

Lascaux Cave Paintings

In the chapter "Lascaux Cave Paintings" John Green tells a story about how the Lascaux Cave Paintings were discovered. In 1940 a teenager and his dog were on a walk when the teenager's dog disappeared down a hole. After discovering the cave the teenager grabbed some friends and went back to it the next day. Once they were at the bottom of the cave they found the Lascaux Cave Paintings, the Lascaux cave paintings are over seventeen thousand years old. In 1942 a reinforced door was installed at the caves front entrance, Since this was during world war two and two of the four friends were jewish only two could stay behind and work at the cave as tour guides while the other was sent away to prison. John Green then explains that after looking at the hand stencils in the cave people begin to realize people seventeen thousand years ago are not so different then we are today. The cave today is now sealed off completely in an effort to preserve the paintings. The amount of people breathing in the cave has caused mold leading to the paintings to fade away. John Green explains that humans may have graffitied the paintings or kept visiting them til they wore away completely but we didn't, we let them live on by sealing them off. Green gives this chapter four and a half stars. In my opinion Green is inspired to write about this topic because humans decided to shut off revenue from an attraction to save a very old piece of history and in today's world that is very rare. I think this chapter helps Green find a life of significance since it's an example of people doing something for the good of the world and the people around them rather than profiting off it. I gave this chapter four and a half stars as well because I think it is very significant that someone making money decided to stop revenue for the better of the cave painting themselves.