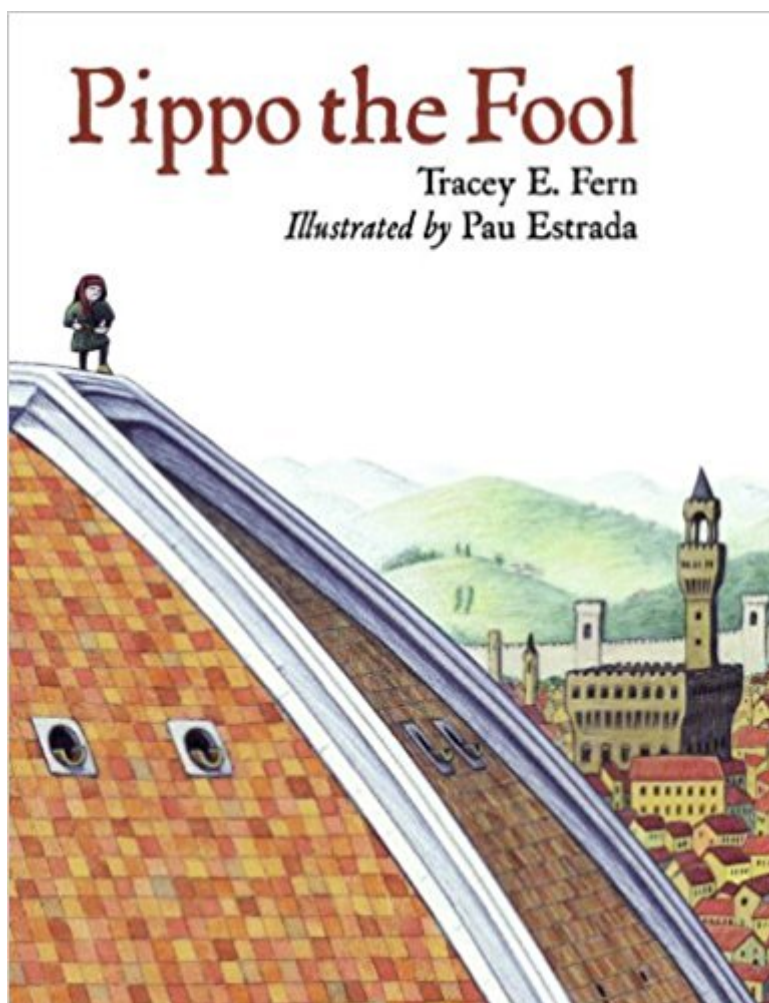


The book was found

Pippo The Fool (Junior Library Guild Selection)



Synopsis

Was Pippo the Fool really Pippo the Genius? The Cathedral of Santa Maria del Fiore in Florence was a marvel of art, architecture, and engineering. But it lacked a finishing ornament, a crown--a dome! The city fathers had a solution: to invite the finest masters to compete for the chance to design a dome. The rumors of this contest reached the ears of Filippo Brunelleschi, better known in Florence as Pippo the Fool. As soon as he heard about the contest, Pippo knew it was the chance he had been waiting for. "If I can win the contest, I will finally lose that nickname once and for all!" This book tells the story of the construction of an architectural masterpiece--Brunelleschi's Dome. Tracey E. Fern depicts Pippo's prickly personality with humor and warmth, and Pau Estrada's richly detailed illustrations bring Renaissance Florence to life. An excellent way to introduce kids to an important moment in Western engineering and history.

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 770 (What's this?)

Series: Junior Library Guild Selection

Paperback: 48 pages

Publisher: Charlesbridge (February 1, 2011)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1570917930

ISBN-13: 978-1570917936

Product Dimensions: 8.6 x 0.2 x 11.1 inches

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Average Customer Review: 4.9 out of 5 stars 15 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #649,277 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #35 in [Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > History > Renaissance](#) #36 in [Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Historical Fiction > Renaissance](#) #61 in [Books > Children's Books > Biographies > European](#)

Age Range: 5 - 8 years

Grade Level: 1 - 3

Customer Reviews

Starred Review With a great deal of charm and buttressed by understated humor, Fern tells a fictionalized story of Renaissance architect and engineer Filippo Brunelleschi and his most magnificent work, the dome of the Cathedral of Florence. When word comes out of a contest to

determine who will design the dome, Pippo, a goldsmith known for his beautiful but useless oddities, is determined to win and shed his unwanted nickname. The judges decide upon his visionary design but also decree that he must work in concert with his chief rival and primary heckler, Lorenzo. Pippo is dismayed at the prospect of doing all the work and only receiving half the glory, but his determination to see his plan through to fruition wins out. Throughout, Estrada's timeless art highlights Florence's orange-roofed architecture and colorfully attired citizens. Readers won't realize just how massive a project constructing the dome really was until they arrive at the scale-shifting detail of tiny workers, scaffolds, and cranes, a scene like something from David Macaulay's *The Way Things Work* (1988). Although the primary drama between Pippo and Lorenzo is played out with grade-school churlishness, it offers a handy morality lesson: take joy in one's accomplishments rather than the accolades to which they might lead. An afterword fleshes out some of the historical and engineering details of the dome for those inquisitive about the Renaissance. Grades 1-3. --Ian Chipman --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Tracey E. Fern writes for various magazines and is the author of children's historical books including, *BUFFALO MUSIC* (Clarion), *DARE THE WIND* (FSG), and *W IS FOR WEBSTER* (Melanie Kroupa Books). She lives in West Newton, Massachusetts.

Interesting, fun to read, and my daughter just loves it. It is so gratifying to find a book that teaches something that both my children and I find interesting. I originally bought it in my quest to find books about determination and not giving up. This book has that, but really now I just enjoy it and when you have to read the same book over and over again it might as well be a good one.

"Pippo the Fool" is a delightful trip back in time to 15th Century Florence. Young readers, as well as used-to-be young readers, will immediately sympathize with Pippo, the fool of the city of Florence, whose ideas for fantastic inventions have earned him the unfortunate nickname. But, as a wise man once said, "the man with a new idea is a crank until the idea succeeds." And so it goes for Pippo. His perseverance pays off and his idea to achieve the impossible succeeds and he loses his detested nickname. Tracy Fern has created a charming portrait of a little-known genius, whose accomplishment was equal to the achievements of Leonardo or Michelangelo. Readers will identify with "the little guy" who battles against the tide of public opinion to achieve what others consider the impossible.. Pau Estrada's superb and richly detailed illustrations recall the paintings of Renaissance

masters while giving a very human face to the misunderstood Pippo. Together they have created a book that is a must-have for anyone who wants to introduce children to Renaissance art and architecture. .

I wish there were more historical books that told great story like this one. I've read this book aloud in 3 classrooms and all children (from PreK to 1st grade) have loved it. They understood the concept the story was trying to get across, without having to understand where Florence is on the map.

My son and I recently finished reading "Giotto and Medieval Art" by Lucia Corrain. "Pippo the Fool" was a natural progression in our study of medieval history. Both Giotto and Filippo Brunelleschi worked on the Santa Maria del Fiore in Florence. Giotto designed the campanile and Brunelleschi the dome. Although more storybook than art history book, "Pippo the Fool" does a beautiful job in describing the many obstacles Brunelleschi overcame in designing his famous "duomo". We found "Pippo the Fool" to be both charming and a good read. Recommended.

Excellent children's version of Brunelleschi's life.

This book is an excellent way to draw kids, at a wide variety of ages, into the story of the architect of the dome in Florence. My very young ones remembered it well long after we read it.

Great overview if you are visiting Florence

Loved it

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