



Marcel and the Mona Lisa

Stephen Rabley

1. Read. Read this extract.

Marcel is a French mouse, and a detective. He has lots of friends in Paris. One of them is Céline. She paints pictures and is very beautiful. Céline's home is at the Louvre. Marcel often goes there for dinner. One evening in May he arrives with some pink flowers. There is a guard at the door. "I don't know him," Marcel thinks.

"He must be new." Then he walks inside.

The two friends eat, drink and talk all evening. Céline shows Marcel her new paintings. They talk about their summer holiday in Los Angeles. They laugh, play jazz records and tell lots of stories. Then at 11 o'clock Marcel puts on his coat. "It's late," he says. "I must go home." Two minutes later he leaves. "Good night," says Marcel walks across the floor. He is very happy. Then he stops. The room is dark, but he can see something.

What is it? A man? A man with a long knife? Yes!

Suddenly Marcel's mouth is very dry. He runs to the wall. Then, after five seconds he looks again. This time he can see the man's face. "It's that new guard," he thinks. "And he's ... he's stealing the Mona Lisa!" Céline. Then she closes her front door.



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2. Read. Complete the sentences. Choose option a, b, c or d.

1. Marcel lives in _____.
a. Los Angeles b. the Louvre c. Paris d. Céline's home
2. Céline is a _____.
a. musician b. painter c. detective d. writer
3. Marcel leaves _____ after 11 o'clock
a. home b. Céline's home c. the Louvre d. Los Angeles
4. Marcel sees _____ in the dark room
a. the new guard b. a man c. a wall d. a face
5. The man is _____ the Mona Lisa.
a. looking at b. cleaning c. cutting d. taking

3. Think. Discuss.

Why is the man stealing the Mona Lisa?



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4. Compare.

Match each painter to their painting and the place where you can see it.

Leonardo da Vinci

Vincent Van Gogh

Botticelli

Rembrandt

Monet

Picasso

1. Sunflowers

2. The Jewish Bride

3. Guernica

4. Poppy Fields near Argenteuil

5. The Mona Lisa

6. Spring

a. The Uffizi Gallery, Florence

b. The Louvre, Paris

c. The Met, New York

d. The National Gallery, London

e. The Museo Reina Sofia, Madrid

f. The Rijksmuseum, Amsterdam