



Hi everyone! My name is Ellie Mitchell, and I am a student at the University of Warwick, studying French and History. I speak English natively and am currently learning French as part of my degree. My inspiration for this story came from my parents and grandparents reading books to me as a child and the feeling of being transported to another world of excitement and thrill. I had a lot of fun writing my story and I hope you enjoy reading it!

6. A Parisian adventure (KS2-5)

Ellie Mitchell

<<Papi! Grandpa! Tell us the story! You know the one we like. Please?>> the children begged with their cheesiest smiles and puppy dog eyes. <<Do you really want me to tell you the story? You must know it off by heart by now! >> replied the old man with a friendly sigh. The children nodded and their grandfather hushed them with a silent yes and a twinkle in his eyes. He began the story...

It begins with Louis, a student at the University of Paris, who had a passionate attachment to the library and the knowledge it held. He spent most of his days exploring the seemingly endless shelves, immersing himself in a world between fiction and reality. Louis was particularly fascinated by history and could spend hours surrounded by weighty books solving mysteries of the past, captivated by the idea of finding solutions to his many questions. He knew the library (by heart), he knew every shelf and he noticed every detail. He began to spot a suspicious pattern where different people

would enter the library at the same time, on the same day, every week as if on cue, and take the same book. Spying from several aisles, Louis would see them gently drawing in the margins before returning the book to its place and leaving the library without looking back.

Louis' curiosity grew over time and one day the mystery became too great. One day he picked up the book of the week and investigated the scribbles. He looked at the drawings again and again, turning the book over, holding it at a distance, checking it under the direct light but to no avail. Louis racked his brains for answers, grabbing every book he'd seen on weekly visits throughout the year. Spreading them out in a circle around him, he turned slowly as he began to understand. It was a map! It wasn't just a map of the city; it was a route through the ancient underground tunnels of Paris. After making this discovery, Louis just couldn't leave it alone. He was looking for more answers. Why were these people creating a map of the underground tunnels? Who were they? He spent nights dreaming of all the possibilities and how he could find answers to his glaring questions. Louis made a plan for the next night; he would wait until sunset to follow the map. Determination overcame his rationality and so he headed into the unknown without the slightest hesitation.

The tunnels were cold, dark and sinister, a strange tension hanging in the air engulfing Louis completely. He used his torch to keep walking, careful of the rough terrain. Louis approached carefully, turning off his light and walking as lightly as possible. The group stood in a loose circle, very focused on the argument ahead. Louis scanned their faces, quickly realising that they were recognisable. Alexandre Robert the world famous pop star. Adam Dubois the heart of

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Hollywood. He was almost out of breath when he spotted Victor Roux the President of the French Republic. Why were these people meeting in secret? Their family names were linked, Louis knew! His brain began to recall the hours spent in the library. Yes! Yes! That's it! The revolution, of course. Roux, Robert, Dubois and the rest of the group were the descendants of the survivors of the guillotine. The swift action of their families had saved their fate hundreds of years ago and it seemed that this time they were prepared to fight. His disbelief led him to drop his phone...

<<Papi! Papi! Finish the story please!>> the children desperately begged their grandfather. He replied softly with a wink: <<Not tonight children, you'll have to wait until tomorrow.>>

Translated with www.DeepL.com/Translator (free version) (adapted)

QUESTIONS:

- 1) Do some research on the guillotine. When did this machine come into existence? When was it last used?
- 2) Which section of the library would you like to get lost in? Justify your answer.
- 3) Do you think that the art of telling each other stories is being lost in the digital age?
- 4) Write an account of what you think might happen next in the story.