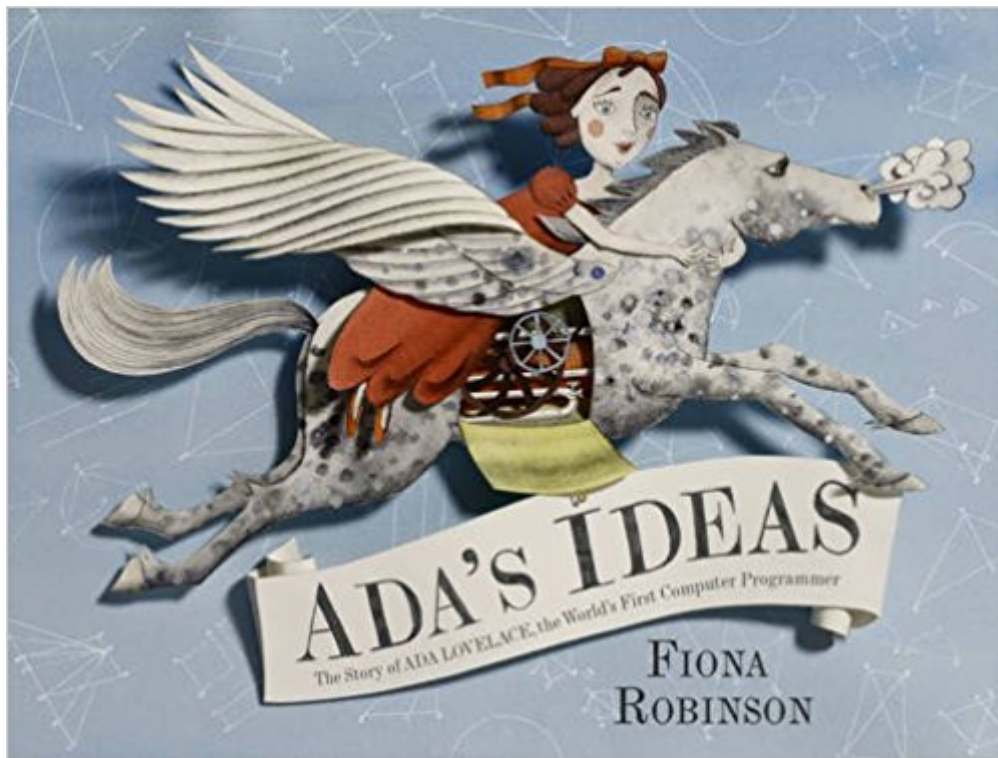


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# Ada's Ideas: The Story Of Ada Lovelace, The World's First Computer Programmer



## Synopsis

Ada Lovelace (1815–1852) was the daughter of Lord Byron, a poet, and Anna Isabella Milbanke, a mathematician. Her parents separated when she was young, and her mother insisted on a logic-focused education, rejecting Byron's "mad love of poetry. But Ada remained fascinated with her father and considered mathematics "poetical science." Via her friendship with inventor Charles Babbage, she became involved in "programming" his Analytical Engine, a precursor to the computer, thus becoming the world's first computer programmer. This picture book biography of Ada Lovelace is a compelling portrait of a woman who saw the potential for numbers to make art.

## Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars 9 customer reviews

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Science & Technology

Age Range: 6 - 9 years

Grade Level: 1 - 4

## Customer Reviews

Gr 1—This latest picture book biography of Ada Lovelace is sure to captivate a variety of readers. For visual learners, the illustrations (watercolors cut, arranged, and then photographed) lend the story a rhythmic movement that allows readers to better imagine the chugging of Lovelace's Analytical Engine. The paper-doll appearance of the cast of characters evokes a sense of play around an otherwise dense subject. The text's lilting quality will stick with aural learners long after the book is over. For example, Robinson's citation of Lord Byron's alliterative diminutive for his daughter—the Princess of Parallelograms—intensifies the

sing-song, playful pace of the work. Despite the easy tone, Robinson celebrates Lovelace for her powerful analytical mind in spite of an overbearing mother, an absent father, and a restrictive social position. The author adeptly portrays how Lovelace's mathematical reasoning was largely unmatched during her time, as well as how her hopeful, expansive imagining of future incarnations of the Analytical Engine led directly to modern computers. The only drawback of this work is its lack of page numbers or index, hindering classroom or homework use. VERDICT A fascinating and uplifting STEAM selection, highly recommended for biography collections. — Chelsea Woods, New Brunswick Free Public Library, NJ

"This picture-book biography clearly conveys Lovelace's constricted upbringing, her intellectual brilliance, and her pleasure in applying her mind to a complex challenge."

(Booklist)"Robinson celebrates Lovelace for her powerful analytical mind in spite of an overbearing mother, an absent father, and a restrictive social position... A fascinating and uplifting STEAM selection, highly recommended for biography collections." (School Library Journal)"Colored and cut paper collage, with design elements stacked for depth and then photographed, underscore the theme of creativity expressed through numbers." (Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books)"Robinson's writing is direct and deft... and mostly accessible to younger readers. But what really steal the show are her whimsical illustrations: paper cutouts arranged in layers and photographed for a striking collage effect." (The Horn Book)

Ada's Ideas is a beautifully illustrated book. I highly recommend it. My 8 year old loves it!

My students loved this book, and it was very informative.

love it

The book was very informative.

Very good. Interesting. Whimsical illustrations.

Amazing illustrations!!!

Love this story. It's inspiring for children to think of the adventure in learning! It pictures Ada as a

young daughter of a poet (Lord Byron) and woman mathematician. Ada studied rigorously each day, and had a knack for math. Her mother took her to the burgeoning factories in the English countryside and cities at the advent of the industrial revolution. Young Ada dreamed big. Like a number of bright and successful people, Ada had an illness for over a year which made her bedridden. This time in bed allowed her to pursue her learning in intense ways. It shows how something positive can come out of a challenging experience and shape you differently than others, or help you to create something unique. When she was 16, she met many people including inventor Charles Babbage. Ada helped him with math for his machines, including what is considered the first computer. Unfortunately, Ada died at the age of 36, but she lives in history. Great to have a female role model who was successful in one of the STEM subjects. The illustrations charm and capture the historical time period in a fun and whimsical way.

Ada's Ideas is a wonderful book about the inspiring life of Ada Lovelace. Ada was born in 1815 to Lord Byron and Anna Isabella Milbanke. Shortly after Ada's birth her mother became fed up with Lord Byron's careless imagination and took Ada away to protect her from his wild ways. Anna raised Ada with strict teachings in mathematics and reading. During the Industrial Revolution Ada was introduced to the amazing factories that created so much by using mathematics to power their machines. Later in life Ada met Charles Babbage and the two became close friends. Through her connection with Mr. Babbage, Ada actually envisioned the first computers, but sadly she died at a young age and she never saw her dreams materialize. Today she is credited with being the world's first computer programmer. Ada's Ideas is a beautifully written story about the fascinating life of Ada Lovelace and her extraordinary imagination that envisioned computers long before anyone could fathom the concept. I had actually never heard of Ada before reading this book and I was immediately captivated. I love that she continued to pursue her dreams her entire life and imagined great things for the future. The illustrations are incredibly detailed and colorful adding to the magic of the story. I highly recommend picking up a copy.

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