

### **Character analysis.**

The following comments were written in response to the requirements listed under the “Personal evaluation of a character” section of the “Reviewer’s guidelines for article submission.”

- “The character I will choose to comment on is King Louis XVI. I feel as though poor Louis XVI had not the slightest chance for success. From the beginning of his reign, the country was set up for economic failure. Also, he was thrust into the position of king at such a young age; it was almost as if he was unprepared for the job. Throughout the story, it simply seems that nothing can go right for him. The epitome of his luck is evident during his final escape attempt. When nothing else could possibly go wrong and he is stuck in a tavern with his family, someone recognizes him by looking at a portrait behind him on the wall. I just flat out feel bad for the guy.”
- “Throughout my reading of Deborah Cadbury’s *The Lost King of France*, I found myself immersed in the struggle of the young princess, Marie-Therese-Charlotte. Although the entire royal family endured an unimaginable amount of despair throughout the French revolution, Marie-Therese seemed to undergo a particularly painful process: As a young adult, she watched the harsh downfall of her father’s kingdom, was forced to abruptly switch residences several times in order to protect her own life, experienced the majority of her teenage years locked in a prison cell, lost the majority of her family, and, upon the restoration of the French monarchy, endured the emotional distress that accompanied several young men claiming to be Louis XVII. Her strength in character is incredibly admirable, as one can only imagine the intense inner turmoil that she must have undergone at such a young age.”
- “Of all of the characters from *The Lost King of France*, my attention was mainly focused on Louis-Charles. He was an innocent little boy filled with much potential, and I greatly sympathize with his situation. I think he proved himself to be a brave young man throughout the revolution, and I admire the courage and emotional strength that Cadbury portrays him to have. To quote Cadbury on the unfair and cruel death of the young dauphin, ‘More than 200 years have passed since the [dauphin] suffered in silence, paying a high price for the extravagant mistakes of his forebears. But now justice was done: He has been given a voice, the secrets of his life and death are exposed, and his life, in some small way, is resurrected at last.’”
- “The character that most stood out for me while reading was the French princess Marie-Antoinette. She was so young when she married that she was actually younger than me and was left with the burden of a quickly deteriorating country on her shoulders when she was barely 18. It felt as if everything was simply going horribly wrong for her, no matter what she did to try and stop it, and I understand that feeling, though certainly not to the same extent. Her treatment was

completely unavoidable and unwarranted, and I felt myself praying that her inevitable demise would never come.”