

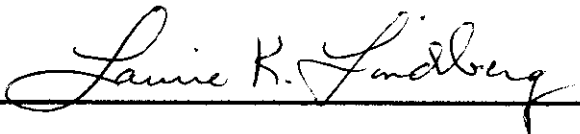
Sophie's Adventure

An Honors Thesis (HONRS 499)

by

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## Abstract

The idea for this story came from a true incident that I once experienced with a friend. Our high school group traveled to Europe, with Paris as one of its destinations. We spent one day at the Louvre, exploring on our own. My friend Krista and I noticed it was time to go, but we could not find our way back to where we were supposed to meet. It took us a while and when we got back our group had already gone. We were left by ourselves, not knowing what to do. After a run-in with the guards, our group eventually came back for us.

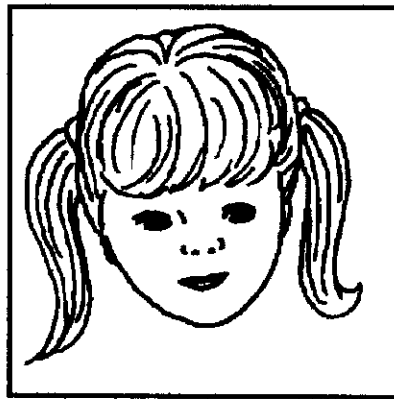
I will always remember this experience in my life, and the things that went along with it. The rooms of the Louvre are so vivid in my mind because I went through them so many times, looking for a way back. It is partly because of this experience that I remember the trip so vividly. In writing this book, I wanted to help the reader relate more to the art and to the museum because of what happens in the story.

The story is about a ten-year-old girl named Sophie who travels to the Louvre Museum in Paris, France. She goes with her teacher, Miss May, and her classmates. Sophie is so excited about experiencing the art that she unknowingly follows the wrong group. She gets lost and must ask someone for help. With the help of Luc, who works in the museum, Sophie finds her teacher and learns a lot in the process.

## Acknowledgements

- Many thanks go to Dr. Laurie Lindberg for helping me during the process of writing this book. Thank you for your willingness to be my advisor and for all the suggestions and advice along the way!
- Thanks to my friend Krista, without whom this story wouldn't have been the same. Here's to getting lost in the Louvre!

# Sophie's Adventure



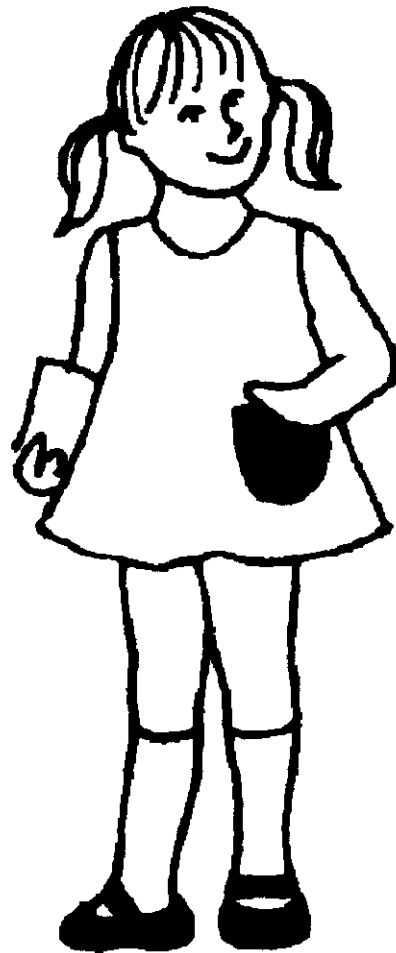
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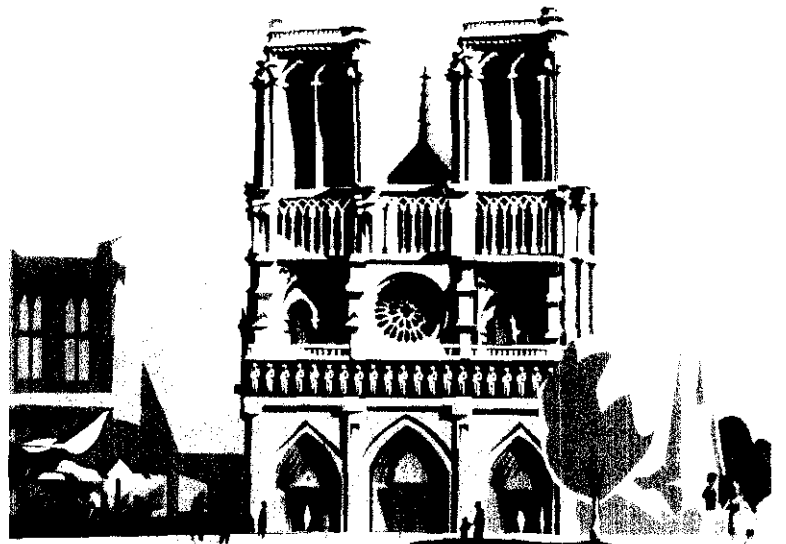
- To Krista and those crazy French guards.
- And to Dr. L, who is always willing to help.

K.W.

Sophie is ten years old and an artist. She loves to paint, she loves to draw, she loves to color, and she loves to sculpt. She uses many tools to help her create the things she imagines. Someday Sophie wants to become a famous artist like Pablo Picasso or Leonardo DaVinci.

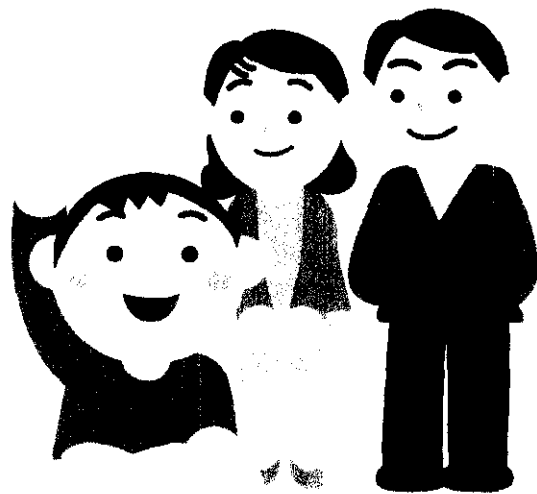
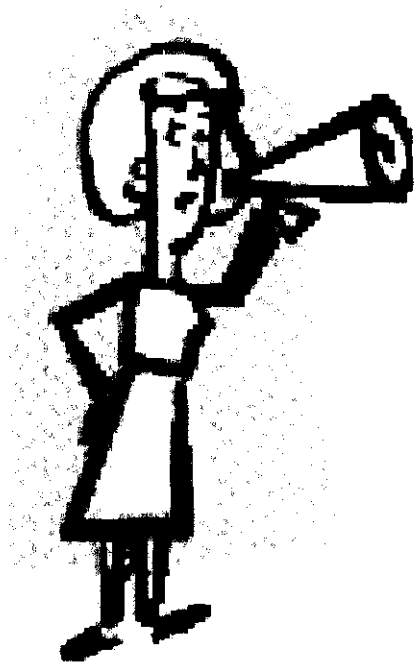


One summer Sophie took a trip to the country of France. Sophie and her classmates flew on an airplane into the city of Paris. While they were there they visited many famous places. They saw the Eiffel Tower, the river Seine, the royal palace, and Notre Dame. Sophie's favorite spot was an art museum called the Louvre.



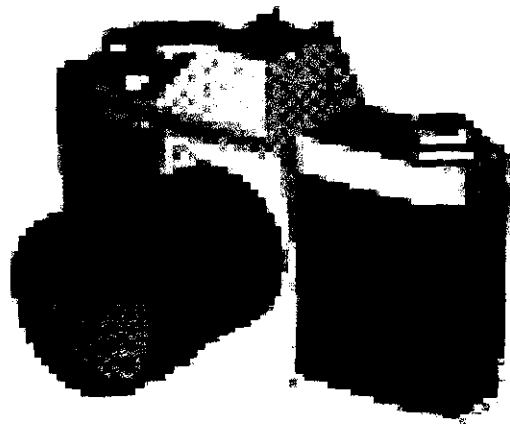
Sophie's teacher, Miss May, explained the rules to the students.

"There will be no running, no yelling, and do not touch any of the artwork. These pieces are very old and are very delicate." Miss May continued, "Follow along and pay attention. I want this to be an enjoyable trip for everyone, but I also want everyone to be safe and secure."

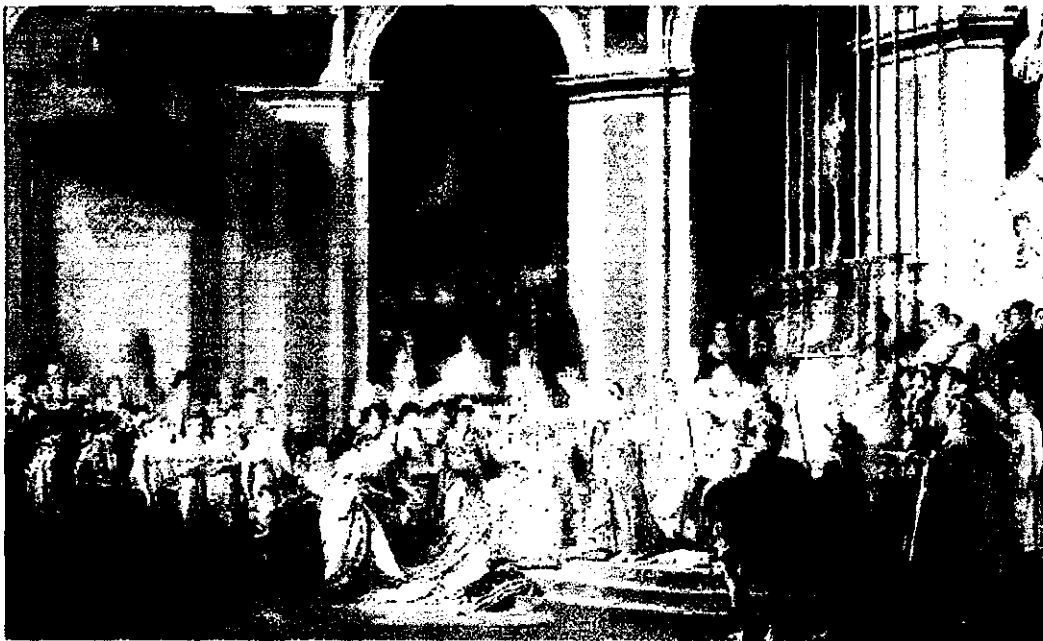




Sophie and her classmates could not wait to get started. They had studied this museum in school. Miss May led the way and her students followed her up the stone steps and into a large room. Sophie made sure her camera was on and ready. Then she followed along, her eyes as big as saucers.



Miss May pointed to some of the items in the room. Paintings hung on the walls that were bigger than any Sophie had ever seen! One painting looked as big as her parents' car! It was a picture of a girl being crowned in front of a large group of people. She walked up to it, careful not to touch it, and examined it. It was magnificent. The nameplate said, "*Coronation of Empress Josephine* by Louis David." Sophie couldn't take it all in. She craned her head one way and stepped back. She looked back and forth, unable to see it all at once. Soon, Miss May said it was time to move on. The class reluctantly followed.

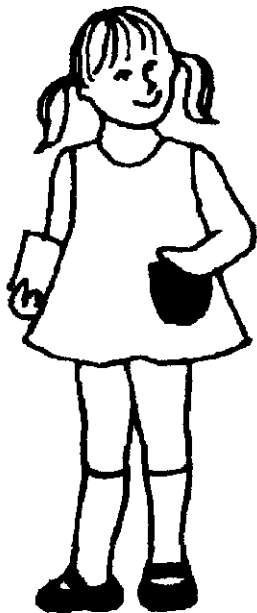


They went left, they went right.  
They went back and forth.  
They went around corners, down hallways, and through  
doors.

Miss May led the class into an enormous room. Huge paintings hung from every wall and a crowd of people gathered in front of one painting. Sophie hurried over to see what all the fuss was about. She squeezed through to the front and saw what had everyone so captivated. It was the Mona Lisa, a very famous painting. Sophie's mother had told her about it before the trip. Sophie had seen pictures of it in books and now she was standing directly in front of it! She pulled her camera out of her bag and snapped a picture for her scrapbook.



Sophie gazed at the Mona Lisa for a few more moments, then decided she had better move so others could catch a glimpse of it. She moved back through the crowd and started towards the spot where she had left her group. She glanced around the room at the faces, patterns, and colors on the walls, then followed the group out the door.



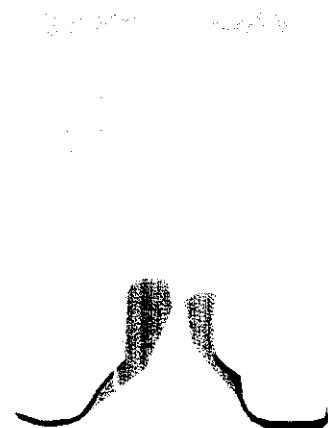
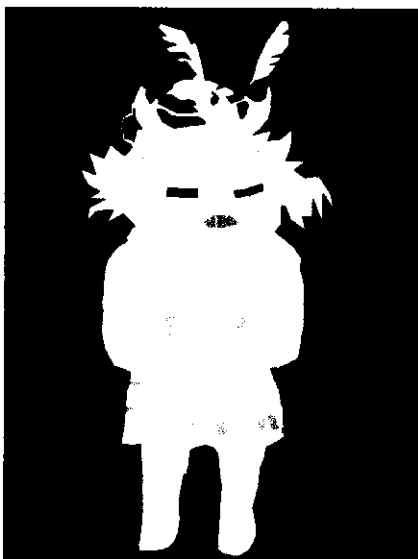
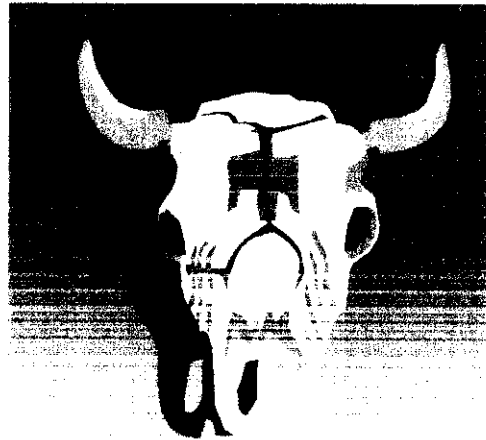
Sophie followed the group down a long hallway and through another room. She couldn't help but admire every object she passed. Everything was so beautiful! She passed a statue with wings but no arms called the *Winged Victory of Samothrace*. The statue also had no head. She took loads of pictures and followed along. When the group stopped, Sophie was stuck behind a taller boy. She couldn't see, so she moved around him and listened. Sophie still couldn't understand what Miss May was saying, so she moved closer to hear.



As she moved around a girl with pigtails, Sophie saw a redheaded woman. She wasn't Miss May! Sophie listened closer and realized the woman wasn't even speaking English-- it sounded like French! Sophie looked around her and noticed that these were not her classmates. She was with the wrong group! Sophie's heart beat faster and she didn't know what to do. The class moved on and left Sophie standing in the middle of the room.



Sophie glanced around the room and noticed that she was the only one there. Fear started to creep up on her as she frantically looked for a familiar face down the hall. Sophie wandered into the next room and froze. The room was dark and smelled like old newspapers. From the corner of her eye she saw a tall man in a big hat. He was holding a long sword and he was coming straight towards her! Her heart started beating wildly and she felt the hairs stand up on the back of her neck. Just then, she noticed something else in the room. There was another figure in the room holding a drum. Sophie looked closer and noticed that it was only a display of African art. The tall man was only a mannequin warrior. She breathed a sigh of relief, but she was still lost.



Sophie tried to think of what her mother would tell her to do if she were there. She remembered that her mother once told her to find someone in a uniform if she ever got lost. She took a deep breath and set off to find such a person. She hadn't gone far when she saw a short man in a red jacket with a walkie-talkie standing down the hall. She walked up to him.

"Excuse me sir, but I lost my group and can't find my way back," Sophie said quietly.

"Oh my," said the man. "We will have to fix that as soon as possible. My name is Luc and I work at this museum. Don't worry. I promise you that we will find your group."



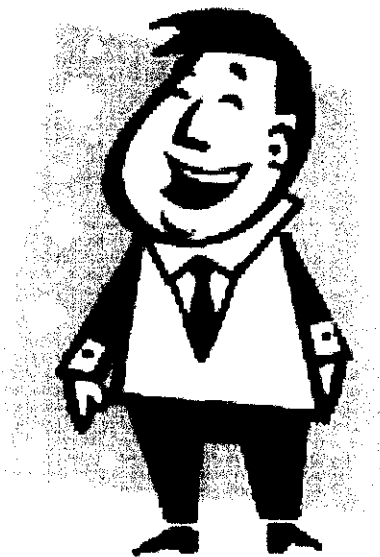


Sophie took Luc's hand and they started off. Luc asked her many questions about Miss May and her group. He wanted to know where they were from, and how old Sophie was. He was a very nice man and Sophie loved his accent, especially the way he said her name. She listened to him talk about himself and working in the museum. Sophie was glad that she had found such a nice man to help her. They walked down the hall and started their search.

They looked up, they looked down.

They looked all over.

They went around in circles and retraced their steps.



Luc led Sophie into a large room and asked her if she had ever been there before. She looked around and tried to remember. She remembered faces of kings and animals, she remembered houses and barns and large castles. She saw paintings and sculptures and objects of art. She remembered statues with no arms and some with no heads. She had seen so many things that it was hard to tell. Then Sophie noticed a large group of people at one wall. She went to see what they were looking at and it was the Mona Lisa! She ran back to Luc and told him that this was the spot where she lost her group. He smiled and told her that they were getting closer, but they needed to keep looking.

They went in rooms, they went out of rooms.

They went down to the basement and up to the second floor.

They went north, south, and even west.



Sophie was beginning to feel a little scared. What if she couldn't find Miss May and her group? What would she do? How would she get back home? She was about to give up when she heard a familiar voice, and it was speaking English. She turned around and there stood Miss May! Sophie rushed up to her and gave her a huge hug.

"Sophie! We have been looking for you! What happened?" asked Miss May with concern.

Sophie quickly apologized for getting lost and told Miss May how Luc had helped her.

"I got too wrapped up in the art that I forgot to pay attention to where I was going," Sophie explained.

Miss May thanked Luc and held Sophie's hand, tightly.



Miss May explained to the class again how very important it was for all of them to pay attention and follow along. She didn't want anyone to get lost again. Sophie promised that she would stick to Miss May's side and listen very carefully. Miss May smiled, took Sophie's hand, and led the group through the doorway and out of the room.

They went up stairs, they went down stairs.

They went up escalators, they went down elevators.

They walked down corridors, beside windows, across walkways...

And all through the museum!

