

Chapter 4

Albert Einstein at School

READING WITH INSIGHT

Q. 1 What do you understand of Einstein's nature from his conversations with his history teacher, his mathematics teacher, and the head teacher?

Answer:

The exchange of conversation between Einstein and his teachers shows that he was an honest student. He admits the shortcomings that he has without thinking twice. Though the History teacher thought that Albert was a disgrace to them because he refused to learn the facts and figures, Albert never disrespected him. He only spoke his mind in front of the teacher. The Mathematics teacher, however, thought very highly of him and also said that he couldn't teach him anymore as he already knew everything. The head teacher wanted Albert to leave the school because it was almost impossible to teach the other students when he was present in the class. Albert was a bit rebellious but an honest person.

Q. 2 The school system often curbs individual talents. Discuss.

Answer:

Going by the story, the school system focused on learning facts and dates rather than focusing on ideas. Instead of celebrating the fact that they had such a brilliant student among them, Albert was expelled from school by the head teacher. This shows how the school was only interested in imparting bookish knowledge to the children. This form of education exists even now when the talents of the children are sidelined and only their grades and marks are given a consideration. The school system is such that brilliant students like Albert are considered incompetent and unfit rebels whose presence makes it impossible for the teacher to teach other students.

Q. 3 How do you distinguish between information gathering and insight formation?

Answer:

Learning of the dates and facts to just be able to repeat it to someone is just information gathering and is never useful in life. Rather, learning about the event and how it happened or about an uprising war and the idea behind it is insight information.