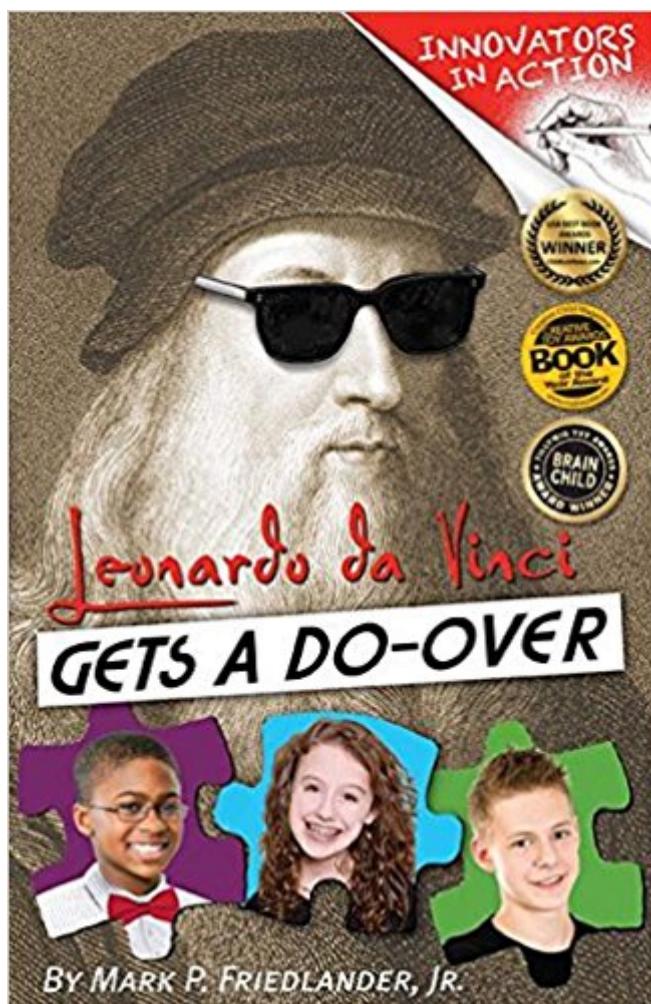


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# Leonardo Da Vinci Gets A Do-Over (Innovators In Action)



## **Synopsis**

The passing of great Renaissance master Leonardo da Vinci—artist, anatomist, engineer, inventor—marked the end of an era. The world hasn't seen a visionary like him since. Until now. On a school trip to Florence, three American middle school students think they are in for a treat when a man who claims to be Leonardo da Vinci, brought back to life with a mission to better humankind, crashes their tour. Too bad he isn't really the celebrated Master of the Renaissance—or is he? Tag along as Max, Tad, and Gina assist Leonardo on his quest while discovering the secrets of his life and teaching the Maestro about science, math, history, art, and more! Will the students be able to help Leonardo evade the mayor of Florence's selfish grasp so he can complete his quest before his time is up again? Leonardo da Vinci Gets A Do-Over is the first adventure in this new and exciting Innovators in Action blended fiction series.

## **Book Information**

Series: Innovators in Action

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Age Range: 10 - 14 years

Grade Level: 5 - 9

## **Customer Reviews**

This book is a delight! We used it to meet our science requirements without a significant realignment of sequence or reduction of teaching time. What makes it truly special is the range of cross-curricular opportunities found in every chapter. It is a rare book that offers so much opportunity for cooperation across disciplines.--Sue Garcia, Supervision-Curriculum Specialist,

Retired Educator, Spicewood, TXReaders are treated to an intriguing view of history, mathematics, and science as these cross-century characters meet and exchange questions and explanations that help each other span a five century-long gap in knowledge. A fascinating and well-written story!--Daniel J. Bisaccio, Director of Science Education, Brown UniversityFriedlander has skillfully embedded academic concepts into this inventive and entertaining story. Through Leonardo s time travel and the middle schooler s teamwork, this book explores all disciplines. Kids will love the interweaving of fact and fiction!--Mary Smigel, BSED/MSED, Elementary Education/Gifted Education, Montessori Academy of Lancaster"Fri  
Friedlander has devised a carefully woven, well-crafted story. Readers will surely wish they could join the American middle-schoolers who befriend a hapless and ever inquisitive Leonardo da Vinci when he inexplicably shows up in modern Italy on a mysterious search for a grand invention. Learning opportunities abound throughout this clever and imaginative journey.--Robert Prezant, Ph.D., Dean, College of Science and Mathematics, Montclair State University, Montclair, NJThis book skillfully combines history, science, technology, engineering and math. Learning about da Vinci s creative genius 500 years ago and watching as he struggles in the present is delightful and educational. He wonders if he would be considered as smart today, challenging students to understand context and compare medieval Italy with modern day America. A fresh and exciting way to engage kids, this book is the perfect tool to inspire learning!--Pamela Breiberg, NBCT, Lead Science Teacher Emiliano Zapata Academy, Chicago, IL"An American middle school group, touring Italy, comes upon a talented Renaissance reenactor who insists he is Leonardo da Vinci, back from the dead. His story becomes much more believable when he produces seemingly authentic gold florins from his pouch. As he encounters the tools of modern life photographs, bicycles, zippers detailed concepts and discoveries fuel the story. If you want to learn about the process of invention, savor history, imagine a better future, or just enjoy a good read, sit down and savor this delightful adventure!--Mary Lou Blanchette Smith, Science Curriculum and Instruction Specialist, EASTCONN Educational Service Center, Hampton, CT"Teachers have a powerful new tool in this clever book. It beautifully blends one story across the entire curriculum. With non-stop action and fascinating content, students will be on the edge of their seats making discoveries all along the way. Crossing the curriculum has never been so much fun!--Sonya Smith, Science Coordinator, ATOMS2XP (Advancing Teachers of Middle School Science) and IMPACT2 (In-depth Mathematical Practices and Content Teacher Training), Miss. State, MS"As you can imagine, when Leonardo appears in Florence, Italy, in the year 2000, he has a lot of catching up to do!--Editor's Choice "Creative Play Retailer, March 2015 "What a delightful and unique approach to a book! If your school is involved in Problem Based Learning and

cross-content curriculum integration, you're in for an enjoyable, skillfully-done surprise. Kids will love reading and interacting with this story. Congratulations to Friedlander for his skillful blending of science, math, language arts, and history. This one's a winner!--Anne Jolly, STEM Curriculum Writer and Consultant, Warrior, AL "Leonardo da Vinci is reincarnated to the 21st century where he aspires to discover an invention to benefit mankind. He is accompanied by three middle schoolers; the plot progresses quickly as they grow into adulthood. This book would be an appropriate choice for guided reading or a book club with a focus on STEM topics. Bibliography. Glossary. Index.--Tess Reed, LMS, Ocean Lakes Elementary, Virginia Beach, Virginia "School Library Connection, March/April 2015 "Mark Friedlander's book is a clever read for students and teachers in a primarily middle school setting. In some cases, entry level high school students could tackle the book and carry ideas through to collaboration with classmates. Clever in design, the story covers all content areas of curriculum to the point at which students will be engrossed in learning and fascinated with content that they may neither appreciate nor truly understand. The book can assist students in how to collaborate on and discuss content areas and problems that are typically not engaging or presented in a way in which students can actually experience their connections. It is an easy read filled with deep opportunities for teachers to help students explore, just as the characters do in the story. Because the characters are comparing and contrasting situations throughout the entire story, students will be engaged. It will also give teachers multiple entry points into the discussion. This book is a fascinating way to introduce STEM into your classroom.--Cassandra Zielinski, Mercer University "Vol. 21, No. 2, September 2015, MATHEMATICS TEACHING IN THE MIDDLE SCHOOL ""

Mark P. Friedlander, Jr. is an attorney in Fairfax, VA. An Air Force pilot in the Korean War, he loves studying technology, history and science. He has written extensively, for both adult and young adult audiences, on subjects ranging from Shakespeare to aviation history, contagious diseases to forensic science. He can be reached at [Mark@ScienceNaturally.com](mailto:Mark@ScienceNaturally.com).

A great gift for a 10 year old boy with wide reaching interests.

I find this book very interesting as to how it slowly feeds about different aspect of science say concept of physics, microbiology, and even concepts of Mathis, history some general knowledge in to the reader ( kids) perfect for age 10 and above. The glossary part is very thoughtfully included as it helps kids understand the different concepts and relate it to the story or scenario involved. The

book is of the right size to young audience . I felt towards the end of the book that I want this story to continue . Very interesting and would definitely recommend .I was sent a copy of this book to read and provide my honest unbiased opinion about it .

What is the driest thing you have ever seen? A desert, sandpaper, or unbaked pasta? Recently, I have changed my answer to this book's writing. In a confusing scenario, Da Vinci is forced to work for humanity in the future because he did so little for his time. Now, he is in the modern day, and is found by a few kids on a field trip. Hijinks, an airplane ride, and corrupt Pisan politicians ensue, and they speak like a textbook. Yes, this is an educational book, which is very important to know going in. About a half to three quarters of each chapter are explanations of various scientific matters, explained in ways that made most of them redundant to an eighth grader. The remainder of the writing involves the cast speaking like robots and motivations that lack any shred of realism. Although the book can have the occasional joke, the remainder fell flat and the book was a chore. Although I suppose it could be used to supplement the work of younger students, I would recommend that the book is avoided, lest you listen to a pilot explain aviation in a way that makes WALL-E's speech look like a good use of voice. Charles M, 13, Richmond Area Mensa

I am not the target reader demographic for Leonardo da Vinci's *Geta a Do-Over*. However, I wanted to read this book by Mark Friedlander, because I am an artist and drawn to Leonardo da Vinci. I also am a member of AAUW and empowering young women is important to me. Our society tells women they don't belong in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) fields. I like it when I find a book like this that show girls are as intelligent as their counterparts, boys. It's an excellent read. Gina, a smart bilingual newbie at a middle school in Virginia, added so much to the plot. Based mostly in Italy, the story shows Gina in such a positive light. She was the one American student who spoke fluent Italian. I found Leonardo to be quite exciting, too. Surprisingly I learned much more about his breakthroughs, shortfalls and his hardships than I ever learned in my Art History class. The story captured my interest up until the end. It made for a very compelling read because you had to open up to the fact that this "Maestro" was with us once again in the flesh. I also appreciated the glimpse at Florence, my favorite city in Europe. I know that young teenagers will love this book because it's got intrigue and it challenges the mind with subtle math and science exploration. Perhaps one could say it's a "coming of age book in terms of mental

stimulation." I'd be using this book as gifts for adventurous students as well as Leonardo fans. My only criticism of the book is that I wish it would have been longer. maybe a sequel to come?

I wanted to read Leonardo da Vinci Gets A Do-Over because I think that da Vinci is an interesting person to learn about. This book focuses on Leonardo da Vinci getting a second chance and coming back to life in the year 2000. What I like about this book is that it provides a lot of educational information. We get to learn about Leonardo da Vinci and also get a glimpse at some other subjects as well. I also really like the fact that there is a link to a teacher's guide for the book. The teacher's guide is really great and has vocabulary, discussion questions, and hands on activities. I highly recommend checking it out while reading this book. I would recommend this book for anyone interested in Leonardo da Vinci. I think it would make a great book for a unit study on da Vinci. I'm interested to see what other innovators will be featured in future books.\*Disclosure: I was given a free copy in exchange for an honest review. All opinions are my own.\*

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