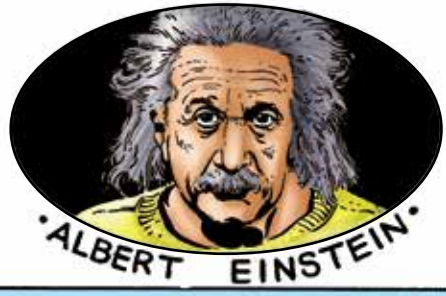
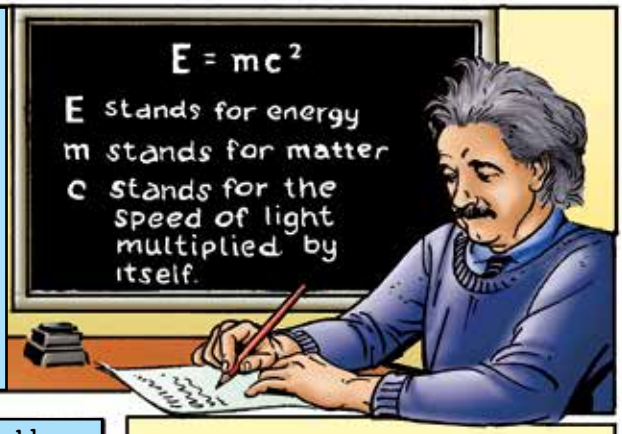
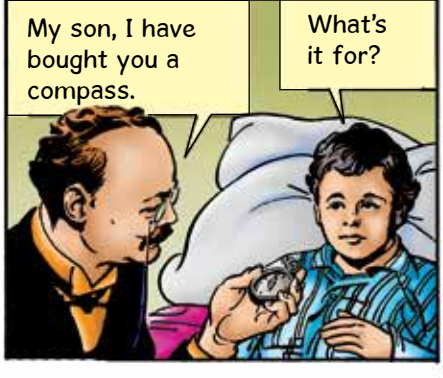


Albert Einstein was born in Germany in 1879. He became famous as a scientist and as one of the most important thinkers of our times. In 1933 when the dictator Adolph Hitler came to power in Germany, Einstein left his native land for good. Einstein was a Jew. Hitler hated Jews. In 1940 Albert Einstein became a citizen of the United States.

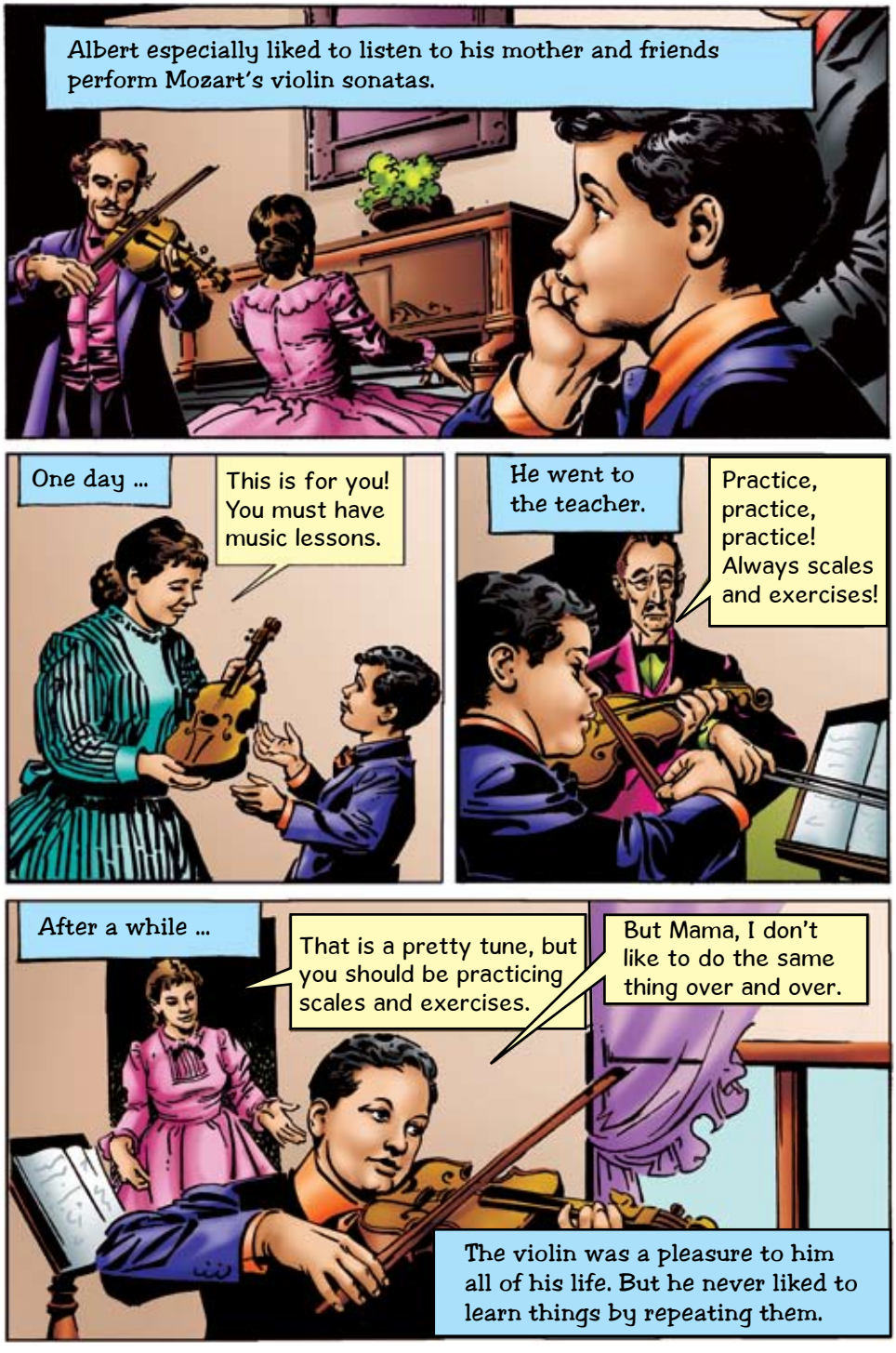
Although he made many important discoveries, he is best known for his theory of relativity. This law became the most famous equation in science. It read $E=mc^2$. "E" stands for energy, "m" stands for matter, and "c" stands for the speed of light multiplied by itself.



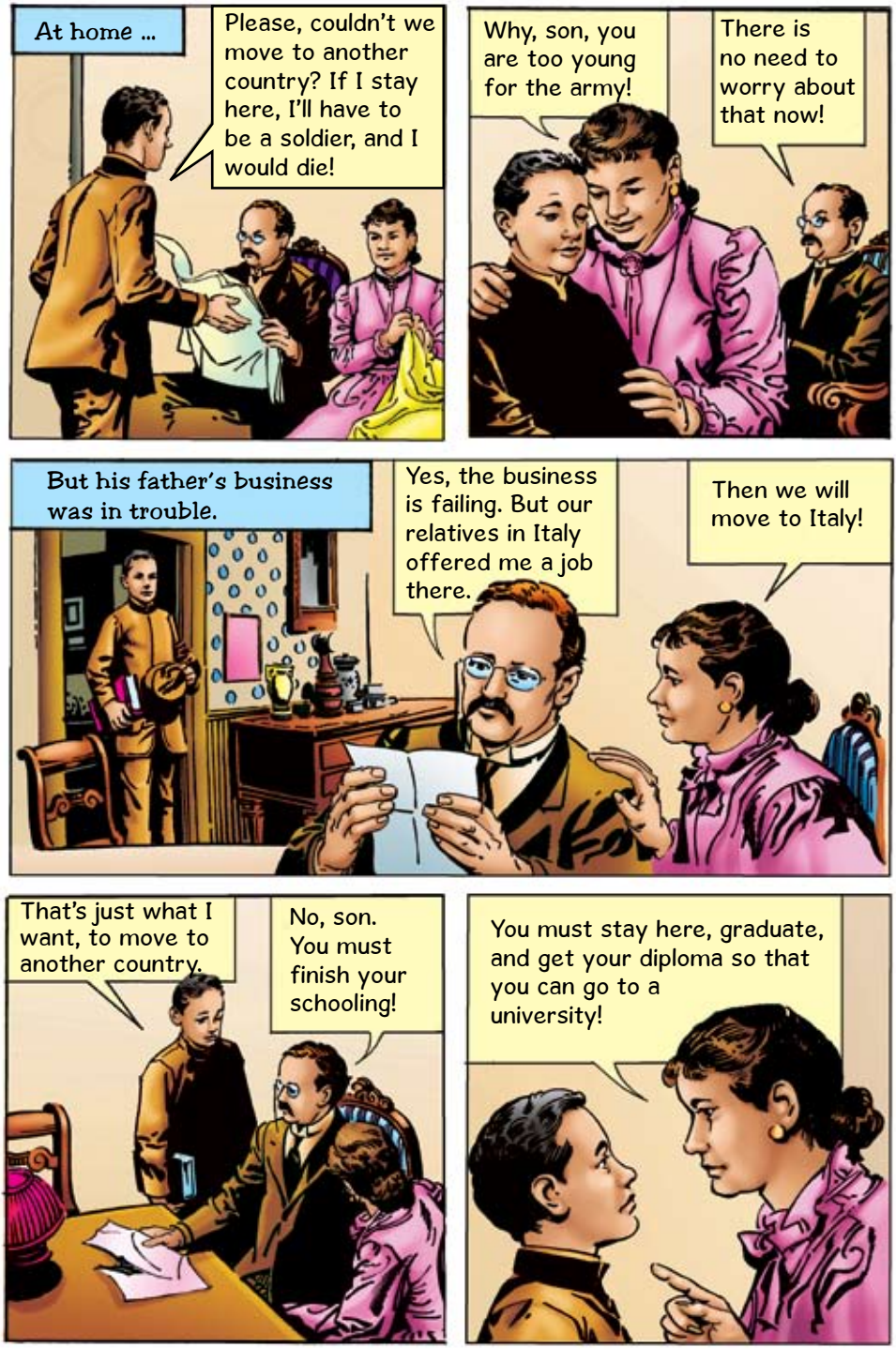
One day when five-year-old Albert was ill, his father bought him a gift.

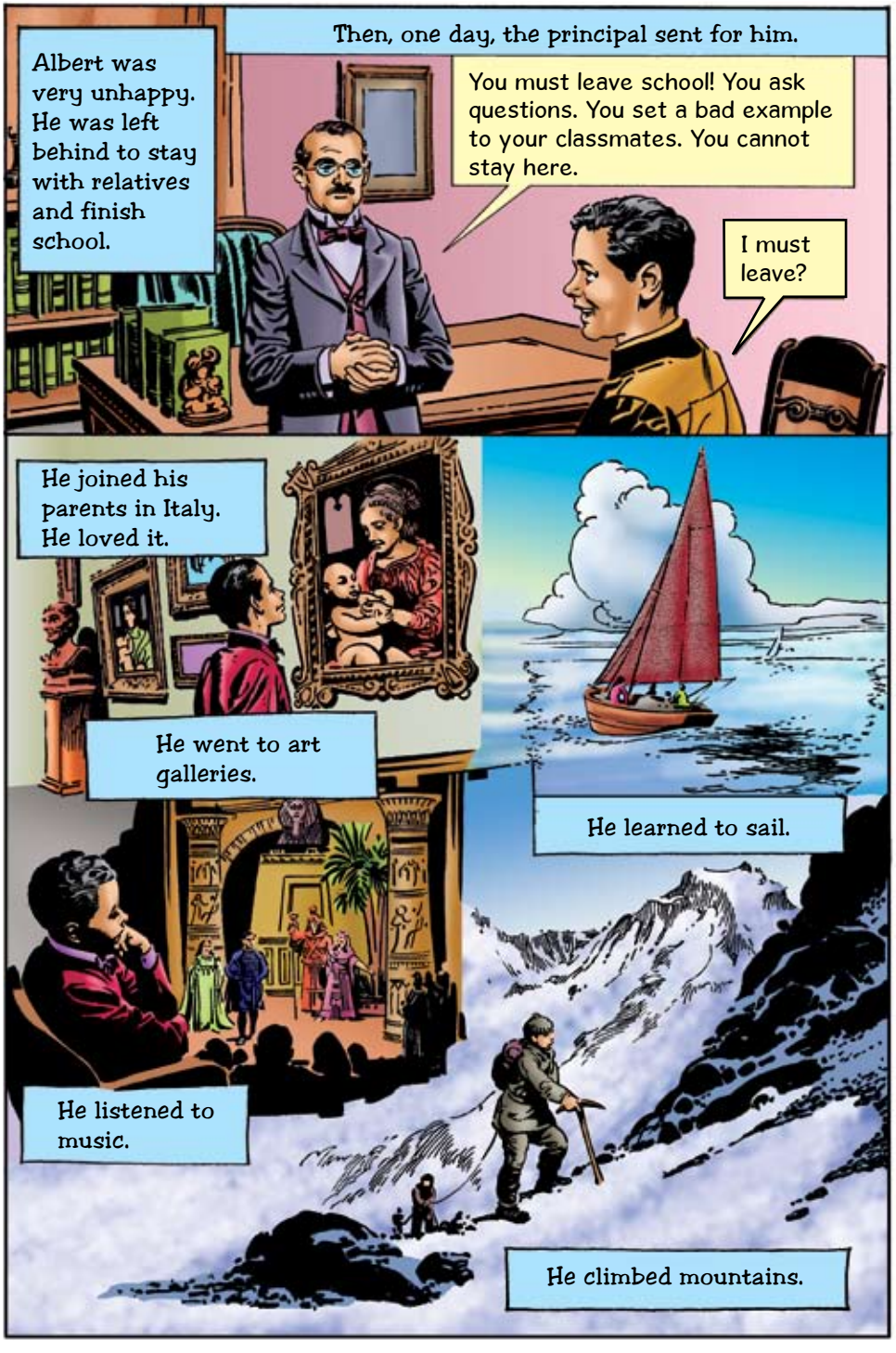


No matter how you hold it, the iron needle always points north. Sailors use it to find their way on the ocean.


Albert especially liked to listen to his mother and friends perform Mozart's violin sonatas.
One day ...
This is for you! You must have music lessons.
He went to the teacher.
Practice, practice, practice! Always scales and exercises!
After a while ...
That is a pretty tune, but you should be practicing scales and exercises.
But Mama, I don't like to do the same thing over and over.
The violin was a pleasure to him all of his life. But he never liked to learn things by repeating them.

Albert's Uncle Jakob was an engineer in the family business.
Albert, what is the trouble?
Oh, Uncle, it's a subject called algebra.
But algebra is great fun!
It is?
We are hunting for a little animal. We don't know its name, so we call it "x."
We hunt for it. We catch it! We give it its right name.
And that is the answer! You see?
Yes! I see!


At home ...
Please, couldn't we move to another country? If I stay here, I'll have to be a soldier, and I would die!
Why, son, you are too young for the army!
There is no need to worry about that now!
But his father's business was in trouble.
Yes, the business is failing. But our relatives in Italy offered me a job there.
Then we will move to Italy!
That's just what I want, to move to another country.
No, son. You must finish your schooling!
You must stay here, graduate, and get your diploma so that you can go to a university!


Albert was very unhappy. He was left behind to stay with relatives and finish school.
Then, one day, the principal sent for him.
You must leave school! You ask questions. You set a bad example to your classmates. You cannot stay here.
I must leave?
He joined his parents in Italy. He loved it.
He went to art galleries.
He learned to sail.
He listened to music.
He climbed mountains.