



The PREMISE

Twenty years after the epic adventures of the original THREE MUSKETEERS, their nieces and nephews are following in their uncles' famous footsteps.

REMI, LEO, PIERRE and AMY are four fearless, adventurous six-year-olds, training to become members of the legendary *Mousquetaires de la garde* (the MUSKETEERS of the Guard) the elite fighting unit that serves and protects the French King, KING LOUIS XIV.

When we first meet him, King Louis is a timid little six-year-old, small for his age, and so shy that it's hard to imagine how this young monarch will ever become brave enough, wise enough, and *confident* enough, to rule one of the largest empires in the world.

Louis is isolated because of his position, doted on by his widowed mother, coddled by the courtiers, and spoiled by the palace staff.

Unfortunately, not everyone adores the little king, and he's an easy target for the castle bully – a jealous seven-year-old named Millie who pretends to be so sweet and nice, and totally “devoted to dear Louis” whenever any adults are nearby. But Millie delights in secretly tormenting the young monarch whenever she can get away with it. From itching powder in his bedsheets, to sabotaging his riding britches right before his first royal equestrian exhibition, Millie delights in slyly undermining the fledgling king's confidence.

But all of that is about to change – because the pampered, pint-sized king is about to get the one thing he truly needs – a group of friends to call his own.

Friends who will ride to his rescue *and* teach him the skills he needs to rescue himself.

Friends who will share amazing adventures with him.

Friends who will laugh at his jokes (but only if they're actually funny).

Friends who will trust Louis with their secrets *and* he'll know he can trust them with his.

Friends who will always be there for him.

Friends who will always have his back.

They are the young king's first, best, and truest friends.

They are Remi, Leo, Pierre and Amy.

They are the MINI MUSKETEERS, “*ALL FOR ONE, AND ONE FOR ALL!*”

The IMPORTANCE of FRIENDSHIP

Through his new friends, the Mini Musketeers, Louis (and our preschool viewers) will learn the social skills that form the foundation for making (and keeping) friends; simple things like taking turns and listening to others are important friendship skills that every king (and every kid) should know.

The FIVE FRIENDS (and their HORSES)

REMI

Short, fast, fierce and fearless – six-year-old Remi is an absolute daredevil. Always ready for action, she is the epitome of “leap first, look later” – fortunately her catlike reflexes can (usually, not always) save her from disaster. Unfortunately, Remi’s friends don’t share her speed and agility – and so they’re often left paying for her recklessness – if Remi steals honey from a beehive, it’s her friends who end up being chased by the swarm of angry bees.

Despite her reckless ways, Remi somehow manages to arrive back from the Mini Musketeers’ various misadventures with her uniform neat and clean – while her companions are frequently messed up, muddy and disheveled. This leads their teacher, Monsieur de Tréville, to have the (mistaken) impression that, unlike her reckless uncle, the famously daring D’ARTAGNAN, Remi is the ‘most responsible’ member of the trainees (her friends find this alternately hilarious and annoying).

Remi is the shortest of the four Musketeers, she’s the only one shorter than Louis; her petite frame, short brown hair and big blue eyes combine to give her an elfin appearance that belies her fierce competitiveness and natural athleticism – and causes everyone, adults, kids, friends and foes, to constantly underestimate this intrepid hero.

Remi’s horse, *TEMPÊTE*, is as fast and fearless as her rider. Sleek and small-boned, this petite black horse is the perfect equine partner for Remi.

PIERRE

Chubby-cheeked, blonde and mischievous, six-year-old Pierre is a natural-born troublemaker and, just like his delightfully mischievous UNCLE ARAMIS, Pierre will do almost anything for a laugh.

Of the four Musketeers, Pierre is the least impressed with Louis’s royal status. Sure, he’s the king, but he’s also a kid and Pierre easily accepts Louis as just one of the gang. Of course, that doesn’t mean Pierre is unaware of the *benefits* that come with being a king – and Pierre is perfectly happy to enjoy the little extras that the friendship brings (whether it’s an extra baguette at lunch, or a goose-down mattress for his bunk).

Even though he treats Louis like a normal kid, Pierre is always aware of the risks that Louis faces as the king of France. And, since being the monarch is such a serious matter, Pierre always looks for opportunities to make Louis laugh, even if it means making himself look foolish.

Pierre’s closeness to Louis has not gone unnoticed by jealous Millie – who has decided that “Pierre must be destroyed!” Pierre is frequently the intended target for Millie’s most outrageous schemes and manipulations.

But no matter how she tries, Pierre always manages to save Louis – and himself – from Millie’s attacks. And, he can usually sabotage her plans in a way that Millie ends up

looking unfashionably frazzled. Because, never forget, even though Pierre appears to be the class jester, underneath that roly-poly exterior beats the heart of a true hero.

Pierre has two horses: the first, BUTTERMILK, is the sturdy, yellow-haired, sweet-tempered farm pony that his parents gave him – and the other is HERCULES, the giant, broad-chested, Bay gelding that the king's stable master insists that King Louis should ride.

Louis is not big enough or strong enough to handle Hercules, but Pierre is ready, willing and able to take the reins. So, the moment they are out of sight of the stables – the two friends happily swap horses. And, while Pierre does his best to tame Hercules – and train Louis – so that Louis can one day ride the gorgeous gelding with confidence, Pierre really, *really* enjoys every moment he can spend riding Hercules. (And Louis is relieved and grateful to ride astride Buttermilk – she's the perfect pony for the little king.)

AMY

Amy has her Portuguese mother's beautiful light brown skin, hazel eyes and luxurious, long red hair that looks like a shampoo commercial (not that they had television commercials – or shampoo – in the 17th century...)

Much like her great-uncle, PORTHOS, Amy is a well natured nature-lover. She loves animals and especially her horse *FLEUR DE SEL* ("Flower") which was a gift from her Uncle Porthos.

As his name would indicate, Fleur is salt colored – a greyish white coat with darker grey mane and tail.

Fleur is the largest, most muscular of the Mini Musketeers' mounts – he's fast and sturdy, but not very attractive – and, as much as Amy loves beautiful things, she loves her horse even more. Anyone who dares to insult Fleur's looks had better be prepare to feel Amy's wrath. "Did you just call my horse ugly?!? *En garde!*"

Even though she's the same age as Remi and Pierre, a recent growth spurt has made Amy much taller than her friends – and her long arms and legs give her an advantage in some activities (like fencing and horseback riding – she can manage a much larger, stronger horse than most kids twice her age), and a disadvantage in others (like the obstacle training course, where her long legs are constantly getting tangled in the ropes).

LEO

Afro-Caribbean in appearance – short curly black hair, dark brown eyes, and deep brown skin – Leo is the most polished and well-spoken of the four friends. His family's wealth is implied, from his stack of leather-bound books to his custom-tooled boots, there is something just a little bit 'extra' about Leo.

Leo is a little wiser, a bit calmer, and slightly more cautious than the other kids; but he's still only a kid – and he's not a mini-adult by any means. And, yet, Leo is naturally the

one the others turn to when a mission goes sideways – when the villainous Millie seems to finally have the upper hand and all seems lost, Amy, Louis, Pierre and Remi look to Leo for the answers. And, fortunately for all of them, this smart and resourceful seven-year-old takes his inspiration from his namesake Leonardo Da Vinci's inventions and the writings of Italian scientist, Isabella Cortese, to come up with amazing solutions – like a seventeenth-century MacGyver.

Leo often rides a piebald pony named *CHWAL*. But, because Leo has such an inventive and curious mind, he can also be seen experimenting with a variety of other rides, both mechanical and mammal. Sometimes he might swoop in on a Da Vinci-inspired flying machine, or race along on a mechanical horse, or a pair of gigantic roller skates made with carriage wheels. Other times he could be riding a lama, an ostrich, and even a baby elephant. (Note: Not all of Leo's 'alternative rides' are successful, in fact, his mechanical ones often fail – quite spectacularly!)

LOUIS XIV

Although France's child king is the same age as Amy, Pierre and Remi, he seems much younger than six years old. The young monarch has been isolated (and spoiled) because of his position, it's not his fault, really, but he's remarkably immature, easily frightened, full of self-doubt and definitely not ready to rule.

Louis is a short, soft, pasty-skinned dandy who is alternately bossy, blustering and full of bravado – then awkwardly flustered and afraid of his own shadow. Most of the time our young Musketeers can't decide if Louis needs a hug – or a good smack upside the head (maybe both). But little by little, one adventure at a time, Louis will learn the values of friendship, respect and responsibility. And, with the mischievous Pierre and the reckless Remi to 'help' lead him astray, Louis will also discover the joy of tumbling into trouble – and working together to escape the danger and living to fight another day.

Unlike the four cavaliers-in-training, Louis does not wear a uniform (remember he's training in secret with his friends). Louis wears elaborate clothing befitting a king – though, unfortunately for the castle's laundresses, that clothing frequently ends up filthy and tattered.

Louis is the underdog of our series; and he's the most relatable of our heroes. But, even though history tells us that Louis will be a fair and innovative king, our series makes it clear that he wasn't born that way – Louis XIV's bravery, tenacity, daring and intellect had to be *learned*. And his title of "Louis the Great" had to be *earned*.

The king's horse is a giant war horse named Hercules – though, he much prefers to ride the Pierre's gentle yellow pony, Buttermilk.

The FOUR UNCLES (the ORIGINAL MUSKETEERS)

Remi, Leo, Pierre and Amy are the nieces and nephews of the original Musketeers:

D'ARTAGNAN

Although he's almost forty, Remi's Uncle D'Artagnan is still boyishly handsome, and looks as dashing and debonair as he always has – a fact that D'Artagnan's old friend, the balding and pudgy M. de Tréville, finds infinitely annoying. D'Artagnan enjoys popping in unexpectedly to visit his niece and check on her training – bringing Remi and her friends little treats and small treasures from his latest adventures.

ATHOS

Leo's Uncle Athos is a gentleman scholar who travels extensively. Athos is fascinated by Leo's inventions (“Where does he get those fantastic ideas?!?!”) – and loves to encourage his nephew's innovative thinking by sending him packages filled with the unusual gizmos and gadgets that he finds in far off lands (cuckoo clocks, compasses, printing blocks and wind-up toys).

ARAMIS

Clever, cheerful and charming, Pierre's Uncle Aramis is enjoying a pleasant, carefree retirement – hanging about the palace grounds, hobnobbing with members of the French nobility. But Aramis is still a Musketeer at heart, and sometimes he can't resist putting on his old uniform (even though it's a little too snug) and showing up at the academy to practice his fencing skills. Despite his age and sedentary lifestyle, Aramis remains one of the finest swordsmen in all of France, and the Mini Musketeers are always excited when Aramis decides to make a surprise appearance.

PORTHOS

Amy's great-uncle, Porthos, was the oldest – and strongest – of the original Musketeers, and even though he's now almost seventy, he still has more strength and stamina than most people half his age. Whether it's fitness or fashion, Porthos loves to show off for a crowd (think Jack Palance in his tuxedo doing one-arm push-ups at the Oscars). Although he's retired from active service, Porthos still thinks of himself as a Musketeer (“Once a Musketeer, always a Musketeer”) and he looks for any excuse to drop by the training academy and “help”.

NOTE: while D'Artagnan, Athos, Aramis and Porthos will make cameo appearances throughout the series – and may occasionally lend a helping hand – it will always be the new generation of heroes, the Mini Musketeers, who save the day.

MILLIE

Millie is a seven-year-old blonde-haired, blue-eyed beauty who looks so sweet and innocent, butter wouldn't melt in her mouth. The adults praise her, the servants pamper her, and everyone believes that she is the personification of grace and good manners... if only they knew!

Millie is a social climbing mean girl whose father is a courtier and whose mother is a distant cousin of Louis's mother, Queen Anne. Millie is desperately jealous of King Louis. She wants everything he has – and she wants it NOW!

And, whatever Louis has that Millie can't steal, she'll try to ruin his enjoyment of it – whether it's his horse, his hat, or a harpsichord (Louis is a surprisingly talented musician) – anything that makes Louis happy becomes the target of Millie's wrath.

Like bullies everywhere, it's not enough for Millie to be happy, she needs the object of her jealousy to be *unhappy*. So, when Louis befriends Remi, Leo, Pierre and Amy, Millie makes it her mission to undermine their growing friendship. And, when she fails to sabotage their friendship with gossip and lies, Millie changes tactics and looks for better schemes to win her secret 'war' against Louis and the Mini Musketeers. But even though this trouble-maker often comes off as a bully, deep down she is just really awkward at making friends.

At first her plans are fairly traditional villain-in-training intrigue, such as stealing the crown jewels – but the Mini Musketeers always appear in the nick of time – racing in on horseback, climbing over castle walls, or swinging down from the chandeliers – and thwart Millie's plans.

With unbridled ambition and unlimited access to the palace library, seven-year-old Millie begins building an assortment of weapons inspired by the history books (i.e. Trojan Horses, crossbows, catapults and trebuchets) and improved by her limitless, villainous imagination.

Millie's schemes and conspiracies become increasingly outlandish, ratcheting up both the danger and the comedy (i.e. building a giant catapult to send Louis – and the Mini Musketeers – into space). And she does it all with the help of the royal builders and engineers, none of whom would suspect that such a sweet little *angel* could possibly have anything nefarious planned for all of her elaborate "special projects".

Millie is always dressed in the latest fashions – with her hair intricately styled and wearing as many jewels and glittering accessories as she can steal.

Of course, Millie does not ride a horse – she'd shudder at the very thought of being that close to one of those "big, smelly animals". She rides in a horse-drawn, custom-made carriage that's stockpiled with a wide arrange of wacky weapons that she uses in her

quest to destroy the Mini Musketeers and their young friend, the King of France, Louis XIV.

MONSIEUR DE TRÉVILLE

Monsieur de Tréville is the fencing master, guardian, riding coach, cook and disciplinarian for the Light Cavalry's first year trainees, Remi, Leo, Pierre and Amy.

However, Monsieur de Tréville does NOT want to train King Louis. And who can blame him? He sees only the downside, all of the things that could go wrong – from minor embarrassments to major catastrophes.

But, underneath his bluster and bravado – he understands why his four trainees have befriended the child monarch. And, he actually sees that training Louis as a Musketeer could be a very good thing for the kingdom's future – but M. de Tréville doesn't want to be held responsible should anything go wrong. So, he continues to pretend that he knows “nothing about anything” – and yet, there always seems to be an extra training saber, an extra set of rations for a fifth person (and a fifth horse), and, when it's time for the four trainees to practice their spying techniques at a nearby country fair? Yes, *somehow* a fifth disguise will appear – and it will be a perfect fit for Louis.

Quelle surprise!

A SAMPLE STORY

REMI, LEO, PIERRE and AMY are outside on the training field, diligently practicing their equestrian and fencing skills under the watchful eye of their tutor, MONSIEUR DE TRÉVILLE.

The training is hard work – but it's also clearly a lot of fun.

The four young friends are playing a game that can only be described as ‘medieval soccer’ – Leo and Pierre battle for possession of the ball, while Amy uses her long arms and legs to defend the goal. Clever Pierre fakes to the left, then dodges to the right and drives the ball into the rope netting with an awesome kick.

Score! As Pierre celebrates, he hears a sound coming from the branches of the large oak tree at the edge of the training field.

“Someone's in our tree!” Pierre and the others head over to investigate, but Monsieur de Tréville blocks their path. Reminding them that 1) The tree isn't ‘theirs’, because “That tree belongs to the crown”, and 2) The trainees have a schedule they need to follow – the stable master is expecting them for their afternoon ride, and they had better not be late!

Properly apologetic, the Mini Musketeers grab their gear and race to the stables.

As soon as the four friends are on their horses and riding away, Monsieur de Tréville walks over to the oak tree and looks up – there, hiding in the tree’s leafy branches, he sees the six-year-old ruler of France, KING LOUIS XIV.

The timid little king climbs down – he knows he’s supposed to be inside with his history tutor. But it is all so dull and boring – and watching Remi, Leo, Pierre and Amy training for the Musketeers is so much more exciting!

Louis gathers his courage and asks M. de Tréville to allow him to train with the four Mini Musketeers – but de Tréville refuses. We can tell that this is not the first time the two have had this conversation, and as Louis alternately begs and cajoles, the training master remains unmoved – however, he does remind Louis that just like every trainee in the Musketeers of the Guard, the king must practice his riding skills.

Young Louis heads to the stables, where the royal stable master is waiting for him, holding the reins for HERCULES, the giant, broad-chested, Bay gelding that the stable master insists is the “perfect horse” for the king to ride.

Louis takes a deep breath and swings into the saddle – it should be clear to anyone who knows anything about horses that this is the wrong horse for the little king – but the stable master beams with pride and slaps the horse on his withers. “Giddy up!”

Hercules leaps into a gallop, as Louis holds on for dear life!

A short while later, Remi, Leo, Pierre and Amy are joyfully racing their horses across the French countryside – suddenly, they hear a desperate cry for help and discover that their royal monarch, the King of France, Louis XIV, is trapped in the large oak tree near their training field – and the tree is surrounded by wild boars.

The four friends use their wits – and their acrobatic horsemanship – to chase away the wild pigs and rescue the frightened young royal.

Although he won’t tell them what happened, the Mini Musketeers are able to put together the clues and soon learn that poor Louis was the victim of a cruel prank by the beautiful and bratty MILLIE, the seven-year-old daughter of one of the king’s courtiers.

The little king is embarrassed that the stampeding pigs caused him to fall off his horse – and he’s certain the young cavaliers are going to make fun of him. But, instead of teasing their fledgling ruler, Remi, Leo and Amy offer to help teach Louis some riding tricks and fencing techniques.

While his friends work with Louis, Pierre cleverly arranges for a local pig farmer to gather the pigs – and herd them through the streets at the precise moment that Millie is leaving the milliner’s shop, carrying her brand new, and very expensive, hat. The wild boars start running through the street – Millie leaps to safety, and watches in dismay as her fashionable new chapeau ends up trampled in the mud.

Sooooey!

FUTURE STORIES

Louis is the focal point of most of our stories and he is the ‘mission’ around which the series revolves. But Louis is not the star of the series, he is the device that launches our four Mini Musketeers, Remi, Leo, Pierre and Amy, on their adventures.

Louis is alternately:

- the ‘victim’ that needs to be protected and/or rescued
- the ‘little brother’ that needs to be shown how (and why) to behave better/differently
- the token ‘average, not heroic’ kid against whom our far-above-average heroes are measured
- the ‘palace insider’ who has information our heroes need to get to the right place at the right time to save the day

But, Remi, Leo, Pierre and Amy aren’t just protecting their king – they are also trying to teach Louis the skills he needs to help defend himself.

Eventually, Louis will gain the skills, confidence and courage he needs to become the fifth Musketeer – ready to fulfill his destiny as the king that the world will know as “Louis the Great”!