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### The Secret Cave: Discovering Lascaux

Debbie Barr

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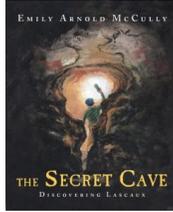
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McCully, Emily Arnold. *The Secret Cave: Discovering Lascaux*. Illustrated by Emily Arnold McCully. Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2010. ISBN 9780374366940. \$16.99. 32 p.

Reviewer: Debbie Barr

Reading Level: Primary, Intermediate

Rating: Excellent

Genre: Informative; Informational books;

Subject: Lascaux Cave (France)--Juvenile literature; Art,

Prehistoric--France--Montignac--Juvenile literature; Cave

paintings--France--Montignac--Juvenile literature; Books--Reviews;

Jacques, Jojo, Simon and Marcel are young boys living in France in 1940. One day they find the entrance to an underground tunnel and follow it deep inside to a cave. There the boys discover dozens of early paintings made thousands of years ago. Bulls, bison, and hunters are beautifully portrayed on the cave walls. Though Marcel wants to keep it a secret, the boys eventually tell their teacher, and he recognizes what a treasure they have found. The paintings of Lascaux are some of the best preserved early-human art ever found, making it a site of interest still today.

Emily Arnold McCully has depicted these gorgeous paintings well, playing off the darkness of the cave and the light of lanterns to bring out the rough colors and lines of the original images. A fascinating look at one of history's great accidental finds, *The Secret Cave* would serve well in the classroom when talking about prehistoric peoples and their art.

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