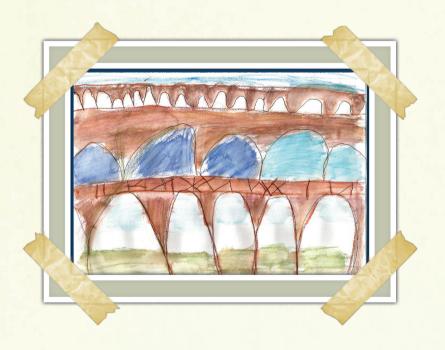
An Aqueduct Adventure

A Travels with Lola Story



Lola and Emma Herbert

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https://livinglavidalola.com

Hello and welcome!

We are Emma and Lola. We'd like to say thank you for joining us on our day trip to an aqueduct in France.

We enjoy exploring together, so when Lola asked if she could write books I of course agreed! Our Travels with Lola children's books are created to enable us to share our experiences, and this one reflects our visit to Pont du Gard, France.

Our mini-memoirs include photos and Lola's artwork, and the second part of the book has facts and activities to enjoy.

Are you ready to join us?



It was a bright and sunny morning in France. Lola opened her eyes and thought for a moment. She remembered that she was staying in a big house in Provence. There was a lovely garden outside and yesterday she had spent all afternoon playing there.



She slid out of bed and crept towards the window where the sun was peeking through the shutters. She decided that the day was far too nice for Mummy to still be in bed.

"Mummy, did you know it's sunny today?" Mummy opened her eyes as Lola's fingers poked her.

"How do you know, Lolly?" Mummy asked, rubbing her eyes as she sat up.

"Because I looked! Come on!" She took her mum's hand and pulled her over to the window.



"It does look lovely, a perfect day for an adventure," said Mum. "And that's great because I want to show you something special today."

"What is it? Will I like it?" Lola was unsure.

"Well, you know we talked about the Romans and conquered many nations."

"Yes."

"Well, I'm going to take you to an aqueduct today. We can learn about when it was built and what it's for."

"Hmm... I think I'd rather go for a swim," said Lola.

"You can swim later. It's not far away so we have plenty of time. Let's have our breakfast then we'll go."

Lola's tummy rumbled in agreement and by the time she had got dressed, Mummy had brought delicious, buttery croissants with fresh orange juice to the table.

"Yum!"

She wolfed down her breakfast and was ready for the day. Feeling excited, she rushed out to Clancy, their car. Although the morning was hot, Clancy was cool inside after spending the night sheltered behind the house.



"I think Clancy needs some sun, Mum. It's a bit cold in here."

"I think you're right," said Mummy. "We'd better get on the road then!"

Once strapped in safely they set off. They drove along pretty tree-lined roads, enjoying the ride as they went. Lola sang to the tune of a siren as they passed under the long, green arch.

"Tunnel, tunnel," she chirped between her giggles.

Before long, they arrived at Pont du Gard, a famous Roman landmark.

When they had parked the car, they walked to the enormous aqueduct which stood proud on the beautiful landscape.

"Wow, it's amazing!" Lola said as they got closer. "It's huge!"

"It's spectacular, isn't it?" Mummy was excited too!



Tall trees offered them shade as they walked across the sandy coloured ground. Soon, they arrived at a footpath which was right under the arches of the aqueduct. Lola stopped to look up.



"Mummy, those bricks are almost as big as me!"

"Some might even be bigger than you," Mummy replied.

"But how did they lift them? And where did they come from?" Lola knew that the Romans lived a long time ago, but she also thought they didn't have cars or machinery. "Well, the Romans were very clever. They used hand-made tools to quarry the stone. Then, they brought the stone along the river in their boats."

"But how did they get the stones up so high?"

"They made wooden platforms and used winches and pulleys. It was like a human powered crane."

"Maybe they stood on each other's shoulders too," Lola giggled.

"Maybe they did!"

"What's a pulley?"

"It's a mechanism that helps you move things more easily."

"What's a mechanism?" Lola interrupted.

"Oh, Lola! Let me finish!" Mummy laughed. "A mechanism is several parts that work together to make machinery. So in a pulley, you have a wheel on an axle and a cable running around the wheel."

"I see... what else did they use?"

"Well, a winch would have made it easier to lift, because they'd have more leverage."

"Oh, Mummy - what's leverage!" Lola stood with her hands on her hips.

"I think a demonstration when we get home is the easiest way to explain. Let's just enjoy our time here for now. We can walk down to the water if you like?"

"Yes, it's all a bit confusing, so I'd like that."
Lola started walking, tugging her mum's hand as she did so.

They walked across the span of the aqueduct, stopping to look at the view along the way; it was stunning. The river was dark blue against the brightness of the sky, and they could see for miles.

"Can we see all the way back to our house, Mummy?" Lola asked.

"Not quite! But it's definitely a long way!"
Mummy pointed into the distance. "Can you see how tiny those trees look on the horizon?"

They're teensy weensy, just like me!"



Lola let go of her mum's hand and skipped off to the other side of the aqueduct, singing as she went. Mummy had to run to catch her up! On the other side of the river, Lola saw that there was a place that looked like a beach. She thought they could make it down there.

"Can we go to the beach please?" she asked.

"I think that's a great idea." Mummy held out her hand to take Lola's, and they walked down to the waters' edge.

Once they were there, she turned around and gasped in amazement!

"Wow, it looks even bigger from down here. Look at all of those arches."



"It's incredible, isn't it? It's about two thousand years old."

"That sounds really old, just like Clancy," Lola giggled.

"Well, Clancy is only forty years old. He has a lot of catching up to do." Mummy started to explain why, but Lola had stopped listening. The water in the river looked very inviting, so much so that she decided to dip her toe in.

"TOO COLD!" She shrieked.

"I thought it might be, give me your foot." Lola rested her foot on her mum's leg and let her rub her toes until they were warm again.

"Is that better?" Mummy asked.

"Yes. I think I've had enough now though. Can we go back to the house?"

"That's a good idea. We have a long walk back to the car... all the way over there," Mummy pointed to the other side of the river. "Let's go."



As they made their way across the aqueduct Lola stopped under one of the arches. She looked up, pausing for a moment before she spoke.

"Look at that bird," she pondered. "It's blue, I've never seen one like that. Ooh, and that's a Roman arch. The big stone in the middle is a keystone."

She pointed up to the golden stone sitting a few metres above her head.

"We've got one of those at school, and if you take the keystone out it all falls down."



"I know, it's amazing. Just think of what these people had to do to make all the arches stay together like this. They would have needed something to stick them all together as well."

"Do you think they had cement?"

"They did. Actually, they made a very special kind of cement which has volcanic dust in it. I don't know whether they used it here though."

"The Romans were very clever, Mummy. I want to learn all about them."

Mummy gave Lola a big hug and told her she'd like to do that too.

When they reached the car Lola was pleased to sit down, she was very tired. In fact, she was so tired that as soon as Mummy started the engine she fell asleep!

The next thing she knew, they were back at the house.

"You fell asleep," Mummy said as she undid her seatbelt.

"I'm hungry... and thirsty," was all Lola could manage to say.

"Just as well we have that lovely melon and left over baguette then isn't it!"

"Mmmm... melon, delicious!" Lola was suddenly wide awake and ran as fast as she could to the door.

Within minutes they were sitting outside in the sunshine enjoying their afternoon snack.

"This is perfect," Lola said.

"I think so too," replied Mummy. "I also think we're lucky to have seen what we have today. What do you think?"

"Well," Lola chewed as she thought. "You didn't actually tell me what aqueducts are for..."

"Oh no! They're to carry fresh water to settlements who need it. The water runs along the very top of the arches. How could I forget that... silly me!"



"You're funny, Mum," Lola giggled.
"Anyway... I think it's been one of the best days ever, and I can't wait to tell my friends about it."

"Well we have lots of photos, so you can show them as well. We'll find out more about the Romans and you can learn about it together. How does that sound?"

"Brilliant, Mummy," Lola licked the melon juice from her fingers and stood up.



"I'm all sticky now, can we go for a swim?"

"Oh... and I thought I was going to have a five-minute break and a cup of tea!" Mummy teased. "Come on then!"

As soon as they were ready, Lola and her mummy jumped into the swimming pool which, fortunately, was heated. Even so, Lola laughed as she saw the look on her mum's face.

"It's not that bad!" she giggled.

"Hmm. I suppose not."

Her mummy lifted her out of the water and waited while she jumped in again, ready to catch her. They stayed splashing in the pool until the sun started to go down.

"I'm glad we went to the aqueduct. I had a lovely day, but I'm cold now."

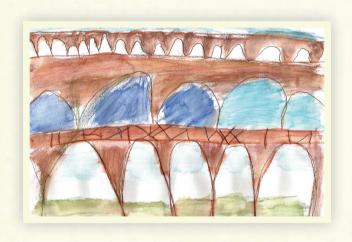
"Time for dinner and bed then," said Mummy.

"I suppose so, but do you promise we can find out more about the Romans?"

"Yes of course. We have plenty of time for that. Now let's eat and get some rest so that we have plenty of energy for tomorrow." Once warm and dry with full tummies, they went upstairs where mummy prepared to tell a story. Before she could start reading, Lola began to drift off to the land of dreams.

"Do you think the Romans swam too?" she murmured.

"Maybe they did," Mummy whispered as she kissed her goodnight. "But I think that might be a story for another day."



The End

Dear reader,

We hoped you enjoyed our story. It's a true account of one of the adventures we had while we were in France. The photos and illustrations are ours, and we have taken great pleasure in sharing our trip with you.

The second part of the book, A Little Learning, offers facts and activities as well as the opportunity to get creative. The idea is that a simple story can spark the imagination and will lead you to ask questions.

Now, on to part two...

A Little Learning

Pont du Gard

Pont du Gard is a bridge section of an aqueduct in Provence, a region in the south of France. It was built in the first century AD and is part of a 50km construction designed to carry water to the city of Nimes. Today, many tourists visit the iconic landmark because it is a wonderful piece of Roman architecture.

The Romans conquered many areas of what we now call Europe, and some parts of Asia. We can see traces of their presence still today and Pont du Gard is one of the most stunning examples.

The materials came from the nearby Estel quarry where men extracted yellow limestone blocks using picks and sharp, metal wedges. Boats were then used to take the massive stones to the site. What a feat!

Roman engineers designed aqueducts to deliver clean water to their people. They knew that for their legions to march through Europe and conquer new nations, they must be strong and healthy; fresh water was essential if they were to succeed.

Your turn

Do you know of any other famous Roman landmarks? Maybe you could go to a library, or look on the Internet with an adult to find some.

Can you draw your own picture of an aqueduct? Think about whether there are people building it or is it already finished? Is there a river flowing beneath or just fields? The great thing about imagining things is that we can create whatever we choose!

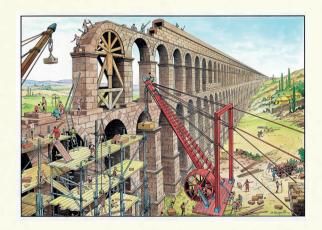
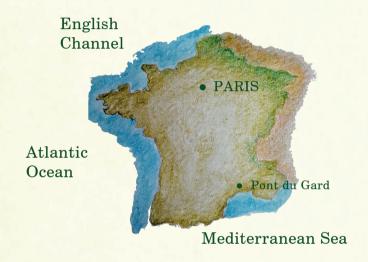


Image: Otello

A little learning about France

France is a country in Europe. It has borders with many other countries as well as having coasts on different bodies of water. You can see them on the map below.



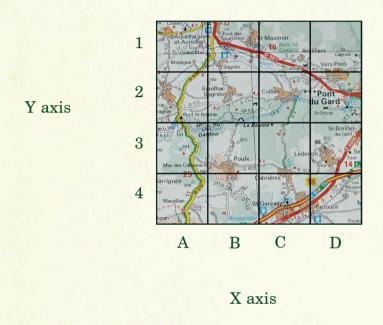
Your turn

Paris is the capital city of France. Can you find it on the map?

Can you write down the names of the oceans and seas around France? Perhaps you can imagine the Roman boats as they sailed to new countries? Write about it or draw a picture to express your imagination!

Finding your way

In each of our books we will help you find the place we visited. This type of map has grid references called the X and Y axis.



- Can you find Pont du Gard? It's at reference D2. Use your fingers to trace from the edge of the map.
- Now, make your own map. It could be a map of the rooms in your house, how to get to your grandparent's house, or a treasure map!

A little learning about ancient engineering

In our story we talked about the machinery and tools that Romans would have used to construct the aqueduct.

Ask an adult to show you an example of a pulley or winch, you'd be amazed where they show up! If you have a play park nearby, you might find a see-saw or a zip-line, and both of these are examples of using science to make things work.



Watermelon fun!

Watermelon is a fruit that is very good for you. It has a high water content and lots of Vitamin C. That makes it the perfect snack if you've had a long day in the sun.

Melons grow in abundance in the sunny south of France, and we were lucky enough to buy them on the side of the road from local farmers. You will be able to buy them in the shops near you, so we thought you might like to try one of our favourite recipes.

Your turn

- Ask an adult to help you cut the watermelon into chunks.
- Use a spoon to scoop the flesh into a bowl.
- Squish the flesh with your hands until it's a big sloppy mess!
- Push the flesh through a sieve to leave behind the pips.
- Ta-dah! Choose whether to drink it straight away or freeze it to make healthy watermelon ice pops!

Now, one more thing before we go. The next page will tell you can get access to more free things to do.

What Next?

That's it for this book, but it doesn't have to end there for you.

We try to make every day a fun day as well as learning about the world around us. Using creativity as a means to share what we learn not only helps us to understand, but also allows others to learn with us. It's a wonderful way to let your imagination run wild or share memories with friends and family.

Visit our website to get free downloads of creative ideas. There's always something to do if you allow yourself time to just have fun!

Please join us at livinglavidalola.com.

Thank you for reading,

Emma, Lola, Bernie and Clancy

