Helping your children choose books they will love



Lovereading4kids.co.uk is a book website created for parents and children to make choosing books easy and fun

Opening extract from

Famous Artists Sticker Book

Written by

Megan Cullis

Published by

Usborne Publishing Ltd

All Text is Copyright © of the Author and/or Illustrator

Please print off and read at your leisure.

Lovereading4kids.co.uk

1452-1519

LEONARDO DA VINCI



SELF-PORTRAIT AS AN OLD MAN
Painted in 1512

Leonardo is considered to be one of the greatest artists of all time. He excelled at anything he put his mind to, from science, maths and architecture, to thinking up incredible new inventions.

Born in the village of Vinci, Italy, he was sent to Florence when he was just 14 years old to study with a painter named Verrocchio. It's said Verrocchio was so impressed by his pupil that he vowed never to paint again.

Leonardo's astonishing skills soon caught the attention of the Duke of Milan, and in 1482, he became an official painter at the Duke's court. His work was so admired that in 1517 he was called to Rome to work for the Pope, leader of the Catholic Church, and later to France, to work for the French king.

Despite his many talents, Leonardo rarely finished what he started. Only around ten completed paintings survive today. He died in France in 1519, and stories say that the king held Leonardo in his arms during his final moments.

CHILDHOOD HOME

Leonardo da Vinci means 'Leonardo from Vinci'. The house he grew up in still stands in the hills just outside the village.





UP AND AWAY

This is a model of one of Leonardo's flying machines. In fact, the design would have been too heavy to lift off the ground and fly.

AMAZING INVENTIONS

Leonardo jotted down his inventions, including water mills, cranes and all kinds of flying machines, in notebooks like this.



The writing is reversed and only reads properly when you look at it in a mirror. Leonardo may have done this to keep his notes secret.





WAR

In 1499, war broke out in Italy. Leonardo was living in Milan at the time, but he had no trouble finding work elsewhere. He earned a living designing maps and weapons for powerful noblemen.



MONA LISA
Painted between 1503-06

Probably the most famous painting of all time is Leonardo's portrait, *Mona Lisa*. The woman in the portrait is Lisa Gherardini, an Italian merchant's wife. Her strange half-smile fascinates people, as it is so difficult to pin down.



BODY PARTS

Leonardo made hundreds of scientific studies of bodies. He developed new ideas about how they worked, and hoped to publish his findings in a book, but he never got around to it.



A SKULL SECTIONED
Drawn in 1489

This detailed drawing shows a human skull.



ANIMAL LOVER

Leonardo loved animals and refused to eat meat. It's said he bought caged birds just to let them go.

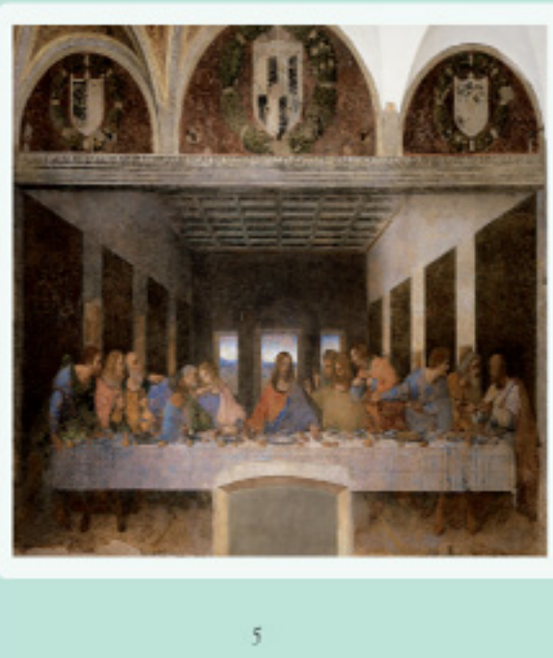


This portrait shows Cecilia Gallerani – a young companion of the Duke of Milan – holding an animal called an ermine. Ermines were prized for their white coats, and were often used as a symbol of purity.



LADY WITH AN ERMINE
Painted in 1490

Once you have tasted flight... you will forever walk the earth with your eyes turned skyward...



THE LAST SUPPER
Painted between 1495-97

Leonardo made this painting on a wall inside a monastery. It was hailed as a masterpiece, and took him three years to complete. Unfortunately, Leonardo experimented with the undercoat and the paint began flaking off almost as soon as he finished it.

1776-1837

JOHN CONSTABLE

A country boy from Suffolk, John Constable is celebrated for his vibrant English landscape paintings.

As a boy, he enjoyed regular sketching trips around the countryside. As soon as he was old enough, he moved to London to study art. But he became homesick for the country and returned to Suffolk every summer to paint.

Constable painted pictures of what he loved most – ordinary country life. Sadly, landscape painting was unfashionable at the time, and he failed to get the recognition he desired. Only towards the end of his life was he elected an academician of the Royal Academy of Arts – a highly respected school of art in London, led by the most prominent artists of its day. Finally, his talent was acknowledged.



PORTRAIT OF JOHN CONSTABLE AGED 20
By Daniel Gardner

Constable was a handsome man and had many admirers. One friend described him as 'like one of the young figures in the works of Raphael'.

Painting the skies

Many of Constable's paintings are framed with spectacular rainbows, which he called 'this most beautiful phenomenon of light'.





Fascinated by cloudy skies, Constable sketched them wherever he went. He noted the exact time and location on the back of each study.

"The sky is the keynote... the chief organ of sentiment... the sky is the source of light..."

Marriage

In his thirties, Constable fell in love with Maria Bicknell, a lawyer's daughter. However, her family considered him too poor, and he had to wait seven years until he could afford to marry her.



MARIA BICKNELL, MRS JOHN CONSTABLE
Painted in 1816



THE HAY WAIN
Painted in 1821

Constable's most famous painting shows two men driving a horse-drawn cart – known as a 'wain' – across a shallow stream in Suffolk. In the distance, a group of farm labourers are cutting down hay, ready to fill the cart.

Six-footers

Constable's largest paintings are known as his 'six-footers'. Before he began to paint, he made smaller watercolour sketches outside, before repainting the scene back in his studio using oils. One critic described his landscapes as the 'mirror of nature'.



1775-1851

J.M.W. TURNER

Born in London to a working-class family, Joseph Mallord William Turner grew up to be the most famous painter in England, known for his dramatic landscapes and wild seascapes.

Turner's childhood was spent sketching people in the busy London streets. His father, a barber, sold the drawings in his shop. At 14, Turner became a student at the Royal Academy. He soon became a huge success, and by the time he was 30, he had opened his own gallery to show his paintings. His bold, energetic style drew many critics, but their scathing comments only earned him more fame.

When he died in 1851, Turner left his collection to the nation. Most of his works are now on display at Tate Britain, London.



SELF-PORTRAIT
Painted in 1799

This self-portrait shows Turner at 24 years old. He stares out confidently at the viewer.

Stormy weather

As he grew older, Turner developed a reputation for eccentricity. One story describes how he tied himself to a ship's mast to experience the drama of a storm at sea.





SNOW STORM: STEAM-BOAT OFF A HARBOUR'S MOUTH
Painted in 1842

Bursting with energy, this painting shows a steam-boat in a storm. It shocked the public with its lack of detail – one critic even described it as 'soapsuds and whitewash'.



THE 'FIGHTING TEMERAIRE'
Painted in 1839

Turner was very fond of this painting, and called it his "darling". It shows a modern tug towing away a sailing ship for scrap. At the time, steam power was beginning to replace sails. The picture is said to be Britain's favourite painting.

Thumbs up

Turner made scratchy marks in his paintings with his long, sharp thumbnail. He was said to have grown it so long it looked like an eagle claw.



Known as the 'painter of light', Turner filled his sketchbooks with paintings of light-filled skies – like this glowing sunset.



Turner kept hundreds of different sketchbooks, which he carefully numbered and organized in his studio.

HENRY MOORE

1898-1986



This photograph shows Moore in his studio with his daughter Mary, in 1949.

A miner's son from Yorkshire, England, Henry Moore is one of the most famous sculptors of the 20th century. His bronze, wood and stone sculptures, inspired by nature, are on display all around the world, from Moscow to Milan.

Moore began sculpting at school and went on to study at Leeds School of Art. He was so talented that, in 1921, he was awarded a scholarship to study at the Royal College of Art – a well-known art school in London.

After finishing his studies, Moore began to take on public commissions and steadily built up a reputation worldwide. In 1929, he married a painter called Irina Radetsky, and the couple went on to have a daughter, Mary.

Moore died in 1986, leaving most of his money to a charity which he set up to encourage people to appreciate art.

Yorkshire home

This photograph, taken in around 1900, shows Castleford, the mining town in Yorkshire where Moore grew up.





Mask
Made in 1927

Masks

Moore was fascinated by art from around the world, and visited museums regularly. He made this green stone mask, probably inspired by African masks.



Moore was interested in how different cultures interpreted human faces, and built up a collection of African and Mexican masks at home.

All art should have a certain mystery and should make demands on the spectator.

Railway station drawings

During the Second World War, Moore was given a job as a war artist by the British government. He made lots of drawings of people sheltering from bombs in railway underground stations.



Afraid of disturbing people's sleep, Moore only made quick sketches on the station platforms before finishing the drawings back in his studio.



Reclining Figure
Made in 1951

This sculpture was commissioned for the Festival of Britain – a national exhibition held after the war. It shows a female figure leaning back. Moore has simplified the woman's body into smooth, flowing lines and hollow spaces.

BARBARA HEPWORTH

1903-1975

English sculptor Barbara Hepworth became famous for her flowing sculptures made out of wood, stone and bronze. She was one of the first female sculptors to carve her own work into wood or stone – before her, artists usually modelled in clay or plaster first, and had the model carved by a craftsman.

Born in Yorkshire, Hepworth studied at Leeds School of Art, where she became great friends with the sculptor Henry Moore. Like him, in 1921, she won a scholarship to the Royal College of Art in London.

In 1939, Hepworth moved to Cornwall with her children, just before the Second World War broke out. Her reputation as a sculptor soared after taking on various public commissions. She was killed at the age of 72 when a fire broke out in her studio.



Hepworth at 47 in her St. Ives studio in Cornwall



Pelagos
Made in 1946

This smooth wooden sculpture was inspired by a view of the coast. It looks a bit like a shell or the curling lip of a wave. Hepworth said she wanted the strings in the middle to express, 'the tension I felt between myself and the sea, the wind or the hills'.

Sculpture to me is primitive, religious, passionate and magical – always affirmative.

St. Ives

This is a beach at St. Ives, near Hepworth's home in Cornwall. Many of Hepworth's most famous sculptures were inspired by the landscape.





Each sculpture is made up of huge bronze blocks piled on top of one another. They are over 2.5m (9ft) tall.

The Family of Man (three figures from)
Made in 1970

These three towering sculptures are part of a group of nine. Each sculpture represents a figure in the different stages of human life, from a young girl to a bride and a bridegroom.