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# Uh-oh, Leonardo! : The Adventures Of Providence Traveler



## Synopsis

Meet Providence Traveler. Providence likes to make things. Not just ordinary things like macaroni pictures, but things that have never been made before. So it is not surprising that her hero is Leonardo da Vinci, the great sixteenth-century artist and inventor. One day at the library, when Providence is taking out her favorite book, "Leonardo da Vinci: Boy Was He Busy," she finds a scrap of paper covered with interesting designs for what looks like a mechanical mouse with a key coming out of its back. Diligently she follows the instructions on the paper and builds the intricate mouse. Just as she is putting on the finishing touches, in barge her brother and the meddlesome McMuzzin twins, who turn the key in the mouse's back. Suddenly there is a sound like thunder and a flash of light...and the four find themselves transported to Florence, Italy, during the time when Leonardo was alive. Will Providence get to meet her hero? Gifted artist and storyteller Robert Sabuda introduces young readers to an extraordinary new character -- Providence Traveler -- whose curiosity and excitement will match their own. Providence leads readers on an exciting adventure, full of fun and fascinating information.

## Book Information

Age Range: 5 - 8 years

Lexile Measure: 690L (What's this?)

Series: Adventures of Providence Traveler

Hardcover: 48 pages

Publisher: Atheneum; 1 edition (April 1, 2003)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0689811608

ISBN-13: 978-0689811609

Product Dimensions: 8.3 x 0.5 x 10.3 inches

Shipping Weight: 13.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars 5 customer reviews

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## Customer Reviews

Grade 2-4-Providence Traveler is Leonardo da Vinci's biggest fan. The young mouse has checked

out every biography and art book in the library at least three times and has dedicated her life to becoming an artist and inventor. Under one book, she finds a diagram with directions for building a large wooden mouse, and she sets out to create it, unaware that she is making a time machine. Suddenly, Providence, her brother, and the twins next door are whisked away to 1503 Florence; in order to return to their own time, they must locate the key that winds the mouse. Along the way they encounter many fascinating mice—a crazy old inventor who's also an artist (you know who), a grouchy bishop and his attendant, and several townspeople. The bright pencil-and-watercolor cartoons are packed with loads of cultural information about old Florence. However, while these illustrations will engage young children, the length and the intricate details of the story make it more appropriate for older independent readers, who may find the art too juvenile for their tastes. Christine E. Carr, Lester C. Noecker Elementary School, Roseland, NJ Copyright 2003 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Gr. 2-4. Sabuda's latest transports mouse inventor Providence Traveler and her friends back to sixteenth-century Florence for zany exploits with her hero, Leonardo da Vinci. This action-adventure story, somewhere between a picture book (there's some delightful full-page art) and a chapter book with a relatively long text, communicates the importance of science, creativity, and following one's dreams. Scattered throughout are several caption-peppered, Richard Scarry-style depictions of time and place, such as the streets of Florence, Leonardo's workshop, Filippo's print shop, and the feast of St. Giovanni. These sections offer a colorful, mouse-eye's view of Renaissance culture, but they also slow the momentum of this otherwise energetic time-travel caper. Although some children may find the book too busy, others, who enjoy exploring how things work or delving into history, will revel in the level of detail. In a closing note, Sabuda elaborates on Florence's role during the Renaissance and also da Vinci's life. Karin Snelson Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved

Laugh out loud funny for the young and young in heart.

Pop-up collectors need to take a serious look... While not a pop-up, you'll surely appreciate the artistic value!

This is a fun way to educate children on history and Leonardo da Vinci. As an adult, I idolize Leonardo and was recently at the library where the book title caught my attention. Not knowing if it

was about the great artist/inventor/genius, I took it home and read it to my 8 and 5 year olds. They loved the story and the history. Now, they are excited to invent, paint and write backwards. Very Cool...a must buy (which is why I am on !)

Use this one with fifth graders on up, get out the Leonardo books, a map of Florence, and hang on to your hats. Lots of little detailed pages on cathedrals, printing, and daily life and the storyline's frantic quality (Providence has to find the twins who have the windup key for Topo, the time travel machine/mouse that got them to 1504. When you've read it three or four times, maybe the students will want to take Providence Traveler to other long ago and far away locations and write their own adventures of this fearless mousette who loves to invent things.

I used this book in a summer session with K-2 graders. We did it in four segments...vocab words etc... I stopped in spots which kept them in suspense for the next installation. The kids really liked it!

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