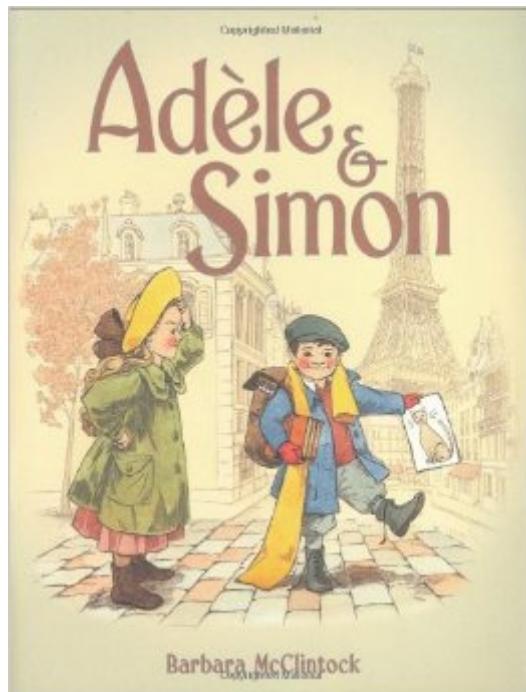


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# Adèle & Simon (Adele & Simon)



## Synopsis

When Simon's older sister, Adèle, picks him up from school, he has his hat and gloves and scarf and sweater, his coat and knapsack and books and crayons, and a drawing of a cat he made that morning. Adèle makes Simon promise to try not to lose anything. But as they make their way home, distractions cause Simon to leave something behind at every stop. What will they tell their mother? Detailed pen-and-ink drawings - filled with soft watercolors - make a game of this unforgettable tour through the streets and scenes of early-twentieth-century Paris. Illustrated endpapers extend the fun by replicating a 1907 Baedeker map of Paris. *Adèle & Simon* is a 2006 New York Times Book Review Best Illustrated Book of the Year and a 2007 Bank Street - Best Children's Book of the Year.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 550L (What's this?)

Series: Adele & Simon

Hardcover: 40 pages

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ISBN-13: 978-0374380441

Product Dimensions: 9.1 x 0.4 x 11.3 inches

Shipping Weight: 14.1 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars (See all reviews) (45 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #240,311 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #153 in Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Explore the World > Europe #216 in Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Historical Fiction > Europe #1098 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Family Life > Siblings

Age Range: 4 - 8 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 3

## Customer Reviews

I'm a bit odd. There is nothing I like more in the entire world than for a picture book to make me feel stupid. I live for the feeling. And, as it happens, it doesn't occur as often as I should like it to. Enter in Barbara McClintock. The unofficial successor to Kate Greenway, Ms. McClintock's books are touch and go affairs. One moment she's penning the unaccountably beautiful, "Dahlia". Next minute

she's scandalizing Beatrix Potter puritans everywhere with her re-illustration of, "A Tale of Two Bad Mice". I always want to count on Ms. McClintock, but I never know how a book is going to come off until I have it sitting smack dab in front of me. The fact that, "Adele and Simon" not only fell into the Good McClintock bin but went above and beyond the call of duty by being smart, beautiful, ludicrously well-detailed, and other terms of high praise... well it's enough to make a librarian like myself weep with joy. For pure unvarnished and unapologetic Francophilia alongside references to art, culture, and a smattering of "Where's Waldo", McClintok's newest is an enjoyable book that deserves as much love as I can heap upon it. At the turn of the twentieth century a girl named Adele picks up her little brother, Simon, from school. Simon's a pleasant kid, but he has an odd tendency to lose his things. Right from the start Adele says to him, "Simon, please try not to lose anything today". Simon replies honestly but with more than a hint of foreshadowing, "I'll try". Together, the two walk about Paris and each place they go Simon loses something new. At first it's just small things. The cat picture he made in school goes missing during a street market. His scarf goes awry in the natural history museum. As the kids continue, however, Simon's losses get bigger.

Imagine letting your kids wander city streets alone for a few hours after school. No cell phones, no nannies, no idea where they are or what they're up to. Not in a hundred years, right? Yup. McClintock takes us back a full century to Paris at its fullest glory, when the Impressionists were still alive and the colorful streets teemed with activity (instead of traffic) and cheerful kids could meander for hours. How different from our own anxious, overscheduled age! Big sister Adele picks up a smiley Simon after school, who's schlepping a full rucksack and the usual cold-weather garb. Since this is pre-Ritalin, he's allowed to be what we once called a typical boy: irrepressible, funny, smart and a complete ruffian. He's off in a dozen directions at once, losing a scarf here or crayons there as he drags his sister through a leafy, sepia-drenched Paris and one gorgeous full-bleed spread after another. We're launched on a "Where's Waldo"-style hunt for all those missing items, which get stuck in trees or a baby carriage or who knows where. I was quite pleased with myself for finding most of them, even as I empathized with Adele's mounting exasperation. McClintock used pen and ink to recreate this wondrous city at its most vital, then filled it in with watercolors. Each spread looks like a period print or vintage postcard, even down to the choice in typeface. Hers is an idealized fin de siècle Paris, where parades just happen by and acrobats pop up and Edgar Degas is available to hunt for those missing crayons (end notes fill in some must-know facts). I've made three trips to Paris and can tell you the Jardins du Luxembourg hasn't changed a bit, and the Boulevard St.

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