

Inventions and the *Mona Lisa*

- 1) Recall Friday's story by either listening to it, reading it, or thinking through what you heard.
- 2) Create a 10-minute border, and title your page "Inventions and the Mona Lisa".
- 3) Here is a dictation to put under your heading (straight into your Main Lesson book). There is an audio version if you don't have someone who can read this slowly to you. As a last resort you can copy from the writing but try to do this as a dictation so that you can practise hearing where punctuation needs to be used and having a go at spelling on your own.

Leonardo was asked by many wealthy upper-class people to paint their portraits, but he refused and instead painted the portrait of a merchant's wife. She was not nearly as prestigious, but her portrait became the most famous portrait in the world. It is called the Mona Lisa. It is a small painting, which took Leonardo six years to paint and people say they feel as though they are looking at Mona Lisa's soul when looking at the painting. It currently hangs in the Louvre Museum in Paris.

Leonardo was a bit of a loner. He was a very clever man who could not share his ideas with others because they did not understand them. He was a man born before his time.

After the horse sculpture was destroyed, Leonardo found himself in Venice. The Turks were storming Europe, and Venice was under attack. This turned Leonardo's mind to exploring inventions. He came up with all sorts of ideas and contraptions that would cause great harm to others if they fell into the wrong hands. For this reason, Leonardo wrote his notes in mirror-writing in his notebooks.

These books still survive today. In them are all sorts of drawings of Leonardo's ideas for different machines and inventions, as well as sketches of what he noticed in the world, like how birds flew. Many of his inventions came about five hundred years later, and his notebooks were only discovered afterwards.

Leonardo was passionate about learning all that he could; he was a seeker of knowledge and truth.

- 4) On a new page, you are going to create a page of Leonardo's notebook.
 - You are to draw one of his inventions, discussed in the story. You can age your paper by smudging pencil shavings and add any kind of creative artistic elements to make the page look like an authentic page from Leonardo's notebook. You can use a loose leaf and stick this into your book if you want to.
 - You will also write notes about this invention, as if you are Leonardo. You are going to write backwards, as Leonardo did! So, start on the right and travel across to the left, then start the second line on the right and so on... Positioning a mirror so that you can see the mirror of what your hand is

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writing might help you. These notes can be minimal! See how you go trying this technique.

Terrific! Now you are ready for today's story.

Well done – I am looking forward to seeing your work, and I am sure you'd like to see each other's, so I will put your work on our website when you send it through.

All the best,
Love Larissa