

THE MINI MUSKETEERS™



SERIES OVERVIEW

“All for one and one for all”

...never goes out of style!

Everyone knows The Three Musketeers. Those swashbuckling buccaneers of honor and derring-do have captured the imagination of audiences for over a century. But there are still stories of adventure and intrigue to be told...starring a lovable new group of heroes.

Introducing “The Mini Musketeers”, an animated action adventure series that puts a new twist on a classic tale for the junior generation.

Aimed at boys and girls, 4-7, these 11-minute stories are designed to excite and spark the imagination of preschoolers and older siblings alike. The older end of preschool opens opportunities for slightly more sophisticated storytelling, while staying true to the important social-emotional themes that put heart into every adventure.

The series focuses on the big and small adventures of Remi, Leo, Pierre and Aimee; the four young nieces and nephews of their famous uncles. These Mini Musketeers live together in the royal palace where they are training to serve and protect King Louis and his kingdom. And, given that Louis is a 5-year-old handful, serving and protecting him is a unique challenge indeed!

Under the supervision of their teacher, Monsieur de Tréville, their days involve showing King Louis how to be a good role model to his subjects, exciting training exercises preparing them for any challenge, and embarking on helping adventures in the King’s palace and throughout the kingdom in hopes of one day being just like their idols, the Three Musketeers.

While they may be descendants of legendary heroes, they’re still just kids. Their training often goes awry and rescuing the King from a royal blunder almost always leads to even bigger problems. But with the supervision of their teacher and the occasional involvement of one or all of the original Musketeers, the Mini Musketeers are discovering that every day can be a royal adventure, and every mistake is a lesson waiting to be learned.

It’s important to note that the Mini Musketeers are not just pint-sized versions of the originals. While they each share a touch of their respective uncle’s character, they are true individuals who are not only learning every day how to be adventure heroes, but how to also be kind people and loyal friends. That, of course, is the most heroic adventure of all!

THE STORIES

By steering clear of a strict bookend formula, we can tell a wider variety of tales full of action, comedy and heart, all with a classic 'storybook kingdom' feel.

The stories will tend to fall into three categories:

- 1) The Mini Musketeers training exercise leads to unexpected conflict.
- 2) They need to rescue the King from problems of his own making or from an external conflict.
- 3) They are called to be helpful in the community and King Louis comes along with them, most likely adding to the chaos.

The Mini's helping adventures may be as simple as showing King Louis proper table manners in preparation for a special guest or as complicated as helping to find and rescue one of Aimee's pets who is wreaking havoc in the village!

D'Artagnan and the Three Musketeers also influence the spirit and actual adventures of the Minis. Sharing stories of their travels inspires the kids to go in search of helping adventures outside the palace gates (with some grownup supervision), sometimes biting off much more than they can chew. On a seemingly simple mission, having four very different personalities and a monarch who can barely tie his own shoes, things never go exactly as planned.

Of course, nothing is ever too perilous for our little heroes. This is preschool, after all – no one's getting whacked by swords or jumping across rooftops. There is no Cardinal Richelieu stirring up trouble, and any espionage would take the form of King Louis tattling on a friend rather than matters of national security. While adventure is high and the setting is grand, our stories are always rooted in kid-relatable conflict, exciting but not scary jeopardy and a healthy dose of silly comedy. Kids might not relate to protecting a king (though who doesn't aspire to live in a castle?), but they can relate to helping their friends, trying their best and the challenge of learning new things.

INTRODUCING THE MINI MUSKETEERS (and their ponies)

REMI (6) *Niece of D'Artagnan*

Small, fast, and fearless; Remi is our group daredevil. Always ready for action but lacking in impulse control, this little spitfire leaps first and looks later. It is a trait that not only gets her in trouble, but often leads her fellow Minis straight into chaos. In fact, digging Remi out of trouble can sometimes become the main adventure!

Despite often leaving a trail of turmoil in her wake, reckless Remi somehow manages to always come out smelling like a rose... even when the others don't! Remi may be the smallest of the group, but make no mistake. She's a fierce competitor and a natural athlete who's still discovering her limits ... and her potential! Remi's heart is as big as her ambitions, and while she tends to take on more than she can handle, she'd do absolutely anything for her friends.

REMIE'S PONY

TEMPÊTE is a sleek black beauty as fearless as her rider.

PIERRE (5) *Nephew of Aramis*

This chubby-cheeked, mischievous boy is King Louis's BFF and by far the most easily distracted of the Mini Musketeers. Pierre is our little class clown who will do almost anything for a laugh. The fact that Louis is technically the ruler of an entire nation is a nonissue for Pierre – he just thinks that Louis is a blast to hang out with! And, except for the fact that he's in training to help to protect him (which he would do anyway because, BFF), to Pierre his buddy's regal status mostly means the access to the best snacks and toys in the kingdom! Louis thinks Pierre is hilarious and Pierre loves him for it – he loves nothing more than tickling Louis's funny bone with his silly pranks and continues to push the envelope which can often get both him and Louis into trouble.

PIERRE'S PONY

BUTTERMILK is the sweet and sturdy, yellow pony that Pierre's had since he was just a baby back on his family's farm. She prefers to graze and nap out in the sunny country than do training drills.

AIMEE (6) *Niece of Porthos*

This gentle ginger nature lover is happier in a field of clover communing with butterflies than obstacle course training and turret climbing with her fellow Minis (despite her height - or maybe because of it - physical coordination is definitely not her strong suit). Aimee's thoughtful, mellow nature is actually her strength. While she may come across as having her head in the clouds, make no mistake that inside that 6-year-old body is a little Zen master who can find the most unlikely solutions to any problem.

Aimee has a special relationship with animals, especially her Pony. She tends to a coterie of exotic palace creatures brought back to her from her Uncle Porthos's worldly travels. She's not quite Dr. Doolittle but she does have a knack for communicating with critters which can come in handy -- you never know when you might need a ride from a rhino or a message sent via parrot express!

AIMEE'S PONY

FLEUR is the salt and pepper colored companion that was a gift from Aimee's uncle. Young Fleur first came to Aimee with a problem with one of his front legs that Leo remedied with a clever apparatus to help him keep up with the other ponies. He can even delight Aimee with a dressage-type move now and then. Aimee adores Fleur, appreciating that what he may lack in physical prowess he makes up for with affection and loyalty.

LEO (7) *Nephew of Athos*

Leo's poise, polish and natural intellect comes from his posh heritage and slightly older age. He's our resident MacGyver who's great at finding ways to 'plus up' an adventure with any number of wacky inventions made from things you might find in 17th Century France! He's been known to swoop in on a Da Vinci-inspired flying machine, to race along on a mechanical horse, and even race a pair of gigantic roller skates made with carriage wheels!

(Note: Not all of Leo's 'alternative rides' are successful, in fact, his mechanical ones often fail – quite spectacularly!)

LEO'S PONY

DA VINCI was named after Leo's favorite inventor and is likewise a very clever horse with a mind of his own. Leo has also 'tricked out' Da Vinci with a custom-made carriage that's stockpiled with a wide arrange of wacky accessories since you never know when you might need to invent something!

Trumpet intro, please! Da-da-da-DAAAA!

KING LOUIS XIV (5)

All hail the king! But first, make sure he's up from his nap – Louis tends to get a little cranky without it! Yes, he's spoiled and a little self-centered. He is a king, after all. (Really, he was a king. We're flipping the history books here, with a nod to the Sun King). But it's not in an obnoxious way... Louis's just a bit clueless. Bossy, and full of bravado one moment then afraid of his own shadow the next, our pint-sized royal is both completely frustrating and utterly lovable. At only 5 years old, Louis still has so much to learn about life, much less being a proper king. You can't expect much more from a boy who has only known life behind palace walls and is used to having everything a child could ever imagine. Consequently, Louis is completely unable to handle even the slightest conflict, much less the ability to properly rule a kingdom! Thankfully he has the Mini Musketeers to look after him. Louis adores the little heroes (especially Pierre). They're the only playmates he's ever had, and he delights in tagging along on their training missions and rescue adventures... even though he's often the one being rescued!

LOUIS'S PONY

HERCULES is not actually a pony like the others, but a massive, noble Bay gelding befitting the King of France. Too bad Louis's way too small and weak to handle him! Fortunately, Pierre is always ready, willing and able to help with the reins. Hercules considers himself, at least, as important as the king and makes sure all the other ponies know it!

A NOTE ABOUT THE HORSES

The ponies can talk to each other but only when people aren't around. A bit like a Greek chorus, the ponies are always amused by their master's antics and as loyal to them as they are to each other.

MONSIEUR DE TRÉVILLE

Monsieur de Tréville is the Mini Musketeer's gentleman teacher and trainer who taught their uncles back in the day. A fencing master, guardian, riding coach, cook and disciplinarian, Monsieur acts as both parent and teacher to his young charges who adore and respect him. And, because they spend so much time together, he has relented to taking the king under his wing as well. Underneath his reserved and formal demeanor, Monsieur de Tréville is actually a very soft touch. He's endlessly patient, comically unflappable and, despite the trouble they may cause around the castle, always supportive of his students. "Monsieur" teaches the kids everything from the importance of honor and loyalty to keeping your room clean, rope climbing, spying, and eating your green beans! Monsieur de Tréville is the grandfather of Millie and her older teenage sister Collette.

THE FOUR UNCLES (the Original Musketeers)

While the Mini Musketeers will always be front and center in our stories, D'Artagnan, Athos, Aramis, and Porthos will make occasional cameo appearances individually or as a group, lending a helping hand and teaching the up and comers a thing or two!

D'ARTAGNAN

Still dashing and debonair, D'Artagnan pops in unexpectedly to visit his niece, Remi, and check on her training, often bringing her and her friends little treats and small treasures from his latest adventures. D'Artagnan learned the hard way that cheating never pays and reminds the kids to follow their gut and do the right thing.

ATHOS

A gentleman scholar who travels the world. He 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

Though Pierre's uncle enjoys pleasant and carefree days hanging about the palace grounds, he is still a Musketeer at heart, and loves to regale the kids with (tall) tales of his swashbuckling days.

PORTHOS

The oldest and strongest of the original Musketeers, distinguished Porthos still has more strength and stamina than most people half his age and takes any opportunity to show off his athletic finesse. Especially his fencing skills. He still thinks of himself as a Musketeer ("Once a Musketeer, Always a Musketeer!") the Minis make a great audience for Porthos, who loves any excuse to get back in action!

SUPPORTING CHARACTERS

QUEEN ANNE (Louis's mom)

Spend a little time with the Queen and you'll understand why Louis is the way he is. This daffy matriarch just revels in coddling and spoiling her son rotten. But it's just because she 'wuvv her widdle wuv bug soooo much!' And Louis, of course, revels in it. A golden carriage for rolling through the halls? Done. The royal symphony to play him to sleep? No problem, when you're the Queen of France. Queen Anne is also extremely protective of the future king which makes his adventures with the Mini Musketeers (many unbeknownst to mom) all the more delicious.

COLETTE (16)

Monsieur de Tréville's teenaged granddaughter is his teaching apprentice and our nurturing feminine presence. Colette is like everyone's favorite babysitter, appearing as needed to support the kids in the day to day and easily giving in to their pleas to stay up later or keep the blanket fort up in the grand hall just a little bit longer. The kids love Colette who is warm and kind but still has enough 'kid' in her to get caught up in their fun.

MILLIE (6)

Millie is our 'Nellie Olson' of the Kingdom and the complete opposite of her sister, Colette. Primped and pressed within an inch of her life, Millie looks like the picture of propriety, but her behavior is often anything but. Since her own life is woefully unadventurous, she entertains herself by tripping up the Minis plans whenever she can. Of course, she's more jealous than villainous and, since it's not in the Mini Musketeer's nature to be unkind to anyone, they put up with Millie and offer to include her in their fun.

LEXI the bunny & DUMAS the squirrel

These woodland critters are the best of friends, providing a 'slapsticky' comic thread to each episode as they scamper around the castle grounds emulating the young heroes' swashbuckling antics and sometimes finding themselves on the wrong end of a training drill (to comic effect of course!). Lexi and Dumas cannot talk, but we can easily understand them through their sounds and actions.

SAMPLE EPISODES

LIKE MUSKETEER, LIKE MINI MUSKETEER

The Minis are ecstatic when their uncles make a surprise visit to the palace by request from the Queen. It's not long before D'Artagnan and the Three Musketeers are playfully jousting and dazzling the kids with an incredible tale of a memorable past adventure. The kids beg their uncles to help them reenact a similar scenario of derring do – what better way to learn heroics than from the originals? Trying hard to impress and emulate their uncles, the Minis overreach and show off as the swashbuckling buccaneers they think they should be, only to get themselves into such zany predicaments, they need to be rescued themselves! The Three Musketeers help the Minis see that they each have their own unique strengths and the world needs all kinds of heroes!

CASTLE CAMPOUT

The Musketeers are super excited to go on an overnight camping adventure in the woods just beyond the palace grounds. They've spent the day learning simple 'nature lessons', with Monsieur de Tréville teaching them how a Musketeer must be prepared to help anytime day or night, inside or out. Despite only ever having slept in his royal quarters, Louis insists he loves camping, and tags along. They all work together to pitch tents, gather firewood, etc. But unsurprisingly, Louis is not at all helpful and it's not long after sunset when the King begins to panic at every sound and shadow, including his own! The shenanigans progress throughout the evening with Leo setting a clever (and utterly harmless) trap for the 'wild creature hiding in the darkness' that Louis is convinced will eat him for dinner. But of course, it's Louis that gets caught in the trap and the wild creature is just Buttercup, sniffing her way to some tasty marshmallows!

THIS PLACE IS A ZOO!

Aimee is devastated to find that someone left the gate open in the royal zoo (uh, Louis?) and most of the animals have escaped! Mini Musketeers to the rescue! With the added help of Colette and Aramis, their trusty ponies and some nifty inventions from Leo, the gang chases down clues to the escaped critters' whereabouts. All through the palace and into the village they charge, helping rescue and undo the chaos caused by the runaway (and flyaway!) critters and return them safely to the zoo. Hooray for the Mini Musketeers!

WORD OF HONOR

Pierre's playful prank backfires causing Louis to accidentally break a very special award that was bestowed upon the Three Musketeers for their acts of courage and honor a long time ago. When Monsieur de Tréville asks all of the Minis if anyone saw what happened, he's met with awkward silence. Afraid of himself or the King getting in trouble, Pierre pleads with his friends not to tell ("All for one and one for all, right?"). Trying to be loyal and help, one by one, the other Minis go to Monsieur to 'confess', telling a tall tale (that we see played out in their imaginations) of how they were the one that broke the award, each more elaborate and comically convoluted than the next. With Pierre and Louis being the only ones who haven't come forward, Monsieur's suspicions are confirmed. Louis finally confesses and, after a gentle talk from Monsieur de Tréville about honesty and honor, he and Louis repair the reward and Pierre promises to stop pranking... at least for a little while!

MY KINGDOM FOR A PIE

It's the day of the Royal Feast and the kingdom is buzzing with excitement! Except for the royal baker who has discovered that something or someone has eaten all of the blueberries he picked for the pies. Quelle disaster! Everyone knows the Queen must have her blueberry pie! The Minis put their hiding and sleuthing skills to the test, staking out the kitchen where they discover none other than King Louis sneaking in and eating all the blueberries! And it's almost time for the Royal Feast to begin! After helping Louis see that his mindless munching means no pie for Mom, the little heroes spring into action, picking more berries and helping the baker make a bundle of blueberry pies in a flash, as only these sweet swashbucklers can!