



# Leonardo da Vinci

By Diane Stanley

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## Leonardo da Vinci By Diane Stanley

An unwanted child. A brilliant genius.

Born in 1452 to a peasant woman and a country gentleman, Leonardo da Vinci was one of the most amazing people who ever lived. He grew up to be a great painter, sculptor, architect, scientist, and inventor.

As a boy, Leonardo was apprenticed to a famous artist. But he quickly became more skillful than his teacher, and his passionate interests went far beyond art. Fascinated with the human body, he carried out his own experiments in secret. He filled thousands of pages with plans for incredible inventions including a submarine, an air-cooling system, "glasses to see the moon large," and even a flying machine!

In this magnificent addition to a distinguished series that includes *Cleopatra*, *Joan of Arc*, and *Bard of Avon: The Story of William Shakespeare*, award-winning author-artist Diane Stanley blends wonderful storytelling with gorgeous illustrations to convey the

A 1996 ALA Notable Book

A 1997 *Boston Globe-Horn Book* Honor Book for Nonfiction

A 1997 Orbis Pictus Award

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00-01 Land of Enchantment Book Award Masterlist (Gr. 3-6)

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## Leonardo da Vinci By Diane Stanley Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #79118 in Books
- Brand: Harper Collins
- Published on: 2000-08-22
- Released on: 2000-08-22
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 11.00" h x .0" w x 9.25" l, .51 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 48 pages

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## **Editorial Review**

### **Amazon.com Review**

Older children will certainly appreciate the wealth of information in this complete and fascinating biography of Leonardo da Vinci. Illustrated in an Old Masters style, the book follows the life of da Vinci from birth to death and gives a detailed account of his extraordinary achievements, not only in his painting but also as an engineer, scientist, and inventor who is centuries ahead of his time. The treatment of da Vinci's famous notebooks usefully conveys the power of the man's imagination. His practice of writing in a backward script from right to left, requiring a mirror to decipher it, will intrigue children. (The dust jacket bears such lettering on the back, which should immediately prompt a run to the bathroom mirror.) An accomplished and engaging biography for children.

### **From Publishers Weekly**

Adding this Renaissance genius to the illustrious lineup of individuals whose lives she and Peter Vennema have chronicled, among them Cleopatra, Charles Dickens and William Shakespeare, Stanley produces her most stunning pictorial biography to date. Drawing from a range of sources, including her subject's extensive notebooks, Stanley's conversational narrative describes Leonardo da Vinci's astoundingly far-reaching and varied achievements. Young readers will come to appreciate both da Vinci's universally renowned accomplishments as a painter and the breadth of his scientific experimentation and research. While her text is thoroughly intriguing, even more impressive is the artistic challenge Stanley takes on and triumphantly meets: her paintings not only portray the period particulars and likenesses of da Vinci, his patrons and colleagues, but successfully incorporate, in seamless collages, miniature reproductions of such celebrated masterpieces as *The Last Supper* and the *Mona Lisa*. These exquisite reproductions, as well as sepia-toned spot art taken from da Vinci's notebooks, sit uncommonly well within Stanley's own paintings, educating the reader about da Vinci's masterpieces as a natural part of the visual storytelling. A virtuosic work. Ages 7-up. Copyright 1996 Reed Business Information, Inc.

### **From School Library Journal**

Grade 4-7?Using the format found in her biographies of Cleopatra, Dickens, Shakespeare, and Shaka, Stanley gives readers a fascinating portrait of the Italian genius. The text is readable and interesting; the author is careful to distinguish between facts and surmises, and uses quotes from Leonardo's own writings to demonstrate his attitudes. His possible homosexuality is not discussed. The book's design is exemplary, with text pages bordered by an adaptation of a Leonardo drawing and decorated with images from his notebooks. Full-page paintings in watercolor, gouache, colored pencil, and photo collage face each page of text, many of them showing the artist-inventor testing his creations. A postscript describes the unhappy fate of Leonardo's remains and of his paintings and lost notebooks. A pronunciation guide is included. Richard McLanathan's *Leonardo da Vinci* (Abrams, 1990) covers the same ground in more detail and for somewhat older readers; Richard Muhlberger's *What Makes a Leonardo a Leonardo?* (Viking, 1994) is concerned primarily with his paintings, while Rosabianca Skira-Venturi's *A Weekend with Leonardo da Vinci* (Rizzoli, 1993) is written as though in the artist's own words.?Pam Gosner, Maplewood Memorial Library, NJ  
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## **Users Review**

### **From reader reviews:**

**Ena Clark:**

The event that you get from Leonardo da Vinci will be the more deep you excavating the information that hide within the words the more you get serious about reading it. It does not mean that this book is hard to comprehend but Leonardo da Vinci giving you joy feeling of reading. The article writer conveys their point in selected way that can be understood by means of anyone who read that because the author of this publication is well-known enough. This particular book also makes your personal vocabulary increase well. That makes it easy to understand then can go with you, both in printed or e-book style are available. We recommend you for having this Leonardo da Vinci instantly.

**Rocky Melvin:**

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**Richard Diller:**

People live in this new time of lifestyle always aim to and must have the spare time or they will get wide range of stress from both daily life and work. So , once we ask do people have time, we will say absolutely sure. People is human not only a robot. Then we consult again, what kind of activity have you got when the spare time coming to you actually of course your answer can unlimited right. Then do you try this one, reading publications. It can be your alternative within spending your spare time, the actual book you have read is actually Leonardo da Vinci.

**Tammy Paradis:**

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