Marie Antoinette



0. Marie Antoinette - Story Preface

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Portrait of Marie Antoinette painted by Vigée-Lebrun in 1779. Maintained by the Palace of Versailles. Image online, courtesy Wikimedia Commons.

Courage!
I have shown it for years;
think you I shall lose it
at the moment when my sufferings are to end?

Marie Antoinette Queen of France

<u>Maria Theresa</u>, mother of sixteen children, had the best interests of her country in mind when she selected a husband for <u>her daughter</u>. A meaningful political alliance, not a love match, was most important to the Empress as she determined the future of her <u>youngest girl</u>.

At fifteen - the average age of a high-school sophomore - <u>Marie Antoinette</u> (then called Antoine) left her family's home in Vienna to solidify an Austro-Hungarian alliance with France (previously longstanding enemies). Within four years, the young foreigner would become queen of her adoptive country.

Had she lived to learn her child's fate, Antoinette's mother - the daughter of <u>Charles VI</u> and the <u>only woman</u> to be Empress of the Holy Roman Empire - would surely have regretted her political-marriage decision.

See Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at: http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/Marie-Antoinette

See Learning Tasks for this story online at:

http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/Marie-Antoinette

Media Stream



Marie Antoinette - 1769 Portrait

Image of the young Marie Antoinette, online courtesy Wikimedia Commons. PD

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Maria Theresa - Mother of Marie Antoinette

Image online, courtesy the <u>nndb.com</u> website.

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Marie Antoinette, Age 16

Joseph Kreutzinger painted this pastel-on-parchment of the future Queen in 1771. The original is currently maintained at the Schönbrunn Palace.

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Marie Antoinette, Age 7
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