

Mary's Adventures

BY POLISH, MALTESE & SPANISH STUDENTS
ETWINNING PROJECT 2018



MANUEL GARCÍA, ED.PRIMARIA COLEGIO ÁBACO



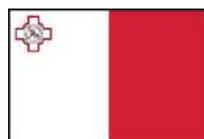
“Every Child wants to Read Write a Book so let’s read Write a Book Together”

Polish, Maltese and Spanish students contributed to this book

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CHAPTER 1

POLAND

NIEPUBLICZNA SZKOŁA PODSTAWOWA "SZKOŁA PRZYSZŁOŚCI"



Mary is a girl with a head full of ideas. She is open to new adventures. She loves exploring the world and learning about new places. She is cheerful and happy. She always helps her younger sister and loves her older brother who as a teenager has his whims, but Mary has never been disappointed by him.

This summer, Mary's parents promised the children a special surprise. The girl couldn't wait to get the surprise. It could be a new toy, a bike or maybe a new book for the collection. Mary loves reading so much. She completed her school year with a reward for good academic performance and an exemplary behaviour.

Mary is a very smart girl and she is determined in achieving her goals. She is very nice and friends can always count on her. Mary is 9 years old and she has just finished third class.

On the first day of the holidays Mary was very happy because she could not wait to get the surprises her parents had promised. She liked holidays very much and she knew that she will be going somewhere. In the evening, her parents announced that the next day they were going to take the kids to the Old Town to inform them about the surprise that they had prepared for them.

The Old Town in the centre of Warsaw is the place where you can admire the old buildings, the Royal Castle and monuments. You can walk there and watch the Warsaw Mermaid Statue. Everytime Mary walked there she felt happy because she could run, feed the pigeons, and buy scoops of her favorite ice cream. She was looking forward for the next day with great enthusiasm.



"Well", dad said, "I have some days off from work during the holidays! We are going to have an adventure of life! We are going to the place where our camper will take us!" "Hooray!" the children shouted.

"Oh, God! You'll get a sore throat and we will not go anywhere!" mum said, calming them down.

It was certain that no one will sleep calmly. After she came home, Mary started to make a list of necessary things. She thought that she would need to buy a shovel, a hammock and a harmonica. For her sister, she needed a Rubik's Cube, and a pocket knife for her brother. "Will all these be useful for us?" Mary asked herself.

It was 9 o'clock in the morning. The family went for the walk through the old town. They went to the Royal Palace to admire the royal chamber, paintings, furniture and equipment. Mary saw a souvenir shop. From there she bought a magnet with a castle and a cap with the inscription OLD TOWN on it. Suddenly she felt hungry. Fortunately, there was a restaurant: "Z gara i z piecã which means "From the pot and from the oven". It was her favourite restaurant. She was in the mood for pancakes with cheese and raspberries topped with chocolate.

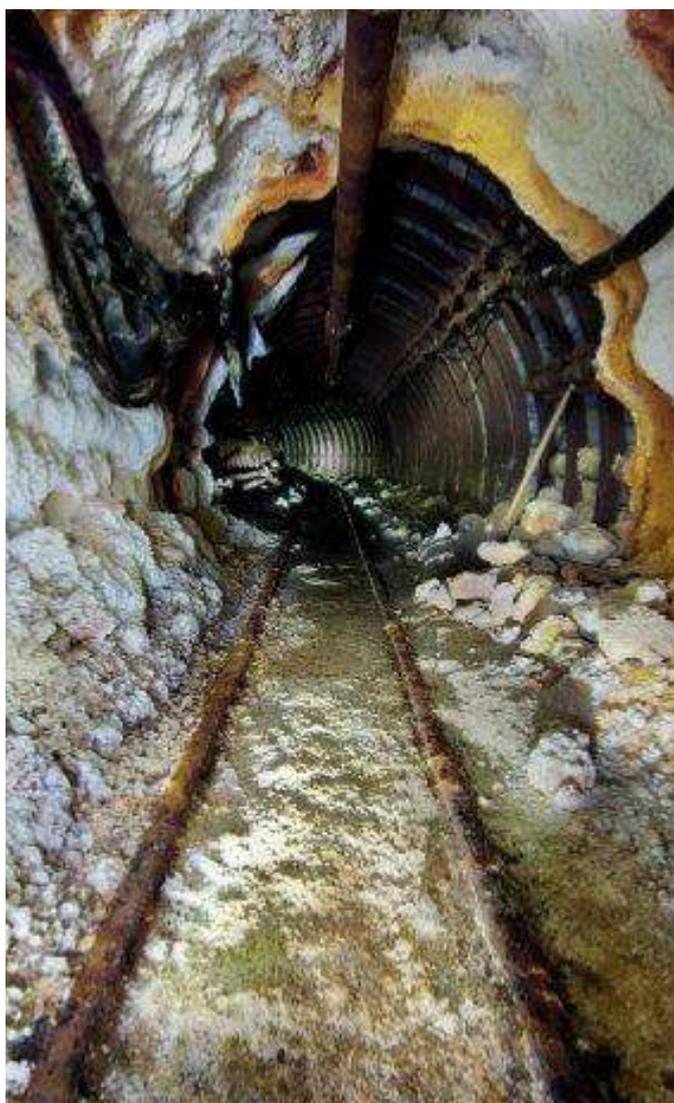
After dinner, her parents ordered a horse-drawn carriage ride. Suddenly the horse turned into an unknown street, which led to the forest. They got lost. The horse rode ahead without stopping. It was getting darker and darker . . .
-Wake up! Wake up! -screamed mum. It turned out that Mary had fallen asleep in a carriage after lunch

Finally, they went to the Multimedia Fountain Park where you could watch water jumping to the rhythm of music and lights. While they were resting on the bench, dad decided to tell kids about the surprise he prepared for the holidays.



Early the next morning, the alarm clock started to ring. It was 8 a.m. Mary, her sister and her brother woke up and started waking up their parents. It was quite late for the "adventure of life". When their parents got up, Mary and her siblings were already packing. Her sister went crazy and packed all her toys instead of her clothes. Mary's brother packed clothes, a phone and a charger. Of course, the parents took everything they really needed. They packed everything and everyone got into the camper and moved on.

Krakow was the first stop. In the past it was the capital city of Poland. Now it's Warsaw. Krakow is a beautiful place. Mary couldn't wait to see Wawel, St. Mary's Basilica, Barbican and her favourite - The Wawel Dragon. She was in Krakow many times, but the story about the dragon always excited her. The dragon hides in a "Dragon Cavé, in Krakow.



Legend says, that Szewczyk defeated the dragon. He prepared a sheep stuffed with sulfur for the dragon. After eating it, the dragon was thirsty so he went to the river and drunk so much water that he exploded! People could sleep peacefully again because the dragon was dead. Mary knew this legend perfectly because she learned about it at school. While visiting the Dragon's Cave, they learned many interesting things from the tour guide.

After a long walk Mary's parents decided to go for lunch. This time they ate delicious dumplings. Everyone chose something else. Mary and her sister chose dumplings with fruit and whipped cream, dad chose dumplings with meat and mum dumplings with spinach, because she is always on diet. Her older brother is modern, so he ordered pancakes with lentils instead.

After the dinner they moved on. The children fell asleep on their beds in their camper for a short while. Mary was reading a book on their way to Wieliczka. It was a book about a girl who had power. She could talk to animals. After a while, she had to stop reading because her little sister started screaming. She wanted her brother's phone. The dispute between them started and her sister cried and her mother screamed. Phew... They finally arrived. They were now in Wieliczka.



Wieliczka is a place known for the salt mine. You can go down and visit the corridors that miners pass through every day. We went down the stairs. Mary wanted to count them, so ... One, two, three ... Oh, but there were a lot of them. Suddenly someone screamed ... SALT!!!

They didn't know what it was because it was dark inside. The walls were made of salt and they could lick them. The guide said that the DRAGON lived there!!! They could even see his egg. The children watched the movie about Wieliczka Princess and dug out her ring. At the end they bought some gifts and Mary was the first in the line and she bought a piece of salt as a souvenir of her visit to the salt mine.

After the Wieliczka attractions Mary was exhausted. She couldn't wait to arrive at Zakopane and go for long walks through the valleys and many see other attractions.

When the family reached the place Mary heard a scream. It was her sister. The girl was sure that she will see the ski slopes, the toboggan runs and a lot of snow. At this moment, she believed her parents that it was summer and she will not ski and ride sledges. After the arrival at the camping place, the family started changing clothes. They put on sportswear.

"Why don't you change your clothes?" mother asked Mary's older brother
"I have to finish this round!"
"Immediately," said mother
"All right. I'm coming," said the boy with an angry look on his face.

Meanwhile, the whole family was ready to continue their adventure. This was a trip to Chochołowska Valley. Dad started the camper van quickly and drove along the road as fast as he could. Their trip had started. Mum packed supplies, water and a medicine box. The trip was supposed to be great. They had only 20 minutes to ride to the shelter. They were very tired when suddenly they saw the shelter. They went in quickly. Mary asked for sour rye soup and her siblings ordered the same. Her parents ordered black pudding. Sour rye soup is a delicious soup. It is white soup served with sausages which is called Biała which means white sausage

Black pudding is a black sausage, which tastes best with mustard and bread. After they ate, they got dressed and started going back to the car. The route was 2 hours long, but they were persistent and came back quickly to the camper van. When the adventure finished, all of them were tired and proud because they had almost walked 10 kilometres. When they came back they walked across the Krupówki - the most famous street in Zakopane. They admired shops with souvenirs and good restaurants. They bought some souvenirs; obviously Mary bought a lot of them. They ate "oscypki" too which are popular highlander cheeses. All the family enjoyed their adventure in Zakopane a lot and they will never forget it.

What is going to happen to them in the next trip? You can find the answer to this question in the next chapter.



CHAPTER 2

MALTA**DUN ĠORĠ PRECA COLLEGE, HAMRUN GP #**

After exploring Poland, Mary travelled to Malta by Air Malta to explore this tiny island situated in the middle of the Mediterranean Sea.

Upon arrival at Gudja International Airport, Mary met a pair of twins, Tony (Toni) and Margaret (Gerita), who were waiting for her to arrive so they could take her around and be her guide during her stay on the island.

Toni and Gerita accompanied their Polish friend to Domus Zammitello, a luxurious Boutique Hotel in Valletta. Mary was excited and did not waste time. She quickly went up to her room to leave her luggage, grabbed her camera and ran downstairs to meet Toni and Gerita for their first adventure in Malta.

Toni and Gerita suggested that they should explore Valletta first. They explained that Valletta is the capital city of Malta and it was built by the Grandmaster Jean de La Vallette in 1500s. Valletta is a fortified city and it is known for museums, palaces and grand churches.

Mary visited St. John's Co-Cathedral dedicated to St. John the Baptist. It was built by the Order of St. John between 1572 and 1577. It was designed by the Maltese architect Girolamo Cassar and it is a fine example of Baroque architecture in Europe.

Mary loved the famous painting of "The Beheading of St. John the Baptist" painted by the famous painter Caravaggio in 1608. Toni and Gerita told Mary that the Cathedral consists of nine chapels.

Eight of them belong to each of the eight languages of the Knights of St. John and are dedicated to their respective patron saints. From the cathedral, Toni, Gerita and Mary, walked all the way down to the Mediterranean Conference Centre. On the way, Mary stopped to buy some souvenirs from the numerous gift shops found in Valletta.





Mary learnt that in the Mediterranean Conference Centre, people perform, dance and sing on a big stage in front of a big audience. Some important meetings and conferences also take place in this place and on such occasions the long halls are decorated with banners and festoons.

Guests are invited to help themselves at long tables with traditional Maltese food and platters including "bigilla", peppered goats' cheese (ġbejniet), stuffed olives and snails, a much loved Maltese delicacy.

Mary was impressed by the beauty and grandeur of this building and Toni explained that this place was a hospital during the reign of the Knights and this was the place where wounded soldiers found help and refuge during the Great Siege of 1565. This place was known as the "Sacra Infermeria" or "Holy Infirmary" and it could hold between 500 and 2,500 patients.

After exploring Valletta, the children were tired and hot because the sun is very hot in Malta especially during Spring and Summer. Toni suggested they should sit down at an open-air café and enjoy an ice-cream while chatting and enjoying each other's company.

The next day was a very beautiful sunny day with clear blue skies and Toni and Gerita prepared to take Mary to the old capital, Mdina. The three children met at Valletta terminus and from there they took Bus Number 52 to Mdina. The trip took about 35 minutes.

As they approached Mdina, Mary could see the old city is a fortified city situated on a hill away from the sea. Gerita told her that the city served as the island's capital during medieval times. The city is still confined within its walls and it has a population of 300 people who live in wonderful houses and palaces away from the hustle and bustle of other Maltese towns and villages. Mdina is also known as the Silent City and it is a main attraction for tourists from all over the world.

As they strolled through the narrow streets, Mary could admire the houses with the typical Maltese balconies, large impressive doors and huge door knobs. She could see a lot of restaurants too. At noon, the three children were feeling hungry and they all went to Palazzo Preca, a delicious restaurant which serves local and foreign food.

At this restaurant, the children ate baked rice, a traditional Maltese plate served with Bolognese sauce and drank Kinnie, a bittersweet fizzy soft drink brewed from bitter oranges and extracts of wormwood. It is made in Malta by Simonds Farsons Cisk and was first sold in 1952. As a dessert, Mary tasted the traditional "imqaret", a sweet made with pastry and filled with dates. These are usually served warm with a scoop of vanilla ice-cream at the side.



Gerita said that her teacher told her that in the past years, Palazzo Preca was a secondary school for girls and it was run by the Dorothean Sisters. After lunch the children went on a relaxing tour around the narrow streets of Mdina in a horse-drawn carriage.

Before leaving the old capital, Toni, Gerita and Mary visited the Natural History Museum which is found next to Mdina's main entrance. This museum was built by Grand Master Antonio Manoel de Vilhena as a palace in 1730 to plans of Charles Francois de Mondion. It was also known as Palace Vilhena and it served as a hospital several times. In 1973, it was inaugurated as the Museum of Natural History. It contains a collection of fossils, shells, insects, butterflies and birds.

In the afternoon, Toni and Gerita suggested they should take a taxi to Buskett Gardens, a woodland area in Malta not very far away from Mdina and to the east of Dingli. These gardens contain deciduous trees which shed their leaves in autumn, coniferous trees such as cypress and fir trees and groves of citrus fruit trees such as oranges and mandarin. Buskett Gardens were planted by the Knights of St. John for hunting purposes.

Buskett gardens are very popular with the Maltese people, who often go for peaceful walks settings or enjoy a picnic in the shade of the trees. The gardens serve as a venue for the Feast of Imnarja, meaning luminaria which means light which is celebrated on 29th June, the feast day of St. Peter and St. Paul. Hundreds of people flock there the previous evening, to eat the traditional Maltese dish of rabbit stew cooked in wine, to listen to traditional folk music and singing, and to enjoy the annual agricultural show in the morning.



Mary, Toni and Gerita sat down under the shade of a huge tree and listened attentively to the chirping of birds singing happily in the trees overhead. They also breathed the fresh air the trees produce and could smell the fragrance of nature around them. Toni and Gerita brought a Maltese ftira to share with Mary. This is a disc-shaped semi-flat bread with tomato paste and filled with olives, capers, onions, tomatoes, lettuce, tuna and olive oil. Mary loved the Maltese ftira very much.

Suddenly, Mary spotted a castle at the far edge of the gardens. Toni and Gerita explained that the castle was the official summer residence of the President of the Republic of Malta and is known as the Verdala Palace. The three children decided to walk towards the castle to explore it and its surroundings too. Verdala Palace is perched on a hilltop overlooking Buskett Gardens. It was built by Grand Master Hughes de Verdalle in 1588 as a summer residence and hunting lodge. The building now serves as the President's summer residence. The palace is not open to the public except for occasions such as the August Moon Ball held annually in aid of the Malta Community Chest Fund. When the children arrived at the gate of the palace, they saw a large crowd of people waiting to be led inside as on that day there was an open-day at the palace.



Toni, Gerita and Marysia counted themselves as they all wished to explore the palace. The road leading up to the palace is lined with trees on either side giving it a very picturesque look. The beautiful greenery and woodland surrounding the palace are absolutely charming. The building itself is surrounded by a stone quarried ditch which served as a defence, making the building two floors high and also five storey towers at each corner.

While inside, the children could admire lovely antique furniture and wonderful paintings and colourful frescos on the ceilings. These were painted by Giuseppe Cali, and show figures from Greek and Roman mythology. In the piano room Mary and her Maltese friends saw a piano and a large carpet which were given to Malta as a gift from China. The children climbed the luxurious staircase designed by Maltese architect Girolamo Cassar. This architect wanted the design of this staircase to be both unique and grand, and so no two stones are the exact same size. It is also an example of Baroque architecture.

Upstairs they saw pictures representing war, peace and the important events in the life of Grandmaster Verdala. From the balcony they saw a wonderful woodland view and then to explore the private bedrooms. One of the bedrooms had a secret spiral staircase which the Grandmaster could escape from if the palace was attacked by enemies. In every room there was the coat-of-arms of different Grandmasters painted on the roof.

In one of the rooms, there was a huge mirror hanging on the wall and the children spent some time seeing themselves in this mirror. Suddenly, Mary stood still and started screaming and ran all the way downstairs. Toni and Gerita followed but they did not know why Mary had reacted in that way. When Mary felt the fresh air, she felt better and was soon calm again. Toni and Gerita asked her what was the matter and she gasped and said, "I saw a lady! I saw a lady!"

Toni and Gerita told Mary about the legend of the Blue Lady. It was about the ghost of a lady wearing a blue dress. She was kept a prisoner in the palace by a Knight who wanted her to marry him against her will. While trying to escape from a window of the palace, she fell to her death. People say that sometimes her ghost is seen roaming the palace and its surroundings.

As the day came to an end, the children took the bus back to Valletta and talked about how they were going to spend the last days before Mary travelled to another European country.

On the next day, Toni and Gerita took Mary to Mosta to see the Rotunda or the Mosta Dome as it is known. This is a Roman Catholic Parish Church dedicated to the Assumption of Our Lady. It was built by the architect Giorgio Grognet de Vasse between 1833 and 1860.



It has the fourth largest dome in the world. This church is famous worldwide because during World War II, on 9th April 1942, a German bomb pierced the dome and fell into the church during mass without exploding and no one was hurt. This event was interpreted by the Maltese as a miracle and to this day the parishioners commemorate this miracle with a thanksgiving mass.

It was Sunday morning and Toni, Gerita and Marysia visited the fishing village of Marsaxlokk situated in the south-east part of the Maltese islands. The village is known for the Marsaxlokk Market which takes place around the village everyday including weekends. Many tourists and Maltese people visit this picturesque village to buy fresh fruit, vegetables and fish from the hawkers and fishermen. The fishermen and their wives were cleaning the fish they had just caught and some were sorting them to sell them fresh to the people who had come over to Marsaxlokk to buy fresh fish. Mary also bought some souvenirs from a hawker who was selling very beautiful Maltese lace.

Marsaxlokk is famous for its fishermen because the inhabitants are historically fishermen who spend their lives on their boats or mending nets on the seashore. Marysia loved the colourful traditional Maltese fishing boats known as the "Luzzu."



The printed eye on each side of the prow is an old Phoenician custom and believed to protect the boats from harm and evil. The small parish church is dedicated to Our Lady of the Rosary also known as The Madonna of Pompeii.

Before leaving Marsaxlokk, the children sat at one of the many restaurants to eat lampuki or dolphinfish, which is the traditional Maltese fish.

Before going back to the airport to fly to another European country, Marysia visited Fort St. Angelo in Birgu, which is one of the three cities in the south of the island. Here Marysia also saw some fishermen fishing from the shore with their fishing rods. They caught small fish which make a very tasty and delicious fish soup.

Fort St. Angelo is a bastioned fort at the centre of the Grand Harbour. It was built as a castle and turned into a strong fort by the Knights of St. John during the Great Siege of 1565. Today it is a UNESCO World Heritage.

Where will Marysia's next adventure be? Read the next chapter to get to know.

CHAPTER 3

SPAIN

COLEGIO ÁBACO



“Where are we going now, dad?” asked Mary excitedly.
“You will find out tomorrow my darling” answered her father.

The next day when Mary woke up, she found some plane tickets on the table. She did not understand what was happening but she knew that something great was coming soon.

A few days later, Mary woke up smiling happily and rubbing her eyes. The plane tickets were taking her to a new country, a new place full of new places to explore and see.

“Spain is such a sunny place and today it is my birthday too. It is such a special day for me today,” Mary thought.

They were travelling to Spain that great place with plenty of beaches and sun. She was very excited, and her brother and sister were excited too.

On the aeroplane, Mary was thinking that they were going to eat the best paella and cocido in the world, because she knew that this type of food is typical in Spain. When they arrived, they went out of Barajas airport in Madrid, the weather was too hot, so she put on her new short dress. She went to the Hotel and slept in her bed. Then, the next day she went to explore Madrid.

They didn't know what to do in Madrid, so they saw a very elegant person and decided to ask his advice. They didn't know he was Felipe VI, the king of Spain. Mary's family got close to him, and Mary's father said, “Hello my friend,” and he patted him on his back. The King was so surprised and said: “What do you want?”

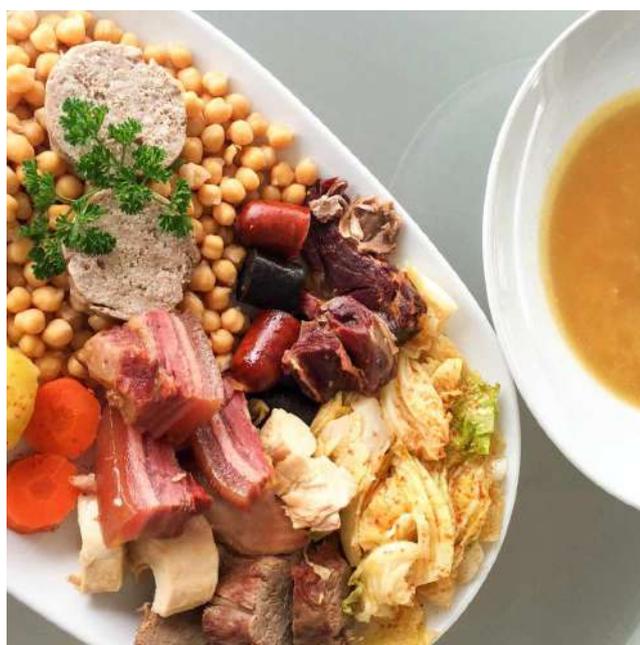


A few minutes later Mary heard one boy say, "Oh my God! It is the King and he is talking with a family." When Mary heard those words she said sorry to the King for disturbing him and they went to have dinner.

As they were going to the hotel they were talking about their meeting with the King. They were so confused that suddenly Mary's father said: "Oh no, I lost my card with all of my personal information!" The next day, at half past ten, Mary's father's phone rang. It was an unknown number, and he didn't recognize it, but he still answered it. "Oh my God!" he shouted, "it is the king!"

Mary's father was very nervous, because he thought that the king was going to punish him because of the way he had treated him. Then he answered - "Hi, I'm so so so sorry. We didn't know that you were the king of Spain because we are from Poland and we didn't know you." The King laughed and he said to Mary's father,

"Don't worry about that. I am only surprised. I am calling you because I found a card with your personal information, you lost it, and I found it on the ground and decided to call you. I want to show you all of our traditional food and monuments and take you on a tour around Madrid."



Mary's father was so surprised and he said to the King, "Oh! I am so happy and grateful. Thank you so much. This is the best holiday we have ever had!"

The king told Mary's father to meet him in a very popular restaurant in Madrid C/ Cava Baja at half past twelve. Mary's father told the news to his family and they started shouting because they were very happy. At the restaurant, they sat down with the king and many of the people who were there, took photos of them. When they finished eating they went out of the restaurant and the king invited them to his castle. In there they talked about their plans. The next day Mary and her family went to Plaza Mayor. They were hungry and wanted to try the typical Spanish food, so they ate a Spanish omelette "tortilla de patata" and a fried squid sandwich because they couldn't eat cocido or paella. In the King's tour, Mary saw some monuments and famous parks like the Retiro.

She also went to Puerta de Alcalá, where she took a lot of photos and uploaded them on Instagram (@mary.happy_08). Mary went to the Prado Museum with her mom and dad and there they saw many pictures. The picture that they liked most was the Meninas painted by Diego Velázquez.



Mary's dad liked football a lot, and he wanted to go on a football tour. So they decided to go to Wanda Metropolitan and the Bernabéu Stadium. At the Bernabeu Stadium, they saw a football match between Real Madrid vs Atlético Madrid. The score was 1-1.

Then there were a lot of street markets. Mary had lunch with her family. There is one typical breakfast in Madrid that is made with fried flour called "churros". Then they visited the archeological museum and the Europe park. Then they went to Madrid River park. In the centre of Madrid there were a lot of souvenir shops and there they bought a pen with a bull and an agenda notepad with the Spanish flag on it.

After that, they went to the Palace Hotel in the centre of Madrid, where they stayed for one night. Mary and her family liked the food a lot. It was amazing! She loved Spanish food. For example they ate cocido stew.

In Spain, it is a typical dish. They thanked the King for the tour around Madrid. The next day, Mary went to Cervantes' house in Esquivias. Miguel de Cervantes was a very famous writer who was born in 1547. The house was very big and nice. It had a kitchen, and a lot of toilets. There were a lot of books in every room.

Then, Mary and her parents went to Barcelona. Mary spent almost ten days there and then she visited the Sagrada Familia, one of the most important churches

They started to build it in 1882, right now it is still under construction and until the year 2026 it will not be finished. Mary went to La Sagrada Familia with her parents and she saw all the building. She bought some souvenirs to remember the church,

After that, they were hungry, so Mary and her parents went to a restaurant. They ate canelones and for dessert they had crema Catalana. Later Mary went to visit the Parque Güell, which is a very big park. It was built by Gaudí between 1900 and 1914. In the Parque Güel they found mosaics with very beautiful colours. Later, Mary went to see the salamander that is a very famous sculpture. In Barcelona there is also a stadium, the Camp Nou, which is Barça's stadium, and Mary went to visit it.

In there they saw Leo Messi and they took a picture with him. Before that, she went to las Ramblas for a walk and she enjoyed the environment and went to the beach to see the Hogueras de San Juan by night.

Barcelona had many things to offer but Mary was told about another place: Zaragoza. Mary and her family travelled there the next day. They went to a rock bridge which was very beautiful, and there they saw lots of tourists. At one o'clock, Mary went to see a stone Monastery and she said that it was breathtaking, it is incredibly beautiful.



When all the members of her family were hungry, they decided to go to one of the typical restaurants in Zaragoza, "the corner of Lorenzo". This restaurant is best known by the Zaragoza people because of its good food and excellent service. It was a four star restaurant. After a very good meal, they rested for a little while and then, they went to see an impressive Roman Catholic Church dedicated to "Our Lady of the Pillar".

In Zaragoza she danced the jota and later she ate ternasco in the best restaurant of Aragón. It was very expensive but it was worth it. They also went to The puente de piedra and it was really beautiful with amazing views. After two hours walking around the centre of Zaragoza they stopped in the Church of Santa Engracia de Zaragoza. There are a lot of things in this city, but they couldn't visit them all because they didn't have much time. Next year they will come back again to finish visiting this wonderful place.

The next stop was in Galicia. Mary and her family were going to see the Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela. They were also going to see and walk around all the surroundings. Next they ate at the Alborada, a very good restaurant with typical food from Galicia. They spent all the afternoon in the Cies Islands. They ate dinner on the beach of Rodas, in a restaurant where you can see a fantastic view of the Rodas beach.



In Málaga (Andalucía), they visited Mijas, that is on the southwest of Spain. They went to many restaurants and ate typical plates like espetos, which is fish cooked on a barbecue. They ate meat too like sausages and salami. They visited the Museum of Picasso. Picasso was a very important painter. Later they went to the Coast of the Sun beach which is very famous, for the Atlantic ocean water there is very clean and cold.

In the afternoon they arrived in Sevilla and they went to the hotel. The next morning they went to visit the The Real Alcázar in Seville, where Mary's sister was lost along the way, La Giralda, Plaza de España, Torre del Oro and María Luisa Park. Then Mary went to the restaurant Mesón Casa Luciano, to eat tuna loin with roasted peppers, lamb chops and homemade cake but Mary did not like the food at all. However her sister loved it. Then, they went to see the football stadium as: El Sánchez Pijuan. At night they went to the Museum of Fine Arts of Seville and to the Archaeological Museum of Seville.

To finish the day they bathed in Lagos del Serrano, Pantano el Pintado and the water was very cold. The worst thing was that Mary's parents and her sister forgot the towel in Poland, so they had to dry up without a towel! They slept at the Barceló Sevilla Renacimiento hotel.



The next day they arrived at Segovia, which is in Castilla y León, and she saw the aqueduct of Segovia. They stayed there for three days in a hotel and visited the Castle of the Catholic Kings. They bought a little figure of the aqueduct of Segovia as a souvenir. Finally, they found what they were looking for; an incredible photography from the castle they had visited before. After buying it, Mary and her family went to the Alcazar to see all the treasured paintings etc... The Alcazar owns a lot of pieces from the Medieval period. While seeing all the figures and paintings of the Alcazar, Mary thought that it would be a good idea to do a little tour around all Segovia, because she was impressed with all the things that she had seen before.

After, they went to Extremadura. They had dinner in the restaurant: Restaurant Extremadura, but this time they went to a house in a forest. They saw the Museum of Cáceres, River Tajo, Museum of Beauty Arts of Badajoz. They could visit the town of Guadalupe which has a famous abbey, and also visit Plasencia, Trujillo, and Hervás, a very beautiful town which a Jewish neighbourhood.

When Mary woke up the following day, she went to visit a family she knew in Valencia in the east of the country by car. In there, she saw the Oceanographic Museum and Bioparc, which is a place where water animals live, such as sharks, fishes, starfishes, whales, turtles, sea horses and many other sea animals and creatures. Mary loved animals and took many photographs of them too. In the afternoon they went to The Gulliver Park.

In Gulliver Park there is a statue of a giant man who had different body parts. There they had a lot of fun. Mary's family gave her tickets to go to see the Stadium of Valencia Football Club. They loved Mestalla. Then Mary and her friends, Antonio and Alicia, went to see the mascleta which is a large row of firecrackers on the beach. At the end of the day, Mary was so tired. After visiting the Parc and the Museum. For dinner, she ate paella, the typical dish of Valencia with her family at a very famous restaurant in front of the beach.

When Mary, Antonio and Alicia were at the Stadium of Valencia, they didn't realize that Mary's family was nowhere to be seen. There were too many people. Mary knew that all of them were lost. Suddenly, Mary remembered. She overheard her dad talking on the phone with a friend. And she knew that they had to get the train to Alicante.

The trip from Valencia to Alicante by train was long. It took them two hours and thirty minutes to arrive and when they were finally there, they were exhausted and very hungry.

So they decided to have a snack at Burger King. Mary was worried she couldn't find her family but she and her friends would not give up so easily. After eating something, the children felt better and they went to the Tourist Office. Luckily there, the woman at the desk told them that some people were looking for them and that they could find them at the San Juan beach if they followed the instructions below properly.



1st: Cross the zebra crossing and go to the bus stop which is opposite the Tourist Office.
2nd: Take the bus number 34 to San Juan beach.

3rd: Do not stop anywhere until the bus reaches its destination.

4th: It will take you 1 hour to get there so don't fall asleep.

Mary and her friends memorized the instructions but they were very tired so all of them fell asleep and when they opened their eyes the bus was in the middle of nowhere. Although they could see some houses and little shops. Apparently, the bus had to take a turn from its destination because of some weird noises coming from the engine of the bus and the bus driver didn't see the children sleeping at the back of the bus.

The bus driver told the children that another bus was coming to get them but they had to wait at least two hours in that small village. The children sat down to wait.

.....An hour later.....

"Let's go to a have a look around the village and explore," Antonio said.

The girls agreed to go.

The village was very small but there were some interesting shops: the bakery, the pharmacy, the bar and the pet shop. The children loved the pet shop. There they saw rabbits and little mice. The man in the shop was very kind. He gave Mary a small rabbit. When the children were back on the bus on their way to town, Mary and her friends smiled to see how "Toby", their new rabbit pet was adapting to them so quickly.



When Mary and her friends arrived at the beach, there were so many people there.

Mary's family was waiting for her and her two friends at the bus stop. They were so worried, but when they saw what Mary was holding, their faces changed.

"Where have you been?" asked Mary's mum. "You wouldn't believe what happened to us, mum" replied Mary blinking one eye. Finally, Mary returned with her family to Madrid. She stayed in the Ritz Hotel and there she met a friend. It turned out that it was her cousin whom she had never seen before and who lived there. Mary and her cousin went to visit the Prado museum and the Puerta del Sol. When they arrived at the hotel they ate dinner. They ate ensaladilla rusa and pringa. Finally, they went to sleep because they were very tired. In the morning, they went to Plaza España to see flamenco dancing. They loved it! Then, they went to the restaurant and asked for chocolate with churros since it is a very typical Spanish breakfast. Later they went to the Plaza Mayor to see more monuments. At noon they went to eat at a restaurant. In the afternoon, they had their last visit to the Prado Museum. They were very tired from walking and returned to the hotel and were soon fast asleep. It was a perfect way to end their vacation before returning to Poland.

When Mary finally arrived in Poland, she uploaded all her photos on her laptop and browsed through them once again to remember the lovely adventure she had spent together with her family. She loved her country very much but Mary will never forget her experiences in Malta and in Spain. She had a lot to relate to her classmates at school!