

# "What if we...?"

The Quest and Questions of Leonardo and Athena



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## The Quest and Questions of Leonardo and Athena

Written by Grace Bardsley and Larry Dieffenbach  
Illustrated by Mark Reinhart

### ***THE STORY BEHIND THE STORY:***

In its current form "What if we...?" is a thirty chapter story with thirty accompanying fine arts lesson plans for children five to eight years old and their parents. The main characters in the book are a little boy named Leonardo and his owl friend Athena.

Leonardo and Athena travel together on a series of magical, rainbow colored paths on a journey of discovery exploring history, music, art, poetry, and science from the Middle Ages through the 21st Century. By meeting musicians, artists, inventors, poets, and mystics Leonardo, Athena, and the children and parents reading the story, share valuable life lessons.

Every lesson includes a word, a quote, a quest, and a question supporting the theme of the lesson.

Learning partners experience:

- Reading/vocabulary
- Rhythm
- Counting
- Solfege (Do, Re, Mi, etc.)/sight singing
- Keyboard
- Science, art and math projects
- Writing/journaling

**We would love to see this work manifest in several ways:**

1. A curriculum for use in public, private and/or home school settings.
2. A four book set with accompanying CD for parents to read to their children at home.
3. An interactive online educational game for children.
4. An animated television series.
5. A full length animated musical film along the lines of Fantasia.

We look forward to sharing our story with you.

# "What if we...?"

## The Quest and Questions of Leonardo and Athena

**Grace Bardsley** was born and raised in Western Massachusetts. Hers was a musical family and her earliest musical memories are of gathering around the piano with her parents and siblings to make music.

Grace attended Taylor University in Upland, Indiana where she studied voice, piano, and composition. She received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Music Composition.

Grace has lived in the Chicago area since 1980 and has served as director of children's choirs in several different churches. She has been on the boards of The St. Charles Art & Music Festival, The Norris Cultural Arts Center, and St. Charles Singers. Grace is a founding member of St. Charles Singers which celebrated its' 25th anniversary in 2009.

Presently, Grace teaches private piano lessons in her home with a special emphasis on beginning students. She is as excited today (perhaps even more so) about the opportunity to share music with children and families. Grace has co-authored a new book/ music curriculum called "What if we...?" The Quest and Questions of Leonardo and Athena.

**Larry Dieffenbach** began piano studies at age 7 in his hometown of Merrillville, IN. At 16 he made his orchestral debut under the baton of New York conductor Broch Macelherin. He completed his undergraduate studies at Olivet Nazarene University graduating with magna cum laude honors and inclusion in Who's Who in American Colleges and Universities. While at Olivet, Larry was active as an accompanist for numerous ensembles and solo recitals. He performed at President Carter's inauguration festivities during his freshman year. In 1982, Larry began studies at The University of Colorado in Boulder.

Larry moved to Geneva, IL in 1984 to become the Educational Director at Cordogan's Pianoland. Since living in the area, he has been the Musical Director of Lincoln Opera, accompanist for many soloists and ensembles including the St. Charles Singers, the Elgin Arts Chorale, and the St. Charles Art & Music Festival. He founded and directed the International Piano Competition for the festival. He has served as organist for Geneva United Methodist Church and Baker Memorial Church in St. Charles. He was the past sub-dean and dean of the Fox Valley Chapter of the American Guild of Organists.

Currently, Larry teaches privately in his Geneva home, teaches Kindermusik in St. Charles, is a part-time instructor at Elgin Community College, and serves as the Music Director of the American Grands concert. He is the Music Director at the Little Home Church by the Wayside located in Wayne. Larry has co-authored a new book/ music curriculum called "What if we...?" The Quest and Questions of Leonardo and Athena.

**Mark Reinhart** has spent his life in the arts and creative expression. It all started in Merrillville, Indiana where he was raised, along with seven siblings, by parents who were both music teachers. Mark spent his first 25 years in summer musical theatre directed and produced by his parents. Mark continued his education in art, music, scenic design, voice, acting, choreography and piano from childhood through high school and then at Indiana University.

Mark moved to Los Angeles in 1982 and eventually created his own company, lasting impressions creative arts, in Burbank, California. The goal of lasting impressions is to provide an outlet for Mark's designs and the original artwork. You will find artwork reproduced as greeting cards and gifts available online through his website. Other services include, complete interior makeovers, custom murals, designing business brochures, illustrations, and graphic design.

Mark's latest project illustrating "What if we...?" The Quest and Questions of Leonardo and Athena has brought together his interest and talents in music, art, and history.

*"What if we...?"*

The Quest and Questions of Leonardo and Athena

*"What if we...?"*

The Quest and Questions of Leonardo

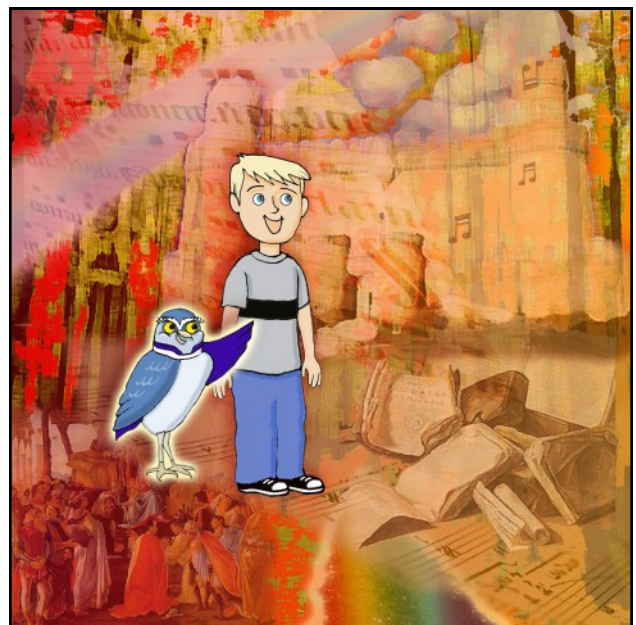
THE FOUR BOOK SERIES  
OUTLINE

# BOOK ONE The Middle Ages through the Renaissance

<b>Middle Ages</b>	<p><b>PROLOGUE</b>                      <u>Nice To Meet You</u></p> <p><b>WORD:</b>            JOURNEY</p> <p><b>QUOTE:</b>        <i>A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step.</i>” Lao Tzu</p> <p><b>QUEST:</b>        DO-RE-MI</p> <p><b>QUESTION:</b>    What do you want to know about music?</p>	<p><b>CHAPTER 4</b>                      <u>The Eyes Have It</u></p> <p><b>WORD:</b>            DISCOVERY</p> <p><b>QUOTE:</b>        <i>The real voyage of discovery consists not in seeking new landscapes but seeing with new eyes.</i>” Marcel Proust</p> <p><b>QUEST:</b>        Seeing with new eyes.</p> <p><b>QUESTION:</b>    What did you see with your new eyes?</p>
	<p><b>CHAPTER 1</b>                      <u>A Leap of Faith – A Magic Forest</u></p> <p><b>WORD:</b>            WISDOM</p> <p><b>QUOTE:</b>        <i>“I get wisdom day and night turning darkness into light.”</i> The Book of Kells</p> <p><b>QUEST:</b>        MI-RE-DO</p> <p><b>QUESTION:</b>    How does your day sound?</p>	<p><b>CHAPTER 5</b>                      <u>What Goes Around Becomes A Round</u></p> <p><b>WORD:</b>            STUDY</p> <p><b>QUOTE:</b>        <i>“Listening is where love begins, listening to ourselves first and then to our neighbors.”</i> Mr. Rogers</p> <p><b>QUEST:</b>        Open your ears.</p> <p><b>QUESTION:</b>    Can you listen to more than one thing at a time?</p>
	<p><b>CHAPTER 2</b>                      <u>A Leonardo By Any Other Name Is Still...</u></p> <p><b>WORD:</b>            CURIOSITY</p> <p><b>QUOTE:</b>        <i>“A well spent day brings happy sleep.”</i> Leonardo da Vinci</p> <p><b>QUEST:</b>        Make a note of it.</p> <p><b>QUESTION:</b>    How do you think _____ works?</p>	<p><b>CHAPTER 6</b>                      <u>Where There’s a Will, There’s a Way</u></p> <p><b>WORD:</b>            STUDY</p> <p><b>QUOTE:</b>        <i>How far that little candle throws its’ beams! So shines a good deed in a naughty world.”</i> William Shakespeare</p> <p><b>QUEST:</b>        Lights, kindness, action!</p> <p><b>QUESTION:</b>    How can you practice kindness?</p>
<p><b>CHAPTER 3</b>                      <u>So Many Ideas, More Time Than You Think</u></p> <p><b>WORD:</b>            PERSPECTIVE</p> <p><b>QUOTE:</b>        <i>“Discovering the truth about ourselves is a lifetime’s work, but it’s worth the effort.”</i> Mr. Rogers</p> <p><b>QUEST:</b>        Keep it in perspective!</p> <p><b>QUESTION:</b>    How does your day shape up?</p>	<p><b>CHAPTER 7</b>                      <u>It Isn’t Necessarily So</u></p> <p><b>WORD:</b>            BOLDNESS</p> <p><b>QUOTE:</b>        <i>“And when at times the mob is swayed to carry praise or blame too far, we can take something like a star, to stay our minds on, and be staid.”</i> R. Frost</p> <p><b>QUEST:</b>        Set it in motion.</p> <p><b>QUESTION:</b>    True or false?</p>	

## Accompanying Music CD

“What if we...?”  
 L.V. Beethoven; Choral Fantasy in C minor, Op. 80  
 Estampie, Anonymous  
 Hildegard van Bingham; O Virtus Sempientia  
 Thomas Tallis; Canon  
 G.P. Palestrina; Pope Marcellus Mass  
 W. Shakespeare; Scene fr “A Midsummer Night’s Dream  
 Gustav Holst; Mercury, The Planets



# BOOK TWO The Baroque through the Classical

Baroque

**CHAPTER 1** **Auf Mice und Menschen**  
**WORD:** ROOTS  
**QUOTE::** “Oak tree let me come to school, teach me well your every rule.” Elaine V. Emans  
**QUEST:** Climb your family tree.  
**QUESTION:** What gifts does your family tree bring you?

**CHAPTER 2** **The Daily Grind**  
**WORD:** ROUTINES  
**QUOTE::** “I worked hard. Anyone who worked as hard as I did can achieve the same results.” Bach  
**QUEST:** Be a copycat.  
**QUESTION:** What’s your practice routine?

**CHAPTER 3** **Where’s There’s Smoke, There Just Might be Royal Fireworks**  
**WORD:** DESIRE  
**QUOTE::** “Two roads diverged into a wood, and I--- I took the one less traveled by, And that has made all the difference.” (from *The Road Not Taken*, By Robert Frost)  
**QUEST:** Follow the leader – your heart!  
**QUESTION:** What is your heart’s desire today?

**CHAPTER 4** **Once More Con Sensazione (with feeling)**  
**WORD:** FEELINGS  
**QUOTE::** “Our hearts are known by the paths we walk.” Kent Nerburn  
**QUEST:** Express a feeling.  
**QUESTION:** How do you express your feelings?

Classical

**CHAPTER 5** **Play Without Ceasing**  
**WORD:** PLAY  
**QUOTE::** “A child’s work is play.”  
**QUEST:** Play something new.  
**QUESTION:** How can you turn work into play?

**CHAPTER 6** **Haydn Go Seek**  
**WORD:** REFLECTIONS  
**QUOTE::** “It is well that you should often leave off work and take a little relaxation time because when you come back to it you are a better judge.” Leonardo da Vinci  
**QUEST:** Find a quiet place to think. Spend 3 to 5 minutes there.  
**QUESTION:** What did you think about your quiet time?

**CHAPTER 7** **Yankee Doodle, Use Your Noodle**  
**WORD:** ACTION  
**QUOTE::** “Without freedom of thought, there can be no such thing as wisdom.” Ben Franklin  
**QUEST:** Go to the library.  
**QUESTION:** What are three things that Benjamin Franklin invented?

## Accompanying Music CD

- J.S. Bach; Minuet in G
- J.S. Bach; Toccata in D Minor
- J.S. Bach; Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring
- G.F. Handel; Royal Fireworks
- A. Vivaldi; Spring from The Four Seasons
- W.A. Mozart; Sonata in C, K. 545
- F.J. Haydn; Farewell Symphony
- G.M Cohan; The Yankee Doodle Boy



# BOOK THREE Beethoven through the Romantic

Beethoven

**CHAPTER 1**      **Knock, Knock. Who's There?**

**WORD:**      FATE

**QUOTE::**      "You ask me where I get my ideas. That I cannot tell you with certainty. They come unsummoned, directly, indirectly – I could seize them with my hands – out in the open air, in the woods, while walking, in the silence of the nights, at dawn, excited by moods which are translated poets into words, by me into tones that sound and roar and storm about me till I have set them down in notes."  
Ludwig van Beethoven

**QUEST:**      Find out who the composer of "ti-ti-ta" is.

**QUESTION:**      Where do your ideas come from?

**CHAPTER 2**      **Déjà. Déjà Who?**

**WORD:**      DREAM

**QUOTE::**      *A dream is a wish your heart makes...*

**QUEST:**      Write down an important dream.

**QUESTION:**      Have you ever had a dream come true?

Romantic

**CHAPTER 3**      **Out of the Blue**

**WORD:**      SONG

**QUOTE::**      "I sing myself, I celebrate myself."  
Walt Whitman

**QUEST:**      Write a poem about yourself and set it to music.

**QUESTION:**      What do you celebrate about yourself?

**CHAPTER 4**      **"T" For Two**

**WORD:**      CONNECTEDNESS

**QUOTE::**      "The path to greatness is always along with others."  
Baltasar Gracion

**QUEST:**      Team up with your Learning Partner to do something that takes two.

**QUESTION:**      What did you learn to do? How did it feel?

**CHAPTER 5**      **Tall Tales - Leonardo Goes to Washington**

**WORD:**      FAIRNESS

**QUOTE::**      "I was born excited." Samuel Clemens (Mark Twain)

**QUEST:**      Find three facts about Abraham Lincoln and/or Mark Twain.

**QUESTION:**      Do any of your facts have anything to do with fairness?

**CHAPTER 6**      **The Tree Bees**

**WORD:**      BEE-ING

**QUOTE::**      "To bee or not to bee, that is the question." William Shakespeare

**QUEST:**      Create three "bee-attitudes."

**QUESTION:**      What are your three "bee-attitudes?"

**CHAPTER 7**      **Ai, Ai, Aida!!! Save the Drama for Your Mama**

**WORD:**      DRAMA

**QUOTE::**      "I write music with an exclamation point!"  
R. Wagner

**QUEST:**      Learn some opera terms.

**QUESTION:**      What would be a good opera libretto (story)?

## Accompanying Music CD

- L.V. Beethoven; 5th Symphony
- L.V. Beethoven; Fur Elise
- L.V. Beethoven; Choral Fantasy in C minor, Op. 80
- F. Schubert; An Die Music
- R. Schumann; Melody (fr. Scenes from Childhood)
- Walk Together Children; Spiritual
- S. Foster; Beautiful Dreamer
- J. Newton; Amazing Grace
- Charlie Parker; Ornithology
- Rimsky-Korsakov; Flight of the Bumble Bee
- J. Brahms; Lullaby
- G. Puccini; Un bel di from Madame Butterfly
- G. Verdi; Sempres libre from La Traviata



# BOOK FOUR Impressionism through the 20th Century

Impressionism ..... 20th Century	<p><b>CHAPTER 1</b>                    <u>First Impressions</u></p> <p><b>WORD:</b>            IMPRESSIONS</p> <p><b>QUOTE::</b>            “Music is the silence between the notes.” Debussy  “Gradually my eyes opened and I understood nature.” Monet</p> <p><b>QUEST:</b>            Improvise a song on a pentatonic scale.</p> <p><b>QUESTION:</b>        What is your favorite flower? Can you describe it?</p>	The Present	<p><b>CHAPTER 5</b>                    <u>The Great White Way – Give My Regards to Broadway</u></p> <p><b>WORD:</b>            WHOLENESS</p> <p><b>QUOTE::</b>            “In our life there is a single color as on an artist’s palette which provides the meaning of life and art – it is the color of love.” Marc Chagall</p> <p><b>QUEST:</b>            Write a song about your favorite animal.</p> <p><b>QUESTION:</b>        What story would like to tell about you and your favorite animal?</p>
	<p><b>CHAPTER 2</b>                    <u>The Bridge of Friendship</u></p> <p><b>WORD:</b>            FRIENDSHIP</p> <p><b>QUOTE::</b>            <i>The road to friend’s house is never long.</i>  Danish Proverb</p> <p><b>QUEST:</b>            Tell a friend what makes them a good friend.</p> <p><b>QUESTION:</b>        What makes you a good friend?</p>		<p><b>CHAPTER 6</b>                    <u>Backyard Broadway</u></p> <p><b>WORD:</b>            COLLECTIONS</p> <p><b>QUOTE::</b>            “Go confidently in the direction of your dreams. Live the life you have imagined.” Henry David Thoreau</p> <p><b>QUEST:</b>            Write a story about you and your favorite animal friend.</p> <p><b>QUESTION:</b>        What changes or additions would you like to make to your song?</p>
	<p><b>CHAPTER 3</b>                    <u>Leonardo the Lionhearted</u></p> <p><b>WORD:</b>            STRENGTHS</p> <p><b>QUOTE::</b>            “Today you are you – that is truer than true. There is no one alive who is your than you.” Dr. Seuss</p> <p><b>QUEST:</b>            Celebrate your strengths.</p> <p><b>QUESTION:</b>        What are your strengths?</p>		<p><b>CHAPTER 7</b>                    <u>A Little Bird Told Me</u></p> <p><b>WORD:</b>            RECOLLECTION</p> <p><b>QUOTE::</b>            “Write in recollection and amazement for yourself.” Jack Kerouac</p> <p><b>QUEST:</b>            Put your finishing touches on your story, song, and mask.</p> <p><b>QUESTION:</b>        What is your favorite “What if We..?” memory?</p>
	<p><b>CHAPTER 4</b>                    <u>About Face</u></p> <p><b>WORD:</b>            EXPERIMENT</p> <p><b>QUOTE::</b>            “Every child is an artist. The problem is how to remain an artist once he grows up.” Pablo Picasso</p> <p><b>QUEST:</b>            Make a recording. Include some of the sounds from your musical path.</p> <p><b>QUESTION:</b>        What path would you like to open for others?</p>		<p><b>EPILOGUE</b>                    <u>Hear’s To Us</u></p> <p><b>WORD:</b>            CELEBRATE</p> <p><b>QUOTE::</b>            <i>For all that has been-thanks!</i>  <i>For all that is yet to be—yes! Dag hammerskjold</i></p> <p><b>QUEST:</b>            Spend some time thinking about what you enjoyed in “What If We...?”</p> <p><b>QUESTION:</b>        Is there anything you enjoyed in “What If We...?” that you would like to study more?</p>

## Accompanying Music CD

C. Debussy; Clair de lune  
Kozo Masuda; Yamaji  
Cherry Blossom  
G. Crumb; Vox Balaenae (Voice of the Whale)  
G.M. Cohan; Give My Regards to Broadway  
Thank you and Goodbye

