



Study Guide to TOSCA'S PARIS ADVENTURE by Abby Wasserman

The story is for children 3-8. It contains some French words (a glossary and pronunciation guide are in the back of the book).

Summary:

Children and adults view time differently, as Tosca, a small gray cat from New York, and her family, Poire (Pear) and Poireau (Leek), discover as they visit Paris on vacation.

After a morning of sightseeing, Tosca accepts an invitation to a puppet show in the park from a street-smart Parisian cat, Basho. They trot off without telling Poire and Poireau because Tosca assumes she'll be back before they notice she is gone.

Tosca and Basho's wanderings through the French capital take them on adventures to the Eiffel Tower and Nôtre Dame, while Poire and Poireau do everything they can, including going to the police and visiting a fortune teller, to locate their lost cat.



Before the family is reunited, Tosca has two adventures that test her courage and strength of character. And once they do find each other, Poire and Poireau must decide how to make sure Tosca doesn't get lost again.

Following are page-by-page questions to discuss with your child after or during reading.

Page 1

When the story begins, where is the family?

"Holiday" is another word for "vacation." How do you know they're on vacation?

Does Tosca like the room? How do you know?

What do Poire and Poireau see from the window?

Related questions:

Have you and your family gone on a trip together? Where did you stay? What did you see from the window?

Page 2

Poire and Poireau are having a typical French breakfast, croissants and coffee with milk. What do you like to eat for breakfast? Who do you see coming down the street? [This is the first dog in the story. There are seven in all.]

Page 3

In France, a flea market means an open air shop where people sell used things. What things for sale do you see in the picture? What are the tomatoes doing? What is the potato interested in? What is the mushroom child holding? Why do you think Tosca likes the blue china cat?

Page 4

What is Tosca doing that shows how she feels about the big dog she meets? How do you know the dog is friendly? Many people in Paris have pet dogs. How many dogs have you seen in the story so far? How many were on leashes?

Related questions:

Do you have a dog? Does he or she like cats? Do you put your dog on a leash when you take him for a walk?



Page 5

What does the flower seller look like? How many kinds of flowers do you see? What does the flower seller wrap flowers in? Who is going to pay for the flowers?

Related question: Do you know a cat or dog who likes to go visiting others in the neighborhood?

Page 6

Why don't Poire and Poireau notice that Tosca is leaving with Basho? Who is passing by in a blue car? Why didn't Tosca ask Poire and Poireau for permission?

Related questions: Was Tosca right to go off with Basho? What could she have done instead?

Page 7

Who is standing in the doorway of the shop where meat and cheese are sold? What kind of vegetable is the butcher? How many dogs have you seen in the story so far? What are street musicians? What instruments are they playing? Why is the violin case on the sidewalk?

Related question: Do you ever see musicians playing outside like this? Do you stop to listen?

Page 8

Can you identify the other children watching the puppet show? Who's making the puppets move?

Page 9

This big tower is called the Eiffel Tower. Where have you seen it before in the story? Do you think Tosca can see Poire and Poireau below? If so, why doesn't she meow loudly to tell them where she is?

Related question: Have you ever hidden someplace so your mommy couldn't see you?

Page 10

The hotel name is "Hotel Legume." Legume in French means "vegetable." Why is the hotel named "Vegetable Hotel?"

Page 11 and 12

What is a cathedral? Whose pictures are in the colored windows? How does Tosca feel about walking up the spiral staircase?

Page 13

What can Tosca see from the top of the cathedral?
What happens when she wishes to return to the hotel?

Related questions: have you ever been locked out? What did you do?

Page 14

Who are the creatures staring at Tosca and Basho? How does Tosca feel about them? Does Basho feel the same way?

Page 15

Where did the creatures go? Do you think Tosca's okay now?

Related question: Who comforts you when you are scared or have a bad dream?

Page 16

Why do you think Poireau can't sleep? Why has Poire been crying?

Related question: Do your parents get worried when they can't find you?

Related question: What would you do if your pet got lost?

Page 18

Do any of the other lost cats look like Tosca?

Page 19

What is a fortune teller?

Why is the raven called Noir? Why is the lizard named Emeraude (Emerald)? How could a raven help in finding the lost cats? How could the lizard help?

Related question: Do you know anyone who lives in a trailer like Madame Patat'douce?

Page 20

What does Madame Patat'douce see in her crystal ball? Why is she worried?

Related question: Are you surprised to find out that Basho belongs to Madame Patat'douce?

Page 21

Why is the big dog bothering Tosca? Is Basho is brave for trying to distract the dog? Is Basho able to help Tosca?

Related questions: Did anyone every bully you or a friend of yours? Did someone try to help?

Page 22

How does Tosca rescue herself? Do you think the big dog knew how unkind he was being? Why does he call his friends Roux and Dan? How many dogs have you seen in the story now?

Related questions: If you met a visitor to your home town, how would you treat her? What are the things dogs do in Paris that are the same in America? Are dogs and cats the same around the world? How about children?

Page 23

What are Tosca, Basho, and the dogs doing when the rescuers arrive? Do Tosca and Basho need rescuing now?

Page 24

Do you think Poire and Poireau should scold Tosca? How does Tosca feel about being scolded? How does Basho feel about it?

Related question: Do your mommy and daddy sometimes act mad when they're worried?

Page 25

Who are all the new friends? Why do Poire and Poireau thank Sergeant Haricot? If they had not found Tosca and Basho, would Tosca have ever gotten back to the hotel?

Page 26

Where is the family now? What can they see out the window? How would *you* keep Tosca from getting lost again?

Page 27

How can a red balloon keep Tosca from getting lost? What could go wrong? What does Tosca hope?

Related questions: Have you ever gotten lost? How were you found?

Was this fun and useful? I'd love to get your feedback!

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