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Leonardo Da Vinci (Giants Of Science)



Synopsis

Leonardo da Vinciâ€™s notebooks are mind-boggling evidence of a fifteenth-century scientific genius standing at the edge of the modern world, basing his ideas on observation and experimentation. This book will change childrenâ€™s ideas of who Leonardo was and what it means to be a scientist.

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 1010 (What's this?)

Series: Giants of Science

Paperback: 128 pages

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Average Customer Review: 3.1 out of 5 stars 23 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #402,727 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #24 in Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > History > Renaissance #81 in Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > History > Medieval #169 in Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > History > Europe

Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 7

Customer Reviews

Kathleen Krull lives in San Diego, California. Boris Kulikov lives in New York City.

Great ,entertaining look into his life . Be warned however , the recommended age was 8 and up. I think it should say " young adults" there is information on his sexual orientation. This is not a big deal to me . But , depending on a child's age you might want to wait for them to read this .

One of the things I spend oodles of money and time on is previewing books for my kids. I so value books that can tell a story in something more than an informational tone. I thought this would be a promising book for my "middle" kids - out of picture books, but not ready for high school / adult

material. The write up above states ". . . this book will change children's ideas of who Leonardo was and what it means to be a scientist." The cover has an attractive illustration, and I went for it. I scanned the first 3 chapters, and they were well written for the upper elementary/middle school age group. Vocabulary was understandable, spacing of the type and size of print not intimidating. Then I got to Chapter 4, "Nothing But Full Privies" The whole chapter is about homosexual activity. "This was the office that summoned Leonardo in 1476. Someone had anonymously accused four men - Leonardo, a goldsmith, a tailor, and someone related to Lorenzo de Medici - of having sex with a male prostitute." There is further text on his story, what Florence laws and views were on homosexuality, and then, "Historians disagree about Leonardo's sex life, or whether he even had one. But most think he was probably homosexual. . . . Various writings show he shared the common male attitude of his time: women were less intelligent than men and full of "useless chatter." He described the act of procreation as 'repulsive.' Homosexuality was illegal . . . The authorities in Florence generally fostered a don't-ask-don't-tell policy. In fact, homosexuality there was so widespread that the German word for homosexual was Florence. But being discreet was crucial . . . "Okay, I already knew this, but . . . do my children have to get into THIS level of detail of Leonardo's history to understand why he was a Giant of Science?? I do read classical works to my kids without censorship, and there are references they may or may not understand. But they are not highlighted and focused on gratuitously. I have forgiven a passing, non-highlighted reference in some books that my kids don't even seem to notice. The Parrot's Theorem is an example of a book with a few adult references, but they are not so pronounced as to color the whole book for moderate families. I felt this book's chapter on homosexuality was WAY more than necessary and ruined this book for the purpose I purchased it. For a high schooler or adult, it may be appropriate, but do not hand it to your child unless you are ready to explain adult sexual issues in detail. I DID find a WONDERFUL da Vinci book for the middle set that has no such references, and it is truly wonderful: Leonardo da Vinci: Genius Of Art And Science by Jennifer Reed.

My 12 year old son is reading this now and is enjoying it a great deal and learning history.

I was sorry that so little was given of his amazing artistry.

This book was purchased for my grandson who will be 13 this year. I found the book to be very interesting and hope that it will stimulate my grandson's interest in famous scientists and inventors.

Although well-written and interesting, parents should be warned about 2 aspects of this book so that they may wisely choose whether this book is appropriate for their child:1) It is full of "figures of speech" and somewhat poetic phraseology, which makes it difficult for young children, or children on the Autism Spectrum2) There is clear discussion about homosexuality and prostitutionFor both reasons, I would not have chosen this book for my son. He has Asperger's, and I would like to introduce matters of sex on my own terms.

This is a funny, intelligent biography that has captured my child's attention. I am thoroughly enjoying it as well. It is true as a previous reviewer said that the book has many idioms and figures of speech, however because we are reading the book out loud, the language has been a good opportunity to discuss what those phrases or words mean. (My son is also autistic and struggles with figurative language, but he is also an advanced reader and the story of Leonardo is fascinating for him.)This book does contain brief and straight forward discussion of homophobia in the Middle Ages and uses words like "procreation" and "homosexual sex." (Leonardo was accused of being gay and arrested for it.) If you are not comfortable with your child reading those words, this is not the book for you. I personally found it a good way to put those words in context and teach my son about the history of prejudice and intolerance. That said, in general, I think this is a book that is best read with parents for younger children (ages 9-11 or so) since those words could be confusing for many children. The language would be appropriate for independent reading for young teens.Kathleen Krull is an engaging writer and has a real gift for making history accessible and entertaining while also educational. I plan to buy more of her books.

Full of opinions and very little fact. Lots of speculations! This book is being sold as a children's book....it's a book at a child's reading level (read low level reading level) BUT with ADULT content! In the description it accurately states, " This book will change children's ideas of who Leonardo was and what it means to be a scientist." Yes, to think of this famous man as something other than a "Giant of Science." NONE of this information was even necessary to understand the great artist/scientist ESPECIALLY by children! Scholastic Book Clubs should be ashamed!

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