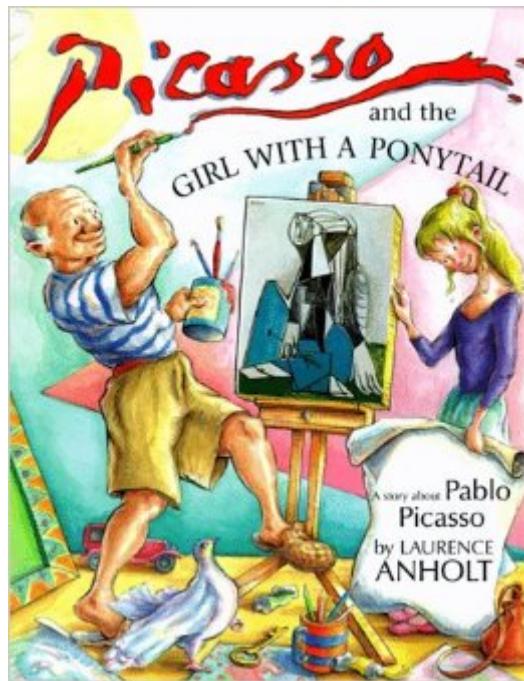


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# Picasso And The Girl With A Ponytail



## **Synopsis**

Here is the fascinating story -- based on true fact -- of a world-famous artist and a little girl who became one of his models. Sylvette first met Picasso in 1954, when she was a girl in the southern French town of Vallauris. At that time, she was the shyest and dreamiest girl among her friends, though today, she is a respected artist in her own right. When Picasso set up his studio in a nearby house, he spotted young Sylvette and was taken immediately by her classical profile and her lovely ponytail. When at last he convinced her to pose for what became the first of more than forty works of art, the two gradually became good friends. Before long, Picasso's portraits of Sylvette became famous around the world.

## **Book Information**

Lexile Measure: 670 (What's this?)

Hardcover: 32 pages

Publisher: Barron's Educational Series; English Language edition (September 1, 1998)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0764150316

ISBN-13: 978-0764150319

Product Dimensions: 8.8 x 0.2 x 10.9 inches

Shipping Weight: 12.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 starsÂ  See all reviewsÂ  (16 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #572,010 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #64 inÂ  Books > Children's Books > Biographies > European #236 inÂ  Books > Children's Books > Biographies > Art #1477 inÂ  Books > Children's Books > Arts, Music & Photography > Art

Age Range: 6 - 9 years

Grade Level: 1 - 4

## **Customer Reviews**

This is a wonderful book that we've read to our children for years. The fact that there is a true story behind the book makes it even more interesting for the adults who have been doing the reading. This book has particularly captivated our older boy. As we read and re-read the book to him, it was fascinating to watch as his attention shifted from simply listening to the story to observing how Picasso changed his representation of Sylvette over time -- and his questions about the art captured that change in perception. Together with the Classical Kids CDs, this series by Anholt has been one of the more valuable ways that we have introduced classical Western culture to our children.

This book not only introduced the art of Pablo Picasso, but also tells a story of a young girl and her growing self esteem. As an educator, I found that this book captivated the children. The illustrations are beautiful. This book has an underlying message of courage and expression. A good book for all ages.

I read Picasso and the Girl with a Ponytail. I liked how the author put real pictures of Picasso's art work in the book. At the end of the book, I liked how the author put some more real information about Picasso and Sylvette and put a picture of Picasso painting Sylvette.

I have introduced a number of children's art story books to my 3 year old daughter and 4 1/2 year old son. This book is a particular favorite of my son. I think he finds intriguing the notion of a very shy girl getting attention by a famous person, growing in confidence in her own abilities, and then realizing a dream of her own. He is very attentive to the details in the book and points out that Picasso wears house slippers and keeps all sorts of odd things in his studio. My son particularly likes the idea of Picasso grubbing around in a rubbish bin to create art, which Anholt illustrates with various Picasso sculptures including one of a bull's head, a metal bike seat and handlebars for horns. The evolution of Picasso's work is beautifully told from a classical (realistic) pencil sketch of the girl with a ponytail (Sylvette) in profile to Picasso's final sculpture of Sylvette in found metal objects. A tenderly told tale of a girl's coming of age and an aging artist's genius mixed with kindness.

My almost 5 year-old and I have devoured all of Laurence Anholt's books in the artist series (except for the latest on Cezanne), and loved them all, with the exception of this title on Picasso. Though my daughter loved the illustrations and was fascinated by the abstract way in which Picasso portrayed Sylvette, I was a bit concerned at some of the more mature themes in here, which I thought inappropriate for young children. All of Anholt's stories in the artist series are rooted in actual events, and this is no exception. Young Sylvette is a shy and rather withdrawn young girl when Picasso gets to know her, quite by accident. The two form a friendship, and Sylvette poses for Picasso, becoming his muse for a short time. During this time, it is revealed that Sylvette has a rather strained relationship with her mother's boyfriend, who is portrayed as a "loud and unpleasant bully", and causes Sylvette to wish she could escape by running away. Anyway, this just seemed a bit too deep for a young child to comprehend and I glossed over it whilst reading it to my daughter. This is why I

gave the book three stars. We both loved the representations of Picasso's art, especially the parts that showed how Picasso painted Sylvette, and my daughter loved the abstract representation of the muse. I would still recommend Anholt's artist series of books for young children, but would advise some caution with this particular title, especially for grades K and under.

There are an average of 100 words on each page.

Given for my grandson's 6th birthday, I was blessed to be there when he and his Dad sat snuggled up together as they read through the book together. Beautifully written and illustrated. Priceless time for us all. Thank you so very much. Jeanne

While this is a beautifully illustrated book, looking to be meant for children, there are some awfully deep emotional parts in it that I skip over when reading to my 4 year old. It is a longer picture book and geared towards 2-4th graders. It's interesting and tells a lot about Picasso and his works, but could do without his subject's tormented and emotionally disturbing past.

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