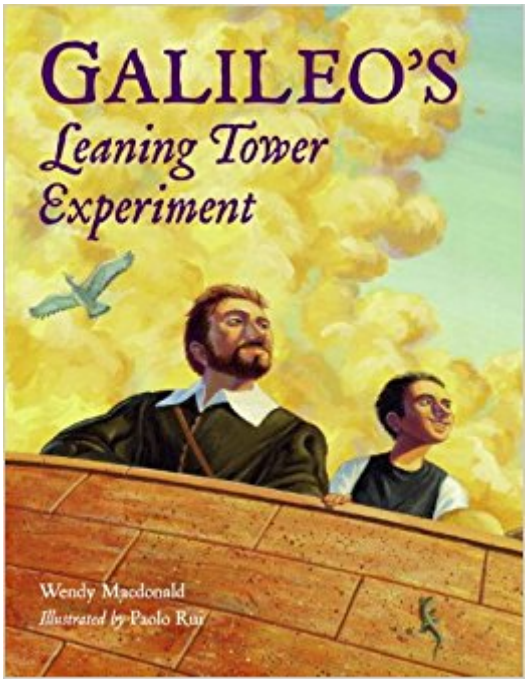
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Galileo's Leaning Tower Experiment (Junior Library Guild Selection (Charlesbridge Paper))



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Synopsis

When the great scientist and professor Galileo meets a bright farm boy, Massimo, the teacher becomes the student. On an ordinary day, Galileo encounters Massimo dropping food from a bridge to his uncle passing below in his boat. This simple action makes Galileo rethink AristotleÃ¢â ¬â„¢s teachings. Galileo takes an interest in MassimoÃ¢â ¬â„¢s cleverness, and together, in a series of experiments, the two investigate the science of motion.Kids will love this lively reimagining of GalileoÃ¢â ¬â„¢s Leaning Tower experiment and be encouraged by MassimoÃ¢â ¬â„¢s eagerness to learn. With curiosity and a willing teacher, anyone can be a scientist.

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 0560 (What's this?)
Series: Junior Library Guild Selection (Charlesbridge Paper)
Paperback: 32 pages
Publisher: Charlesbridge (February 1, 2009)
Language: English
ISBN-10: 1570918708
ISBN-13: 978-1570918704
Product Dimensions: 10.7 x 8.3 x 0.2 inches
Shipping Weight: 4.8 ounces
Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 stars 3 customer reviews
Best Sellers Rank: #1,478,358 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #59 inÃ Â Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > History > Renaissance #81 inÃ Â Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Historical Fiction > Renaissance #589 inÃ Â Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > Science Studies > Physics
Age Range: 8 - 12 years
Grade Level: 3 - 7

Customer Reviews

Wendy Macdonald is the author of THE CASTAWAY CONVICT (University of Western Australia Press) and THE JUNKYARD DOG (Rigby). She lives in Victoria, Australia.

World Geography, World History, Science... and some creative fictional characters as well! All in a beautiful information Picture Book.The story of the legendary Leaning Tower of Pizza experiment by Galileo is brought to life here around the story of a boy, Massimo, who was very clever, and

dropped his father’s lunch from a bridge everyday in calculating motions... until a passer-by professor named Galileo witnesses it and rethinks the whole Aristotelian notion on the subject!The pictures are colorful, warm and very pleasant, and some of the angles are taken from delightful perspectives!A gem. A very nice way to introduce children to Galileo and to some concepts of Physics.

Young Massimo drops a loaf of bread and a wheel of cheese to his uncle as he passes below the town bridge. One day a man asks him how he gets them both to land in the boat at the exact same time. Massimo isn’t sure, just that it happens. He learns that the man’s name is Galileo, and Galileo wonders how Aristotle could be wrong, thus setting the scene for a budding relationship between a teacher and a budding pupil.This is a fictionalized version of Galileo proving Aristotle wrong, but the note at the back of the book tells how it was rumored that "Galileo dropped weights from the Leaning Tower of Pisa" (32). The note at the back of the book tells you what year the story is set in, the age of Galileo in the book and other information on his experiments. One of the best parts is the tiny print at the very bottom of the last page: "A note about education in the 1500s: For a bright farm boy to go to school was possible, but very unusual. Only the wealthy (and only boys) typically went to the university" (32).For teachers, this could be a great introduction to a science unit on speed, gravity, distance, time or even the man himself!Notes on the Cover:It’s a nice cover with Galileo and Massimo looking out over the side of the bridge. Of course, it could be the Leaning Tower of Pisa, but it’s the wrong color. The point is that the bridge is an important feature of the story, but you don’t know that’s where they’re standing unless you read the book. Minus points for that part!

This is a beautifully illustrated work of historical fiction speculating about the events that may have occurred when/if Galileo did his experiment with dropping objects off the side of the Leaning Tower of Pisa; clearly proving that objects of different masses fall at the same rate. A fantastic book for parents or educators to share with their kiddos before practicing this simple experiment at home or in the classroom.

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