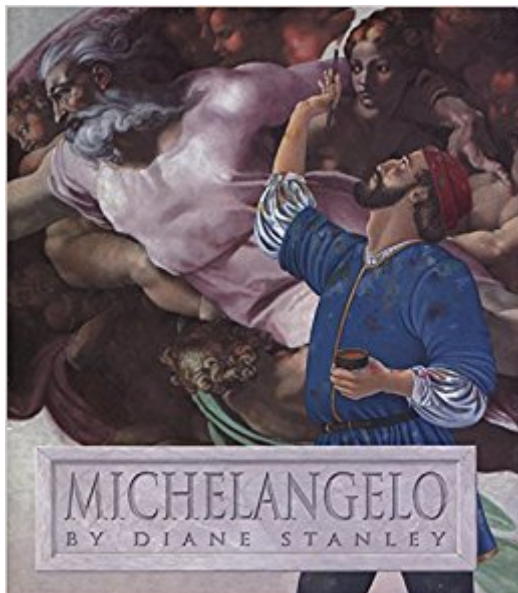


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# Michelangelo



## Synopsis

When he was born, Michelangelo Buonarroti was put into the care of a stonecutter's family. He often said it was from them that he got his love of sculpture. It certainly didn't come from his own father, a respectable magistrate who beat his son when he asked to become an artists apprentice. But Michelangelo persevered. His early sculptures caught the attention of Florence's great ruler, Lorenzo de' Medici, who invited the boy to be educated with his own sons. Soon after, Michelangelo was astonishing people with the lifelike creations he wrested from marble--from the heartbreaking Pieta he sculpted when he was only twenty-five to the majestic David that brought him acclaim as the greatest sculptor in Italy. Michelangelo had a turbulent, quarrelsome life. He was obsessed with perfection and felt that everyone--from family members to his demanding patrons--took advantage and let him down. His long and difficult association with Pope Julius II yielded his greatest masterpiece, the radiant paintings in the Sistine Chapel, and his most disastrous undertaking, the monumental tomb that caused the artist frustration and heartache for forty years. With her thoroughly researched, lively narrative and superbly detailed illustrations, Diane Stanley has captured the life of an artist who towered above the late Renaissance--and whose brilliance in architecture, painting, and sculpture amazes and moves us to this day. Children's Books 2000-NY Public Lib., Books for Youth Editor's Choice 2000 (Booklist), Lasting Connections 2000 (Book Links), Best Books 2000 (School Library Journal), Top 10 Youth Art Books 2000 (Booklist), and Notable Children's Trade Books in the Field of Social Studies 2001, National Council for SS & Child. Book Council

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Michelangelo Buonarroti, one of the greatest artists of all time, was not exactly a noble and humble man. Irritable, arrogant, and impatient, his perfectionism and expectations drove away many potential friends, and even provoked one would-be friend to hit him in the nose, crushing it "like a biscuit." However, what's truly important for us today is that this man ultimately became an artistic genius, mastering the three arts of the Renaissance: sculpture, painting, and architecture. From his early years, when he created the Pieta (at age 25), to his 40 years of tormented work on a monumental tomb for Pope Julius II, to his greatest masterpiece, the paintings in the Sistine Chapel, Michelangelo astounded people with his almost otherworldly talent. Diane Stanley's well-researched, vivid narrative captures the life of the creator of some of the world's most beautiful, heart-wrenching works of art. Her illustrations are fantastically elaborate and include details of many of Michelangelo's sculptures and paintings. Michelangelo is a perfect introduction to art and art history, with plenty of compelling background information about the Renaissance and life in 15th and 16th century Italy. Stanley has written many other award-winning picture-book biographies, including Leonardo da Vinci and Cleopatra. (Ages 9 to 12) --Emilie Coulter --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

There is no one like Stanley (Leonardo da Vinci; Joan of Arc) for picture-book biography. Ashe brings to the genre an uncanny ability to clarify and compress dense and tricky historical matter, scrupulous attention to visual and verbal nuances, and a self-fulfilling faith in her readers' intelligence. Returning to the Italian Renaissance, she looks at Michelangelo: "In an age of great artists, he was perhaps the greatest," she posits, pointing to his masterpieces in the three major arts: sculpture, painting and architecture. Her panoramic telling of his life story, fascinating in and of itself, also illuminates papal politics, the machinations of the Medicis, the technical difficulties of painting the Sistine Chapel ceiling (an assignment so unpleasant that Michelangelo thought his rival Bramante had put the pope up to it), the heady climate of Florence and other complex topics. The illustrations again manifest Stanley's prodigious talents. Her detailed rendering of the pre-Michelangelo Sistine Chapel, for example, is dramatic, expressive and historically accurate. Unfortunately, the digital techniques she used to good effect in Leonardo: Collaging in photos of her

subject's work. Are not successful here. She skillfully integrates reproductions of Michelangelo's own paintings and other two-dimensional art, but when she shows him toiling on the Pietà or with other sculptures, the difference in the depths of field is jarring: one portion of her composition is flat, another seems three-dimensional. The dislocating effect blemishes an otherwise outstanding work. Ages 8-up. (Sept.) Copyright 2000 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

My son read this book in 2nd grade for a biography book report on Michelangelo. He and I loved it so much, we'd refer to it often, and would remember it whenever a Michelangelo moment arose. His 8th grade class (and some parents) visited Italy and again, we were able to appreciate the art on a different level thanks to our experience with this book. We bought ourselves a copy after returning home as well as a copy for the teacher that organizes the Italy trip for the school each year. The teacher plans to use it throughout the middle school curriculum to help kids get a better understanding of the Great Master and what all he created. I thought the book artwork, with Michelangelo juxtaposed as if during the creation process, was superb. The story was quite thorough and well told, at a level that both kids and adults could enjoy.

Pictures were nice except the full page one with him cutting into a cadaver. I would of been ok with that, but the book reads like a gossip column. It is obvious that the author picks the "most interesting" information and adds much emotion, speculation and exaggeration.

We are using this book as part of our homeschool studies. It is large, and full of absolutely beautiful illustrations. The text is also wonderful. My daughter is fascinated as she learns about Michelangelo. We read a new page or two a week, and she always looks forward to it. Diane Stanley did a wonderful job writing a biography about someone who lived very long ago, who was very important, and made it interesting for children. Perfect!

Beautifully illustrated and thoughtfully written, this book provides the reader with information to greater appreciate the brilliance and gifts of Michelangelo.

This was a gift for our daughter. She likes Michelangelo. and art.

This book is aimed at a younger audience but even saying that, I found the information useful and

the illustrations are pretty nice. I am happy I bought it. I will have my kids read this.

This book was not what I expected. It reminded me of a comic book. There are not nice photos of Michelangelo's works. Very disappointed.

I personally believe it is an insult to Michaelangelo's creative powers, Still better then others but others no more either OK OK OK OK OK OK OK OK OK. WWYT

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