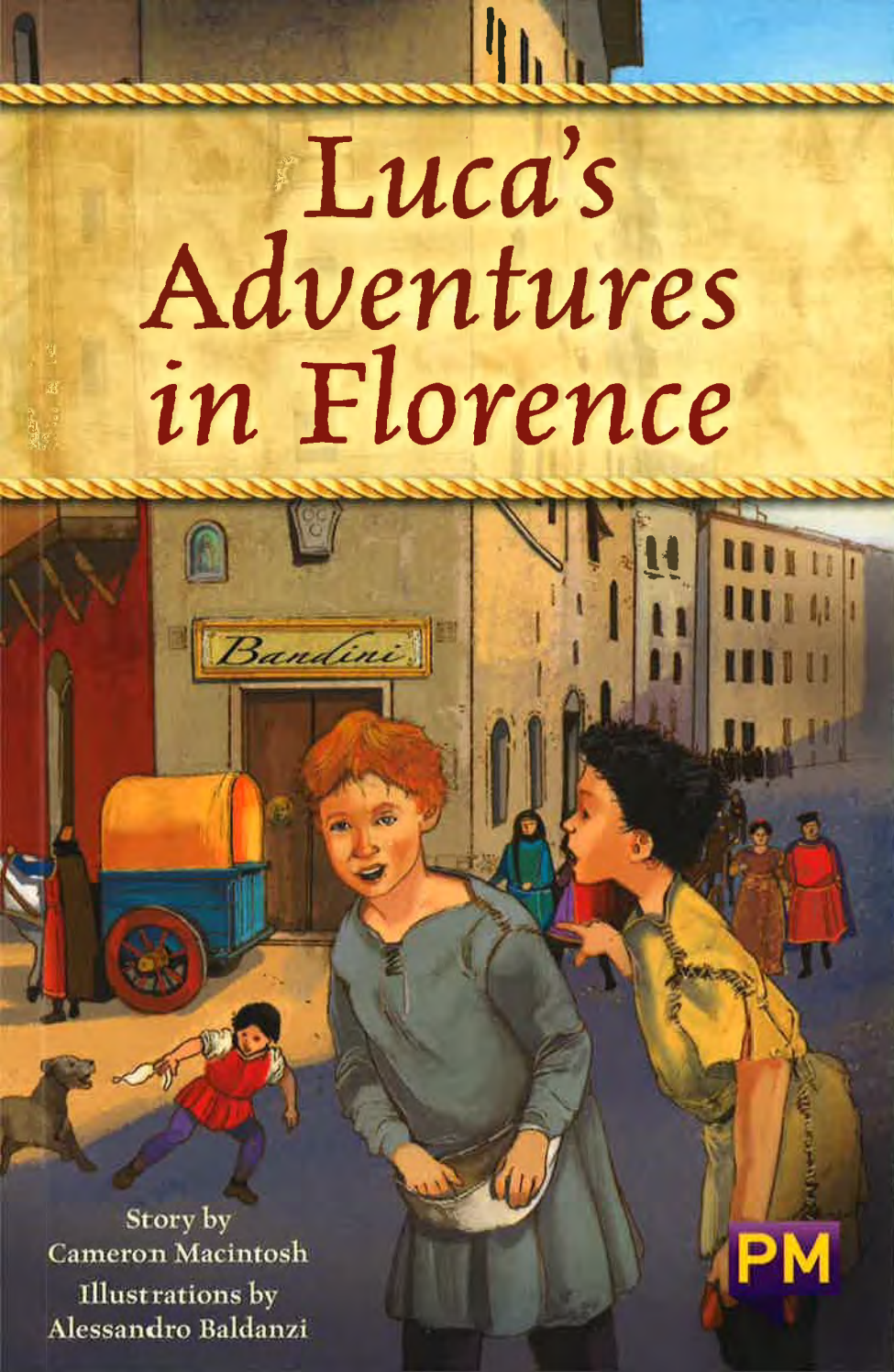
Luca's Adventures in Florence



Story by
Cameron Macintosh
Illustrations by
Alessandro Baldanzi

PM

For teachers' inspection ONLY

Luca's Adventures in Florence

Level 26
Running Words 2654 **Text Type** Narrative (Imaginative)
Curriculum Areas Literacy; Humanities – History

Retelling to encourage critical thinking about the content

Ask each student to retell the story in his or her own words.
Record the retelling for further discussion and reflection.

Questions to reinforce meaning and stimulate discussion

Literal

1 Why did Luca decide to make the secret visit to Florence?
2 Why did Mino show Luca to the Master's house?
3 Why did Luca give Mino the small gold coin?

Inferential

4 Why were the roads to Florence gravelly and bumpy?
5 Why was Luca's uncle arguing about the price of his onions?
6 Why did Mino have to look after himself?
7 Why did Renzo's face go white when he heard the Master returning?
8 Why did the Master tell Luca the joins on the lid were perfect?
9 Why did Luca say it would be an honour to work for the Master?

Applied Knowledge

10 What did the title 'the Master' mean?
11 Why did people want paintings, sculptures and fine carvings?
12 Why were there so many grand buildings and cobbled streets in Florence?

Vocabulary

Replace the verb 'floundered' in this sentence:
"Oh … " I floundered. "I think his name is something like Bendino."

Links with other PM Guided Reading Books and Cards

Level 26	Book	Narrative	*My Brother Harry*
Level 26	Book	Narrative	*The Mystery at Number 7*

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Chapter 6	The Ride Home	30



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Chapter 1

Missing My Brother



"Luca!" said Papa. "What are you doing? Daydreaming again?"

"Sorry, Papa." I took a deep breath and started working again, picking the juicy olives from Papa's trees.

I hadn't really been daydreaming, though. I had been thinking about my older brother, Renzo, and wondering when I would see him again.

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For the past three months, Renzo has been living away from our family. When he turned 13, he went to live in Florence, a big city about 20 kilometres away from our farm, which is just outside the town of Prato.

Renzo is very lucky. Our parents cannot afford to send us to school, so they were happy when an artist in Florence offered to take Renzo as his "garzone"*.

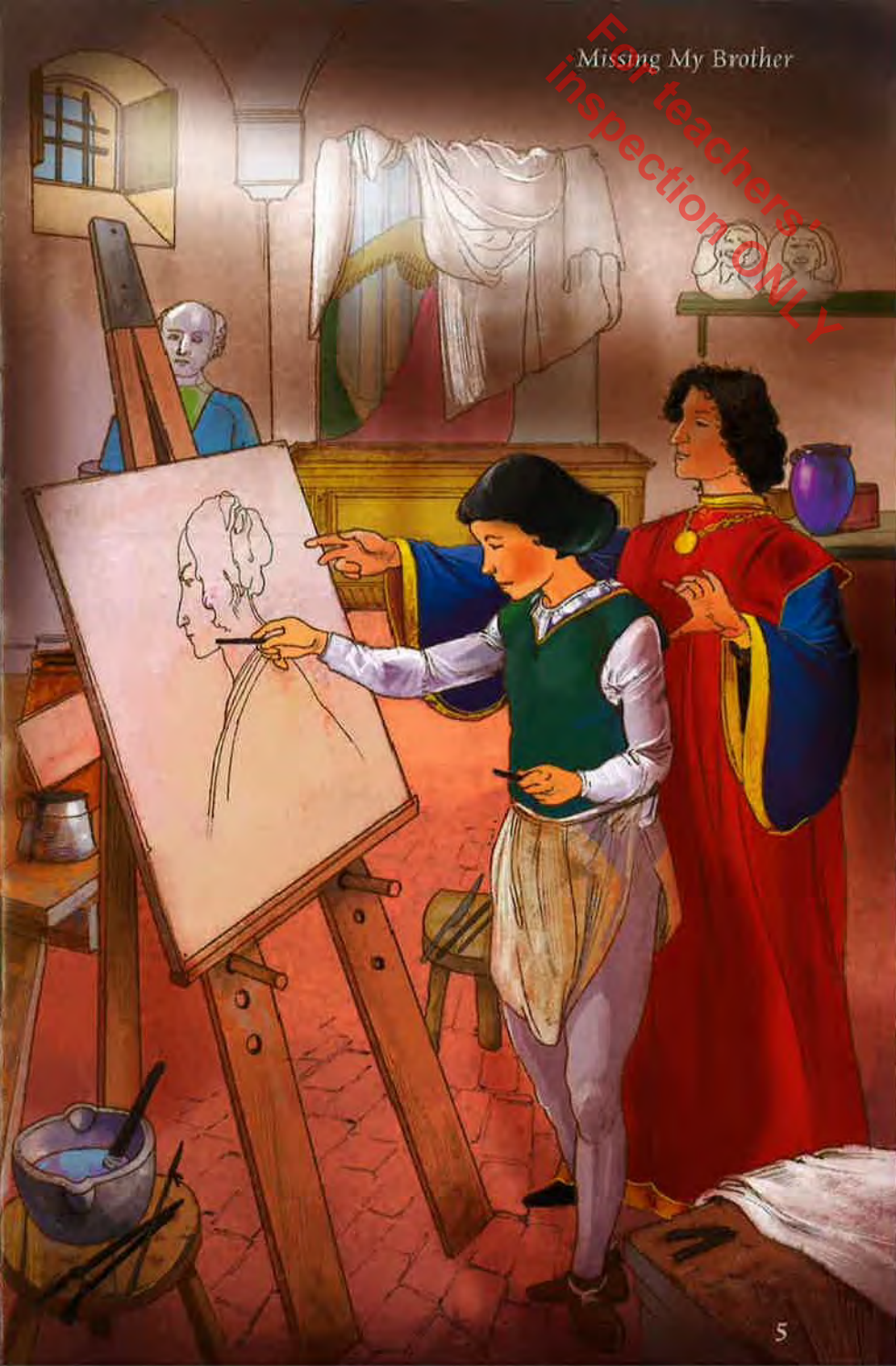
A "garzone" is a boy, usually between 10 and 15 years old, who works as an artist's assistant. He learns the artist's skills and helps the artist make paintings or sculptures. I'm not sure of the artist's name, but Renzo calls him "the Master".

Renzo has always been good at drawing and making things with his hands. He now lives with the Master's family and helps the Master do his paintings. I believe one day he will be a great painter, too.

I'm not so sure what I will be one day, but Papa has been teaching me woodcrafting since Renzo left for Florence. He says my work is quite good when I try!

* say: *gar-zone-eh*

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Last month, Renzo came home for a short visit. He told us all about his new life. He seems very happy working for the Master, and learns many new things. He says it's a good life – the Master's family has two big meals every day and live in a much nicer house than ours. Renzo shares a room with the Master's youngest son. He says the Master is kind, but very serious, and makes him work hard. Renzo has been learning how to make different paints. At the same time, the Master has been helping him improve his drawing skills.



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Sometimes, I wonder if Renzo will forget me and my parents. We don't have the interesting life in a big city that the Master can give him.

As I continued to pick Papa's olives, I sighed and thought about Renzo working in Florence.



Suddenly, an idea flashed across my mind. There was one way I could make sure Renzo didn't forget about us. Maybe, just maybe, I could pay him a secret visit.

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Luca's older brother, Renzo, has left the farm and moved to Florence to work as an artist's assistant. As Luca learns woodcrafting from his father, he wonders what life must be like in the big city, working in an artist's workshop.



Text Type:
Narrative (Imaginative)

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