



## Robin

### From Palgrave to France

*My experience is so much better now that I can understand French*

It's Beaver tale time again...it's 3 months later and now I've moved into my second host family. The second family is a lot different from the first. I was nervous at first because it's hard adapting all over again to another family's lifestyle. This family has 3 children and a really hyper dog. It is a really busy home and I've grown to really like them.

My own family doesn't celebrate Christmas, so this year I technically had my first real Christmas with a tree and all the trimmings. During Christmas we ate so many things that I don't even remember what we ate. All I remember is lobster (yum!), cake and the gingerbread cookies that I made. I won't be surprised if I gained 20 pounds already. My host family was super generous with gifts. For host family n°2, I gave chocolate and a bottle of maple syrup, and for host family n°1, I painted a picture of their cat and got it framed! During the winter break I got to visit an art museum and it was awesome. Then I went to see the studio of Paul Cézanne, the 19th century French impressionist, where he lived and worked before he died.

Recently I've gotten into the habit of listening to French radio at 10 pm. I don't really care about the music that's on there, but they talk about the craziest things and make the best prank calls. It's so much better now that I can understand French. Even after dinner everyday, I watch a funny comedy show that I like with the kids in my family.

Last week I went to the opera for the first time. The decor is so beautiful inside, it's supposed to resemble the opera in Paris apparently. Too bad I slept through

half of the performance (I saw "Lohengrin" - it was in German and 4 hours long). In the same night, out of nowhere, it snowed for the first time. Real snow, for the first time in YEARS. I got a bunch of messages on my phone from people saying "IL NEIGE!!". Basically, it was a really big deal. Naturally everyone went crazy with the snow when they saw the school grounds covered in it. They say that here, "fall" and "spring" doesn't exist - only winter and summer. It was only back in January that I spent one Sunday morning doing my math homework by the beach- it was so nice! It's no wonder that there are people who spend millions of dollars on a house there - I would kill to live so close to the beach on "winter" days like that.

School is going well as usual. There's the usual boredom that comes with it. But if I really think about it, unlike most French exchange students most of my schedule is filled with an awesome design class. The other week we tested perfumes, helped the grade 10 art kids decorate for their art show which was aired on TV, listened to my teacher give a lesson about Steve Jobs in English, and today I think I spent a good two and a half hours on Photoshop. It's already been 6 months since I've been here, so now the teachers expect me to take their exams and give presentations. But it's a nice way to prove that I DO understand what they're talking about in class. Anyways, I can't wait for the vacation to start in a week...so glad for all the school vacations that they give in France!

*Robin*