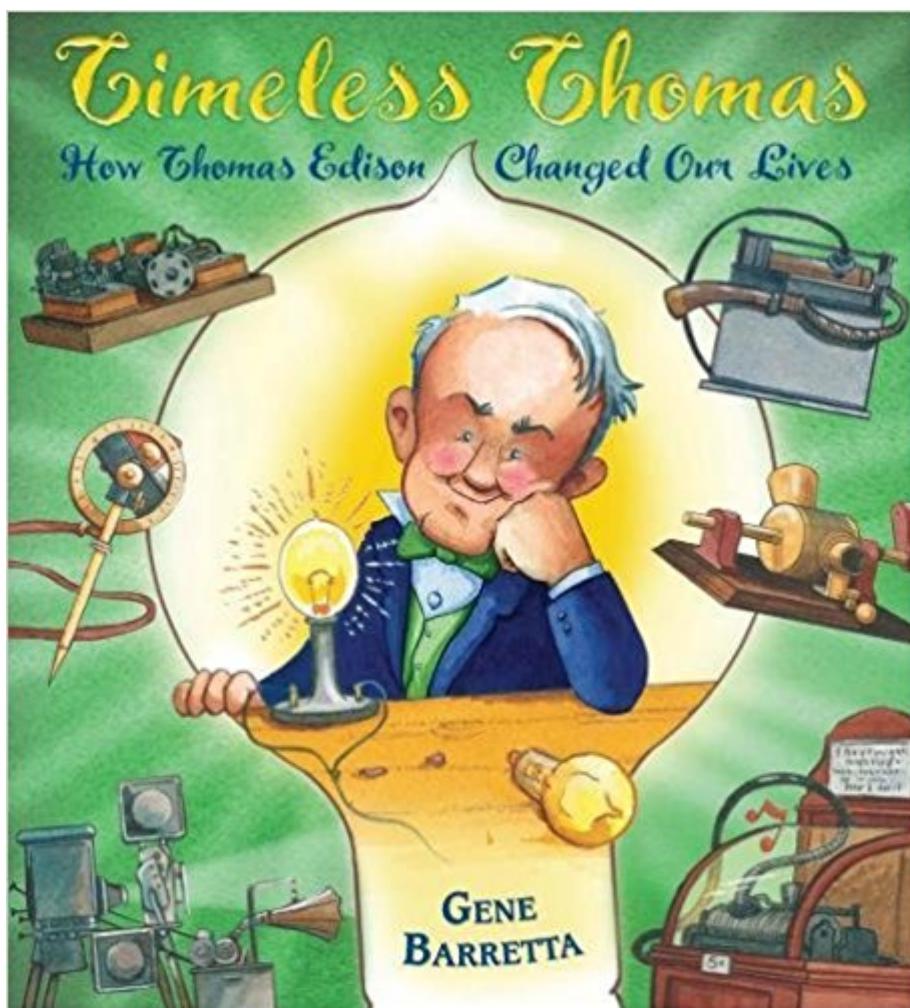


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# Timeless Thomas: How Thomas Edison Changed Our Lives



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## Synopsis

Gene Barretta, the author of *Now & Ben*, *Neo Leo*, and *Lincoln and Kennedy*, enters the laboratories of one of America's most important inventors, in this enlightening picture book, *Timeless Thomas*. What do record players, batteries, and movie cameras have in common? All these devices were created by the man known as The Wizard of Menlo Park: Thomas Edison. Edison is most famous for inventing the incandescent lightbulb, but at his landmark laboratories in Menlo Park & West Orange, New Jersey, he also developed many other staples of modern technology. Despite many failures, Edison persevered. And good for that, because it would be very difficult to go through a day without using one of his life-changing inventions. *[This] accessible and informative account [is] a worthy successor to Barretta's other men-and-ideas books.* *The New York Times* *A glowing tribute to the inventor who continues to influence modern life.* *Kirkus, starred*

## Book Information

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Age Range: 6 - 10 years

Grade Level: 1 - 5

## Customer Reviews

Gr 4-7-Distinctive cartoon illustrations infused with contemporary warmth and 21st-century humor compare electronic products used by today's youth on one side of the page to inventions developed in Thomas Edison's research labs and patented by him on the other. Boys recording music made with an electric guitar and keyboard are juxtaposed with Edison's tinfoil phonograph. A boy listening

to his sound mixer, a girl with a multi CD player, and a girl listening to her iPod are compared to dictation machines and the first talking doll. A boy making photocopies of his face is compared to Edison's electric pen. Modern moviemaking is linked to Edison's Kinetograph, the first movie camera, the Kinetoscope for viewing images, and the Kinetophone for projecting sounds with images. Edison's discovery of radio waves, development of telegraph technology, and a useful light bulb with a community-wide power system are showcased. This will be a useful tool to introduce history and inventions to reluctant readers or students as the book stays tightly focused on Edison's work rather than on his personal life. Those looking for more biographical information about the scientist can try David Adler's *A Picture Book of Thomas Alva Edison* (Holiday House, 1996) or Melvin and Gilda Berger's *What Makes the Light Bright, Thomas Edison?* (Scholastic, 2007).-Laura Scott, Farmington Community Library, MI  
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Ã¢ "...useful tool to introduce history and inventions to reluctant readers or studentsÃ¢ -Ã¢ "School Library JournalÃ¢ "An entertaining, enlightening intro.Ã¢ "BooklistÃ¢ "[This] accessible and informative account [is] a worthy successor to Barretta's other men-and-ideas books.Ã¢ "The New York TimesÃ¢ "A glowing tribute to the inventor who continues to influence modern life.Ã¢ "Kirkus, starredÃ¢ "Barretta's warm and funny watercolors create an inviting portrait of an influential man...Ã¢ "Publishers WeeklyÃ¢ "This accessible introduction will inspire children to look closely at the world around them and come up with some creations of their own.Ã¢ "School Library Journal on *Neo Leo: The Ageless Ideas of Leonardo da Vinci*Ã¢ "While teachers are sure to reach for this entertaining resource again and again, the humor, illustrations, wordplay and story are strong enough that casual readers will pick this up, chuckle and even (gasp!) learn.Ã¢ "Kirkus Reviews on *Dear Deer*

My son loves this book series! We own every book. I wish there were more! My son is a reluctant reader and prefers non-fiction books. However, it is hard to find good non-fiction books for his age group, especially about history. These are beautifully illustrated, informative and fun to read books. Highly recommend for 6-7 y.o. readers! Great gift, too!

My son loved this book

This book is a great way to show children the effects of Thomas Edison's inventions on our lives today. It presents the information in a fun and entertaining way. The students I used this with kept going back to it over and over to look at the pictures and read the book again. A great resource for teachers and a fun book for kids. (Used in a 5th grade classroom.)

Educational...interesting...current...spot on!

Timeless Thomas: How Thomas Edison Changed Our Lives is Gene Barretta's latest release about Thomas Alva Edison, the inventor of the light bulb, phonograph, electric pen, storage battery, and so much more. It has a similar style to Barretta's other two biographical non-fiction picture books: Neo Leo: The Ageless Ideas of Leonardo da Vinci and Now & Ben: The Modern Inventions of Benjamin Franklin. It's not so much a biography as it is a record of Edison's technological achievements. On the surface you might not think that a book about an older man's achievements would be very appealing to young children. You'd be wrong. My girls found it immensely appealing. Barretta showcases technology that we in the modern world take for granted, things we use everyday without a second thought. He juxtaposes a page showcasing present-day technology with pages showcasing the technology coming out of Edison's lab, showing how those early technological accomplishments made today's technology possible. Fun to read and very informative, with clear and simple text that is easily understood by kids of the target age group. The illustrations provide a perfect visual accompaniment that is immensely appealing. My nine year old non-fiction-loving Olivia saw it in the shipment that arrived a few months ago, snatched it up and ran off to her bedroom. (I had pre-ordered it so it would arrive on its release date.) She came back shortly with a huge smile on her face and spent the next twenty minutes telling me everything she learned from the book. She had never before thought about the origins of the technology that she uses daily. The book has gotten a lot of mileage since then. I love great non-fiction picture books.

Arrived super quickly. Very satisfied.

My 1st grade class had been reading stories about inventors and this was a very interesting and kid friendly book. I show how the inventions of the past continue to impact our lives today and are the forerunners of new inventions!

a great way to introduce kids to a bit of history in a fun way. this is a great book which both my son and daughter enjoy. we all learned a bit from this book. cute illustrations too.

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