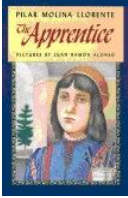


Passages

Reading Level 7



Title: The Apprentice

Author: Pilar Molina Llorente

Sample From The Book

My house was a small and pleasant one. It had a courtyard with a bronze fountain in the shape of a fish's head and a tall gallery, full of light and flowers. What I liked best about it, though, was the large window in the gallery that opened onto the square and the bustling outdoor market. I sat at that window nearly every morning, before I went to work in my father's tailor shop, and tried to draw the postures and gestures of the vendors in their stalls and the expressions of their customers. Again and again I realized that no one has the same nose as anyone else and that each person has a different way of walking.

One morning, I stayed later than usual at the gallery window. My father's voice brought me back from my world of lines and shadings and dropped me roughly into the reality of the workday.

"Arduino, are you going to spend the whole morning at the window? There's work to be done." He was standing at the gallery door.

I put down my paper and pencil and followed him toward the tailor's shop, which was part of our house. There, day after day, my grandfather, my father, my brothers, and I put in the thousands of stitches that together formed each piece and then the finished garments. The clicking of the needles against the thimbles counted the seconds.



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