

# The Petit Proust Questionnaire

from Owlkids Books

the  
ins!de  
track

## Meet illustrator Marie Lafrance



**MARIE LAFRANCE** is an award-winning illustrator who has been drawing most of her life. Her illustrations appear in magazines, posters, newspapers, billboards, board games, picture books, and more. Recently, Marie has evolved her craft from painting with brushes to creating illustrations digitally. She lives in Montreal, Quebec. Visit her blog at <http://marie-lafrance.blogspot.ca>.



978-1-77147-104-6  
\$17.95 CDN / \$16.95 US

Long before Oscar Peterson became a virtuoso jazz pianist, he was a boy who loved to play the trumpet. When a bout of childhood tuberculosis weakened his lungs, Oscar could no longer play his beloved instrument. He took up piano and the rest is history. *Oscar Lives Next Door* is a story inspired by this musician's childhood, set in his Montreal neighborhood of Little Burgundy.

### When you were a kid, what was your favorite thing to do?

Aside from antagonizing my little sister, which I'm not proud of, I was a fairly quiet kid. I could read or draw for hours. I haven't changed that much, come to think of it. Except for the sister part. She grew taller, so I stopped.

### What did you most dislike doing when you were a child?

Sitting in a car or at a desk for too long.

### As a child, where did you dream of living?

Probably because of a book I read, I had a thing about Ireland. It seemed so mysterious. I wanted to change my name to Cathleen or something.

### What did you think you were good at when you were a kid?

Drawing castles and people with crowns on their heads.

### When you were a kid in school, what did you look for in a friend?

We moved a lot when I was young, so I had to make new friends all the time. I was quite shy, so just that someone would want to be my friend and play with me was a good start.

### What did you want to be when you grew up?

A journalist, because my father was one. Really a reporter who would go around the world, like Tintin. I had to pass on that career because I'm too scared of flying.



# The Petit Proust Questionnaire

from Owlkids Books

the  
ins!de  
track

## What was your favorite book as a child?

I reread all the books from la Comtesse de Ségur probably a hundred times, and my favourite was *Les Malheurs de Sophie*, which translates as *Sophie's Misfortunes* in English.

## What is your favorite pastime now?

I have to say working on art, because that's what I do most of the time. But I also like walking with my dog, going anywhere near the ocean, and cooking for family and friends.

## What do you find an absolute chore?

Anything having to do with numbers, especially accounting.

## If you could live anywhere, where would you go?

Remember my fear of flying? If I could be teleported, I would go anywhere in Asia. Or maybe I would live in Ireland.

## What is the one talent you wish you had?

I'd love to be better at playing musical instruments, like the accordion. I've tried, but to no avail.

## What makes a good friend?

Trust is very important, but mostly that we can laugh together.

## If you weren't an author or illustrator, what job would you have?

I would like to take care of animals.

## What children's books have caught your attention lately?

I just bought *Panther*, by Brecht Evens. It took my breath away.

## If you had to have a motto, what would it be?

Keep at it!