Children have great ideas, too.

In a small village near the mountains, there was a clever, brave, and adventurous little child named Leonardo da Vinci. He liked to create unusual inventions, but for the adults, his passion was very stupid.

One day, the rocks broke away from the mountain and fell into the river.

At first, the people didn’t see the landslide, but it blocked the tiny village’s river.

There was a huge problem: the water couldn’t reach the village.

Adults were afraid and worried, and everyone talked about how to remove big rocks.

Leonardo thought of a plan and spoke with the adults, but they wouldn’t listen to him because he was too young.

After that, he called his best friends Alessandro and Tommaso. So he told them about his fantastic plan.

So they went to the landslide, blocked the big rocks with a few wood branches, and removed smaller stones.

So the water started to go to the small village.

The people were amazed but thrilled, too.

“The water is starting again, but it’s very little. Now it is necessary to remove big stones!” said Alessandro.

So the village people tried to remove big stones, but they weren’t successful.

The people were sad, but Leonardo and his best friends removed the big stones with their fantastic invention: an enormous catapult.

They built this invention with wood and fabric, and in a few days, they removed all stones and freed the river.

Ultimately, the village had a big party to celebrate the little heroes: Leonardo, Alessandro, and Tommaso.

The story's moral is that listening to everyone's ideas is very important because the best ideas can come from children.

This story was created collaboratively by the Italian group who chose one great Italian man and invented a story about him and his talent.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

*Leonardo da Vinci (April 15, 1452 – May 2, 1519) was an Italian painter,  scientist, mathematician, engineer, inventor, anatomist, sculptor, architect, botanist, musician, and a writer. Many people think Leonardo was one of the greatest painters ever. Others believe he was the most talented person ever to have lived. Leonardo was often thinking of new inventions. He kept notebooks with notes and drawings of these ideas. Most of his inventions were never made. His ideas included a helicopter, a tank, a calculator, a parachute, a robot, a telephone, and solar power.*

*Leonardo was born in Vinci, a small town near Florence, Italy. He spent most of his life working for rich Italian noblemen. In his last years, he lived in a beautiful home given to him by the King of France.*

*Two of his pictures are among the best-known paintings in the world: the Mona Lisa and The Last Supper.*