagination will often carry us to worlds that never were, but without it we go nowhere.*  
Carl Sagen

**Curriculum Connections:** Science, Astronomy, History, Writing, Space Science, Biography and Imagination

Excellent for close reading, review of text features using end notes, and building band 2-3 complex vocabulary.

**CCSS for Primary Grades**
- **RL.1.2** Retell stories, including key details, and demonstrate understanding of their central message or lesson.
- **RI.1.8** Identify the reasons an author gives to support points in a text.
- **RI.2.1** Ask and answer such questions as who, what, where, when, why, and how to demonstrate understanding of key details in a text.
- **RI.2.3** Describe how characters in a story respond to major events and challenges.
- **RL.2.9** Compare and contrast the most important points presented by two texts on the same topic.

**CCSS for Intermediate Grades**
- **RI.3.5** Use text features and search tools to locate information relevant to a given topic efficiently.
- **RI.4.3** Describe in depth a character, setting, or event in a story or drama, drawing on specific details in the text.
- **RL.5.2** Determine a theme of a story, drama, or poem from details in the text, including how characters in a story or drama respond to challenges.
- **RI.5.2** Determine two or more main ideas of a text and explain how they are supported by key details; summarize the text.
- **RI.5.9** Integrate information from several texts on the same topic in order to write or speak about the subject knowledgeably.

**Text Features:** Notes for pages provide added details, Bibliography and Sources, Author’s Note, and Source Notes.
**Lesson Ideas**  | **Text Set Options**
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**Primary:**  
Point out to students the labeling throughout the book. Then have students make a map of their neighborhood, school, or house, carefully labeling throughout.  
Make or draw a model of our solar system, carefully labeling each planet, the moon and stars.  
Make a time capsule for your classroom. Put in items that your class has recently done. Open the time capsule during the last week of school.  
Students make a list of things they have wondered about. Then choose several to explore in teams with guidance.  
Read a biography about another important scientist, then create a Venn diagram comparing and contrasting their lives and accomplishments.  
| *Mapping Penny’s World* by Loreen Leedy  
Holt  
2003 | AR 3.5  
Lexile 640  
Video about Voyager 1 & 2: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=seXbrauRTY4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=seXbrauRTY4)  
| *Spinning in Space: A Book About the Planets* by Dana Meachen Rau  
Picture Window Books (Follett ebook)  
2007 | AR 3.5  
Lexile None  
There are great time capsule ideas on Pinterest.  
| *I Am Albert Einstein* by Brad Meltzer  
Dial Books for Young Readers  
2014 | AR 3.2  
Lexile 410  
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**Intermediate:**  
Find some of the photographs taken by Voyager 1 & 2.  
Research the planets in our solar system. Make a fact solar system on the classroom wall with interesting and important facts for each planet.  
Research the history of World Fairs. What were some of the highlights and inventions at different World Fairs? Where were they located? See [http://www.expomuseum.com/](http://www.expomuseum.com/)  
Copy the Notes on Page 31 and have students read them after each page in the story and discuss them. Why did the author include them?  
Read a biography about another important scientist, then create a Venn diagram comparing and contrasting their lives and accomplishments.  
Organize a “Scientist Fair” where students investigate, dress up like, and share information about a famous scientist.  
| *Footprints on the Moon* by Mark Haddon  
Candlewick Press  
2009 | AR 4.5  
Lexile None  
| *Electrical Wizard: How Nikola Tesla Lit Up the World* by Elizabeth Rusch  
Candlewick Press  
2013 | AR 5.3  
Lexile 840  
| *Starry Messenger* by Peter Sis  
Farrar, Straus, Giroux  
1996 | AR 4.8  
Lexile 830  
| *A Wizard from the Start: The Incredible Boyhood & Amazing Inventions of Thomas Edison* by Don Brown  
Houghton Mifflin  
2010 | AR 5.4  
Lexile 940  
| *From the Good Mountain: How Gutenberg Changed the World* by James Rumford  
Roaring Book Press  
2012 | AR 5.0  
Lexile 800  
| *On A Beam of Light: A Story of Albert Einstein* by Jennifer Berne  
Chronicle Books  
2013 | AR 4.5  
Lexile 680