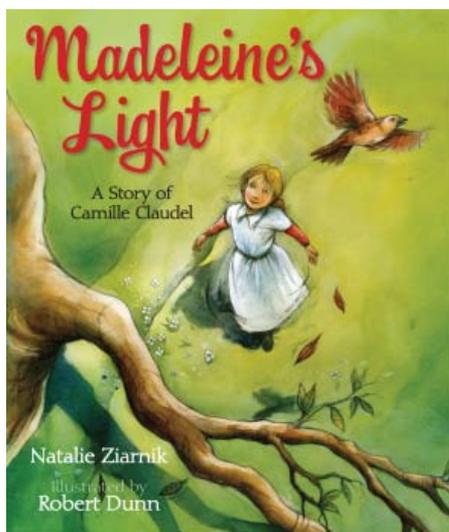


Educator's Guide



Madeleine's Light: A Story of Camille Claudel
Written by Natalie Ziarnik
Illustrated by Robert Dunn

Camille Claudel, the famous 19th-century sculptor, has come to work at Madeleine's family inn, far from the distractions of Paris. Madeleine, who has aspirations to become a sculptor herself, is both afraid of and fascinated by this mysterious guest. Slowly, the persistent girl and the secretive sculptor form a bond that leads to surprises for both of them.

Questions related to Common Core Reading Standards for Literature K-5

Key Ideas and Details

1. Where and when does this story take place?
2. In the opening scene, what do you learn about Madeleine? What interests her? What does she worry about?
3. What do you learn about Mademoiselle Claudel from the pictures in these scenes? From the words? What would it be like to meet her?
4. After Mademoiselle Claudel discovers that Madeleine is a sculptor, how does her mood change?
5. Grand-mère has a smaller role in the story, but we still learn a few things about her. What do you learn about her from the pictures? From the words?

Craft and Structure

1. Which senses are used in the story? Where?
2. Look at the glossary at the opening of the book. Which words are similar in French and English? Can you guess what the French words mean in the story?
3. What does Madeleine think when Mademoiselle Claudel talks about "lumière" or light? What do you think Mademoiselle Claudel means?
4. What do you learn in the note at the end of the story that you didn't learn from the story itself? How is this kind of writing different from the writing in the main story?
5. How do the colors in the art affect you?

Integration of Knowledge and Ideas

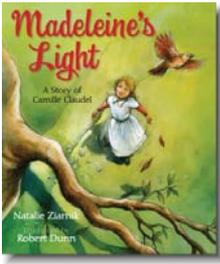
1. Describe what kind of gift each character receives in the story. How are the gifts similar and different?
2. This story takes place over 100 years ago. What is different in the story from how things are today? What do you learn from the art? From the words?
3. What inspires Madeleine to do her best? What inspires Mademoiselle Claudel? What inspires you to do your best?
4. What kind of mood or emotion is shown in the artwork in the opening scenes? As the artists work on their sculptures? In the closing scene?
5. What do you think Mademoiselle Claudel was like as a child? What do you think Madeleine will be doing in ten years?

Activities and Discussion

1. What kind of person becomes an artist? Are you an artist? What do you like to make?
2. What do you do when you become frustrated? When do you know you are done with a project?
3. Describe a visitor to your house. Did you do anything special together?
4. Find a map of France in an atlas. Find Paris. This story takes place in the country, outside of Paris. What do you learn about France from this story?
5. Like Madeleine, make a clay bird. Enjoy the process and the result!

Themes

- Creativity
- Art/art history
- Women's history
- French language and culture
- Friendship
- Persistence
- Mentors



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