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## Johnston Public Library Book Discussion Questions

### **Einstein's Dreams** by Alan Lightman

#### Summary

A modern classic, *Einstein's Dreams* is a fictional collage of stories dreamed by Albert Einstein in 1905, about time, relativity and physics. As the defiant but sensitive young genius is creating his theory of relativity, a new conception of time, he imagines many possible worlds. In one, time is circular, so that people are fated to repeat triumphs and failures over and over. In another, there is a place where time stands still, visited by lovers and parents clinging to their children. In another, time is a nightingale, sometimes trapped by a bell jar.

Now translated into thirty languages, *Einstein's Dreams* has inspired playwrights, dancers, musicians, and painters all over the world. In poetic vignettes, it explores the connections between science and art, the process of creativity, and ultimately the fragility of human existence.

#### Discussion Questions

1. Lightman calls this a novel. Do you agree?
2. Which of these times do you feel that you have experienced? Can more than one of them be "true"? Do you think different people experience time differently?
3. Which of these times would you enjoy living in, and which would you hate? Why?
4. Are any of these times exemplified in scripture?
5. Lightman talks a lot about love and relationships. What do these have to do with time?
6. Are there any of these times that you can logically prove to be false?

Summary from the publisher  
Discussion Questions from <http://rnnbookblog.blogspot.com>