

The Girl the Dog and the Writer in Provence

By Katrina Nannestad

Illustrations Cheryl Orsini

Book Summary:

When Freja and Tobias arrive in Claviers, Provence, it feels like home. The hilltop village is surrounded by olive groves, lavender fields and drifts of red poppies. The market square hides a world-famous pâtisserie and an antique merry-go-round. Pippin, their precocious young neighbour, and Vivi, the beautiful chef, fill their lives with chatter and laughter and love.

For a moment, the girl, the dog and the writer are happy.

But a spate of criminal activity casts a cloud over the village. Freja is determined to solve the mystery and uncover the villain, but the closer she gets, the more impossible things seem to become ...

Key Learning Outcomes:

English, Geography

Themes

Adventure, Crime and Mystery

Years:

English Years 4, 5 and 6; HASS (Geography)
Year 4

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Notes by: Jacqui Barton

French Village, Pastries and Fun:



Author of *The Girl, the Dog and the Writer in Provence*, Katrina Nannestad on her time in Claviers

Some years ago, I spent a wonderful month in Provence with my husband and our two small boys. We stayed in the hilltop village of Claviers in a skinny four-storey house across the road from an olive grove – just like Freja and Tobias do in my book! There were wonky streets and

covered walkways and worn stone steps and faded shutters and weathered doors and pots of geraniums. There was a village square with a café and church and shady plane trees. There was a petanque court, a communal laundry trough and a weekly outdoor market. Claviers was a safe place where my boys could scoot off on their own – scrambling through the olive grove, taking trips to the bakery to buy baguettes and fougasse, playing soccer on the tiny hillside court with the local children. It was also a great base from which to explore other parts of Provence – the French Riviera, Grasse, the Gorge du Verdon, Moustiers St Marie and many other charming hilltop villages.

The Claviers of my family holiday seemed like the perfect place upon which to build my story. You will recognise the details above in *The Girl, the Dog and the Writer in Provence*. But there's so much more that I have added to create the world of Freja and Tobias' adventures – including the merry-go-round, the patisserie owned the world famous Monsieur Diderot, Isaac Forest, the heavenly Joly farm and Mimosa Astérisque's pink mansion. The Claviers of my book is where beloved reality and indulgent fantasy collide! The characters, too, are all brand new, created by me. Although I do wish Pippin Perrier was real. Silly as it sounds, this sweet, clever little boy loomed so large in my imagination and my heart as I was writing that I find myself missing him now Freja and Tobias have moved on from Claviers.

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CLASSROOM IDEAS

Building Field Knowledge

The Girl the Dog and the Writer in Provence is set in Provence, France.

1. Make a list of the things on the book cover that indicate that.
2. Research Provence, create a list of unique places and facts.
3. Create an illustrated Ten interesting facts list. [ACELA1489](#) [EN3-2A](#)
4. create a point by point discussion to compare and contrast life in Provence s to life in Australia.

Exploring the context of the text

The author has used a lot of French words in this story . Some may be familiar. Create a list of some of the words and their meaning. [ACELA1512](#) [EN3-6B](#)

Responding to the text

Katrina Nannestad uses a lot of wordplay in her writing . (is a literary technique and a form of wit in which words used become the main subject of the work, primarily for the purpose of intended effect or amusement.

Can you find some examples?

Examining visual and multimodal features

There are black and white illustrations used throughout the text — a symbol accompanying the chapter heading. What contribution do these illustrations make to the text? [ACELA1496](#) [EN3-3A](#)

Choose a descriptive passage or scene and illustrate using black and white sketching techniques to imitate the style of the illustrations. [ACELT1618](#) [EN3-3A](#)

Find A Word

The Girl, the Dog and the Writer in Provence

T E P S E F E U A I B R R G B
 I V O R U L I D P E C U X O K
 T U Q I N E W N L A E R N D M
 E V B A E G L L N I R J E U F
 P I P L V M E B S E O D R M R
 V A Z C N C E N A U G T O M E
 A Y W E E P O L R D N A V N J
 R W T Q I M A L O A I H N S A
 M E O Z B K K R T N E M R E F
 O K B M A D A M E E C X R A E
 I V I R P E T A N Q U E L O K
 R G A K E B O N N E N I F G F
 E I S F K P G O R I O S N O B
 F U U C G V U N W V O J O W H
 C T G L B W H S I L B D C S R

ARMOIRE
 BONJOUR
 ECLAIRS
 FORMIDABLE
 MELON
 PARDON
 SUPERBE
 VOILA

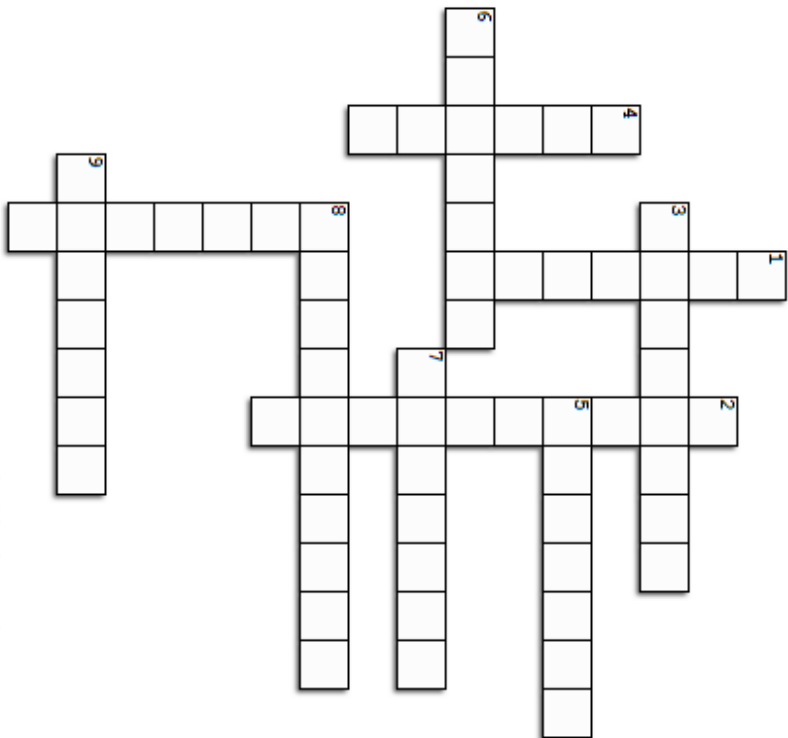
BELLE
 BONNE
 FERME
 FREJA
 MERCI
 PETANQUE
 TANTRUM

BIENVENUE
 BONSOIR
 FINNEGAN
 MADAME
 MONSIEUR
 PETIT
 TOBIAS

The Girl, the Fog and the Writer in Provence

Complete the crossword below

Name: _____



Across

3. hanging or swinging loosely
5. moved in an energetic and busy manner.
6. move restlessly or uncertainly
7. move about in a cheerful and lively way
8. greatly surprised or impressed
9. run at a moderate pace with short steps.

Down

1. a prickly scrambling shrub
2. cry or whine with snuffling
4. open container for animals to eat or drink out of
8. a cupboard or wardrobe

Created with TheTeachersCorner.net Crossword Puzzle Generator