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Leonardo And The Flying Boy



Synopsis

There were no spaceships or airplanes when Zoro was a boy. He lived in Italy during the era we now call the Renaissance, a time when the sky belonged to the birds. But one unusual man dreamed of incredible flying machines. "One day, Zoro," he told his pupil, "people will sail through the clouds and look down at the world below." Zoro was curious. He knew that his teacher did more than merely dream about the future, but was an important artist and inventor. Then Zoro made an astonishing discovery. His teacher was building a mysterious machine. A machine intended to fly! Here begins a fascinating story based on a true event, for Zoro's master was the famous artist and inventor, Leonardo da Vinci. Full-color illustrations throughout this beautiful book include reproductions of some of Leonardo's famous artworks.

Book Information

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Age Range: 6 and up

Grade Level: 1 and up

Customer Reviews

Anholt (Camille and the Sunflowers) continues his imaginative series about great artists with this cleverly executed and engaging account of one of Leonardo da Vinci's real-life apprentices. When Leonardo tells Zoro that one day "people will sail through the clouds and look down at the world below," the boy believes him. After all, "anything seemed possible in Leonardo's busy studio." But when Zoro and Salai, a mischievous urchin Leonardo has taken in (also seen in Guido Visconti and Bimba Landmann's *The Genius of Leonardo*, reviewed Sept. 18), sneak into their master's secret

workshop and take his flying machine for a spin, there's trouble ahead. The story is relayed with verve, and the spry colored-pencil drawings that detail Zoro's escapades boast numerous comic touches (such as Leonardo nearly tripping over his oversize red slippers in his haste to get back to his studio when struck by inspiration) and sly references to Leonardo's body of work (backward writing on the endpapers; copies of his botanical drawings, inventions and character studies; even a Mona Lisa reproduction). A fun-filled and accessible introduction to one of science and art history's most fascinating figures. Ages 4-8. (Nov.) Copyright 2000 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Gr 2-4-A rather slight story about two of the boys who worked in Leonardo's studio and workshops. The book is enlivened by Anholt's paintings and drawings, but especially enhanced by some of Leonardo's own sketchbook illustrations. Salai, a street urchin the artist seems to have been inexplicably attached to, is irrepressibly amoral and persuades the normally diligent and trustworthy Zoro to enter the inventor's secret workshop, lug his flying machine to a hilltop, and launch himself into the air. The resultant flight is very short and the landing is very hard. This incident is apparently documented and Anholt's slim volume may whet children's interest in the fascinating man.-Miriam Lang Budin, Chappaqua Public Library, NYCopyright 2001 Cahners Business Information, Inc.

I love Laurence Anholt and the way he introduces children to great artists. This book has a nice level of whimsy, and it touches upon Leonardo's genius in both engineering and art. It includes copies of real works, as well as Anholt's renditions of other works. The characters are fun and provide children with something relatable. I used this book with preschoolers, and it was a hit because it was read in an animating voice and with stops for clarification ("Did you know that someone had to invent the airplane?"). You can't just read straight through if the audience is four-year-old. My six-year-old needs clarification, but likes the book even more than younger kids. I imagine it is perfect for 2nd-4th graders.

I teach a unit on artists to second-grade students. Leonardo and the Flying Boy help students relate to the artist who lived 500 years ago. This book combines fiction with two real boys who worked with Leonardo in his studio. While my students enjoyed this book, it doesn't have the charm and high interest of the Katie series of books by James Mayhew.

I would give this 10 stars if I could. You would be doing yourself and your children a favor by purchasing this! I learned more than what I thought I knew, and my 8 year old ate it up. I love that

this book can connect with adults and children alike. A must buy for anyone wanting to expand their children's knowledge of an incredible painter!

This is the second book in the series I have bought for my grandson. I love the idea of sparking imagination and creativity while teaching a little history in these fantastic storybooks! This one especially because Leonardo was so prolific in so many areas and imagined so many inventions before his time. I want to instill in my grandkids that they can invent and create too!

This book was surprisingly popular with some young nieces and nephews but even more so with university classes of Italian 101-104 students. Assigned to translate the story, they were young enough to enjoy the story and share it with children they knew in their own families.

We love the Anholt artist book series. I do wish they showed more of his creations as the only painting referenced is the Mona Lisa.

I bought Leonardo and the Flying Boy for our 6 year old daughter. At the same time, I bought Degas and the Little Dancer, as well as The Magical Garden of Claude Monet. Our daughter has thoroughly enjoyed all three of the books and they have been a great introduction to the artists. They have certainly peaked her interest into the world of art. Our 3 year old daughter also likes listening to the stories. I plan on buying the remainder of the books in this series.

Great book to introduce you students to da Vinci and his genius.

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