Leonardos Horse H by Jean Fritz

A scintillating sliver of history. . . . An inventive introduction to the Renaissance and one of its masters. (Publishers Weekly, starred review)

An unusual and surprisingly touching story . . . . An offbeat and intriguing read. (The Bulletin of the Center for Childrens Books, starred review)

At times sad, silly, and telling, this is a wholly entertaining book. (School Library Journal, starred review)

Filled with engaging details of Leonardo and his world. . . . Illustrations which range from utterly recognizable scenes of Florence to the ghostly horses at Leonardos deathbed. . . . An unusual biography for young people, and one well worth poring over. . . . A unique way of picturing a unique world. . . . An extraordinary tribute. (Kirkus Reviews, starred review)

My Personal Review:
If you like learning about Renaissance artists, then Leonardos Horse is for you. Leonardo is shown as a person interested in many different areas of intelligence. This book focuses most on his painting and sculpture. A duke wanted him to make this gigantic bronze sculpture of a horse. Leonardo studied and studied, and he finally made a clay model of what the bronze horse would look like. He never got around to finishing it because the duke took all of his bronze for war supplies, and Leonardo was working on his famous painting, The Last Supper. As the French invaded Milan, they destroyed the clay horse. Even to his deathbed, Leonardo regretted never being able to finish the horse. The rest of this
story relates the two artists that sought to honor Leonardos legacy by completing the horse and presenting it as a gift of American friendship to Milan. Those artists were Charles Dent and Nina Akamu.

A couple interesting features of the book are its shape and illustrations. The book has a half circle on top of the normal square shape. The illustrator makes good use of the irregularly shaped pages by making the top of the page the inside of a dome, an arched doorway, and more. There is a step-by-step chart to show how a sculpture is casted from clay to plaster to bronze. Overall, Jean Fritz and Hudson Talbott (author/artist) complement each other perfectly in this work.

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