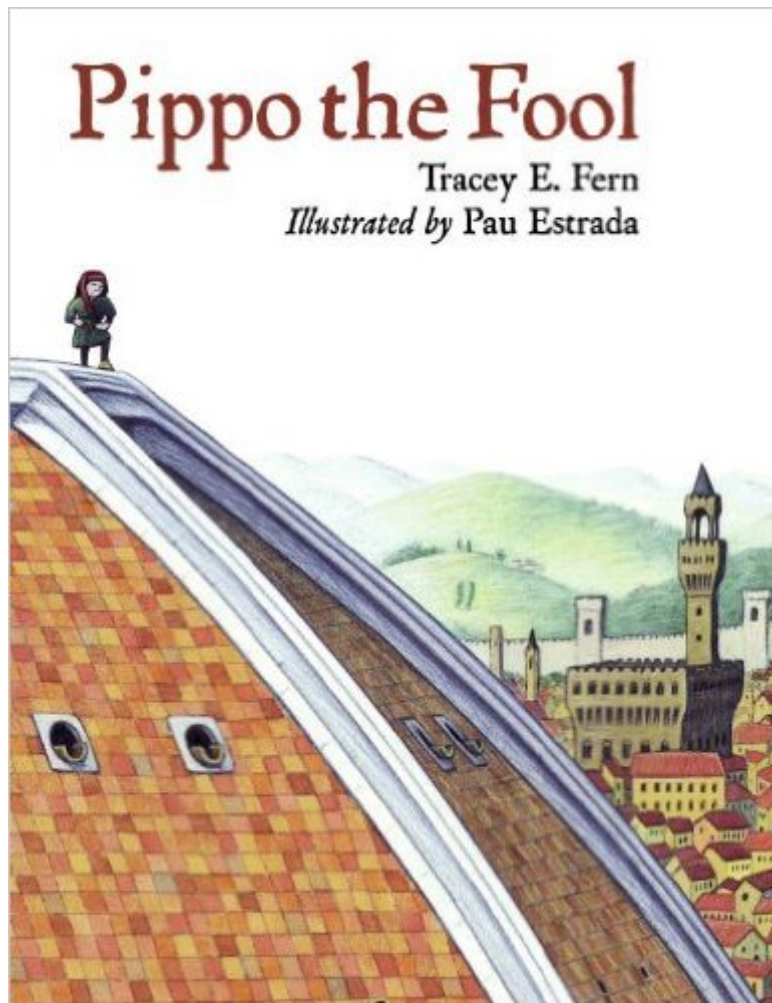


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# Pippo The Fool (Junior Library Guild Selection)



## 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

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Product Dimensions: 8.6 x 0.2 x 11 inches

Shipping Weight: 8.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.9 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (15 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #332,739 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #19 in [Books > Children's Books](#)

[> Literature & Fiction > Historical Fiction > Renaissance](#) #35 in [Books > Children's Books >](#)

[Biographies > European](#) #153 in [Books > Children's Books > Biographies > Art](#)

Age Range: 5 - 8 years

Grade Level: 1 - 3

## Customer Reviews

I heard this story long ago... most certainly from my story-telling aunt, who had the power to do exactly what this phenomenal books does: to turn real life stories into a delightful tale for children! But while my good auntie illustrated her stories with words in a way only she could do, this new publication is illustrated by lines and color in a way that will captivate young and old alike. One

would be reminded of Tomie De Paola, but a Tomie de Paola turned-to-life with much more realistic, rich-in-detail full page spreads. The story is one of big dreams, inventiveness, and great doses of courage and perseverance. Half a millennium ago in Florence, the great cathedral of Santa Maria del Fiore was all built, but for the dome... and a contest was announced for the building of an architectural feat never done before. Little Pippo, called the fool by the people, a goldsmith, dreamed of a plan... and had to undergo quite a bit to accomplish it! Pictures books are such an integral part of our family life... and books such as Pippo the Fool come to entertain, to educate and to delight. Hats off to writer and illustrator. Do not miss this gem!

"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.

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 an inspirational tribute to the architect of the dome of Santa Maria del Fiore, Filippo Brunelleschi. Presented with an architectural conundrum, the city of Florence posed a

contest to design the dome of a cathedral that had stood without one in the face of architectural complexities which seemed unsolvable. With competing -- Lorenzo offering up his own design, Fern contrasts frippery, pride, and flattery with the humility, earnestness, and dedication. More than a tribute to the man himself, Pippo celebrates the essence of ingenuity and invention, even when others do not appreciate it (and at times mock it.) Author Tracey E. Fern's text is paired with rich, earth-toned illustrations from Pau Estrada. The main characters are often drawn in a caricature-like style emphasizing the character traits developed in the story. The people of Florence are Renaissance extras, and the architecture of the great city is depicted with reverence. A note from both author and illustrator help provide additional details and historical context. While a charming story and beautifully depicted, Pippo the Fool is something of a niche offering. It is a more involved picture book that may not capture younger readers for the length of it's telling. As such, I recommend it for independent readers rather than a read aloud for younger children. It is especially well suited as a literature supplement to studies of the Italian Renaissance (set in 1420) and architectural studies. A Junior Library Guild Selection, this title is a natural selection for larger children's libraries with the capacity for more specialized, in-depth titles.

A charming story of the misunderstood genius, Filippo Brunelleschi and the remarkable, ingenious dome that he invented for a cathedral in Florence, Italy. Even though others called him Pippo the Fool, he never stopped dreaming of a way to build the dome. Pau Estrada's lovely watercolor and gouache paintings have all the delightful charm of the characters, while also showing Brunelleschi's brilliant architecture. Great for ages 6-9.

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.

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