

Framed!: A T.O.A.S.T. Mystery*

By James Ponti

*This book has been approved for both Elementary and Intermediate SSYRA lists. All materials can be adapted by the teacher as determined according to the age level and/or ability.

Annotation

- Florian has just moved to Washington, D.C. He's learning his way around using **TOAST**, which stands for the **Theory of All Small Things**, a technique he invented to solve life's little mysteries. But when he teaches it to his new friend, Margaret, they uncover a mystery that isn't little. Not little at all, but part of a much bigger picture!

Book Talk

- Pssst! Shhhhhh...Hey, you! You're halfway through your homework, and the director of the FBI keeps texting you for help. Quick! What do you do -- save your grade or save the country? If you're Florian Bates, you figure out a way to do both using TOAST. No, not the crunchy bread kind or croutons, but instead, a technique to solve life's little mysteries -- the **Theory of All Small Things**. Can Florian decipher the clues AND finish his homework in time to help the FBI solve the case? Or will they ALL be toast?

Book Trailers

- Book Review (not really a trailer):
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=utfpZvTaMKQ>

Author on the Internet

- Website: <https://www.jamesponti.com/>
- Twitter: @JamesPonti
- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/events/1569893999889711/>
- Tumblr: <https://www.tumblr.com/tagged/james-ponti>
- Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/jamespontibooks/>

Items to use in a library display

- Frames
- Artwork
- FBI badge
- Magnifying glass
- Impressionist paintings, including Monet's *Woman with a Parasol* and Renoir's *Child with Toys*.
- Maps, money of Eastern Europe
- Art easel and paints

Book Club Discussion Questions/Topics

- The idea of TOAST is to add up a lot of little details to reveal a larger truth. What does it mean to ‘pay attention to details’? Give examples of details from the story.
- See the Curriculum Guide that contains discussion questions:
http://d28hgpri8am2if.cloudfront.net/tagged_assets/2326961/framed_cg.pdf

First Line of the Book:

- “My name’s Florian Bates.”

Non-Fiction Companion Title(s):

- *An Eye for Art: Focusing on Great Artists and Their Work*
- *Washington D.C.* by Claire O’Neal
- Usborne’s *Impressionistic Paintings*, by Sarah Courtauld (activity cards)
- *13 Art Mysteries Children Should Know*, by Angela Wenzel (gr. 4-7)
- *Spot the Differences, Book 3: Art Masterpiece Mysteries* (Dover Children’s Activity Books)

What to Read Next

- *Alex Rider* series by Anthony Horowitz
- *Eye of the Crow* by Shane Peacock (all in series)
- *Moving Target* by Christina Diaz Gonzalez
- *Vanished!: A T.O.A.S.T. Mystery*, by James Ponti (available August, 2017)
- *Eddie Red Undercover* (series), by Marcia Wells

Other Books by this Author:

- *Dead City*
- *Dead City 2: Blue Moon*
- *Dead City 3: Dark Days*
- *Vanished!: A T.O.A.S.T. Mystery - 2* (available August 2017)

Additional Resources

- Music: Theme to *The Pink Panther*
- Poetry: Create acrostics.
- Art/craft activity: Create individual paintings after a brief study of the Impressionistic era.
- Game: Pictionary, Charades, Clue (little details for the larger picture)
- Host a mystery in your library! James Ponti wrote a mystery game you can play with your students. Just download the files here, and you’ll have everything you need! <https://www.jamesponti.com/schools>
- Join Omega! <https://www.jamesponti.com/wmega>
- Interview with the author: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6vBQTRHifJE>
- Lesson ideas: “Curriculum Guide”
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