

THE GUIDE

by Robert L. Crowe



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(at the beginning the Guide is very animated and full of pep. There is gradual erosion as the lecture proceeds until she is beaten-down at the end.)

Hi, there! My name is _____. I'm going to be your guide today here at the Art Institute. We are pleased to have your elementary school class with us today and I know it will be a memorable day for all of us. Your visit today will be in two parts: The first part will be a slide show to give you an overview of what we will see in the various collections. The second part will be the actual tour of the Art Institute. I will be leading both parts and I want this to be as educational as possible so feel free to ask any questions at any time. I'll be doing the slide show first, and it is not necessary to hold up your hand ... just blurt it right out if you have any question.

OK. Let's turn out the lights. *(pause)* No, no. No more of that behavior or we'll have to turn the lights back on. Pay attention now. *(clicks a remote)* Here's our first slide.

This is one of our most famous paintings. It's called "Rainy Day in Paris" by Gustav Caillebotte [*cay-la-bow.*] It's a big painting, seven feet high and nine feet wide. *(From this point on she is peppered with questions. The author will not indicate every question but they come quickly as do her answers.)* No, it is not Halloween. Why do you ask? *(very short pause while she waits for all responses)* Because that's how they dressed in Paris at the time. ... No, they weren't stupid and they didn't have Bermuda shorts to wear. ... No, they weren't too poor to buy them. This was the fashion of the time. I think we should be concentrating on the painting and the composition rather than what they are wearing. You will enjoy this painting when you see it ... I think.



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