

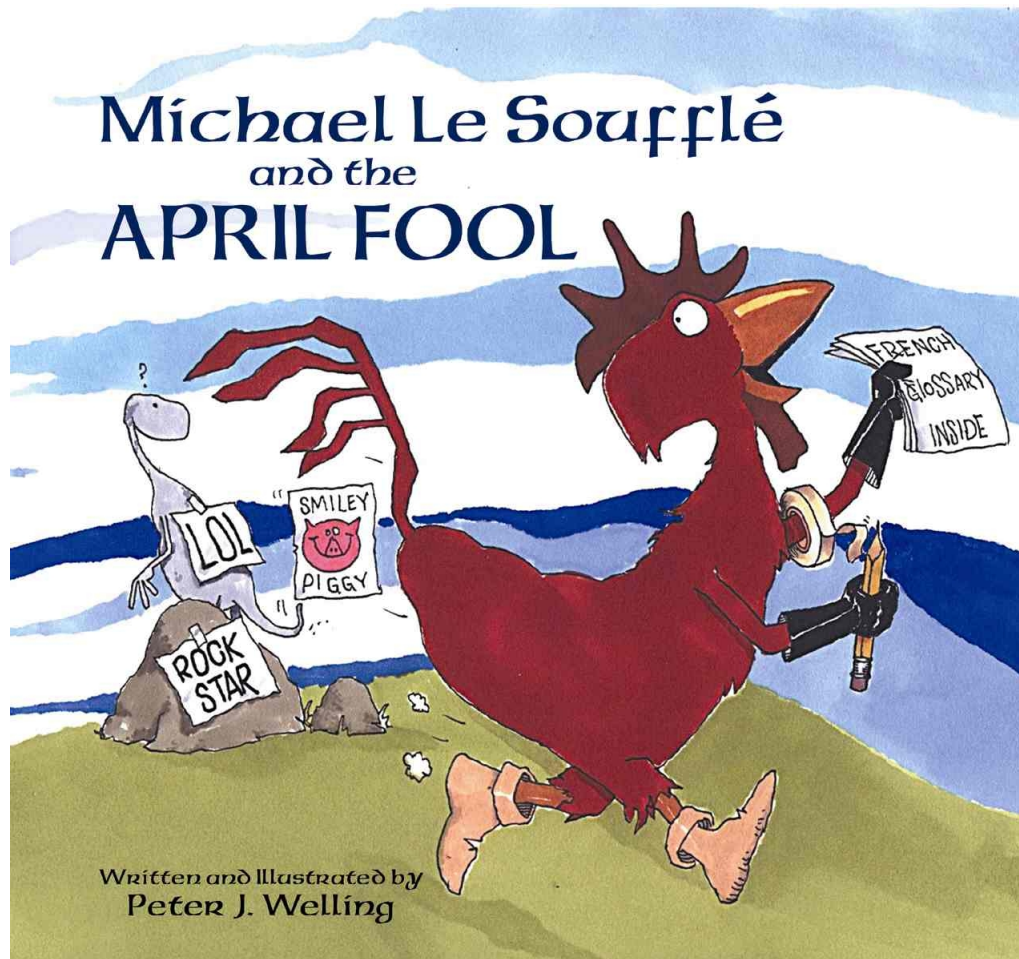


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## Study Guide for



**Includes:**

**Humor and History in the Pictures**

**Michael's Missing Words**

**Michael's Word Search**

Guide created by Peter J. Welling  
Visit <http://www.peterjwelling.com>



## An Introduction of *Michael Le Soufflé and The April Fool*

Illustrated and Written by Peter J. Welling

Humor and History in the pictures.

After all, it IS a picture book.

**Cover:** Besides the obvious humor, LOL (Laughing Out Loud) which should attract the computer literate to the book and on the back, the French version of Cock-a-Doodle Do, Coco-Rico. And yes, those are animated gargoyles running about.

**Page 5:** Word play on the sign. 1 Franc (French currency), hold the mustard. Shawn O'Hisser slithers by in the background. Introduction of the purple snail who will be in each picture.

**Page 6:** The gargoyle has no chair. Edmund Natterjack (from *Shawn O'Hisser*) walks by in the background.

**Page 7:** Just a few items explained: Bust of Napoleon. Andrew McGroundhog's shadow is framed. The first variation of Cock-a-doodle-do. (Foreshadowing the conflict.) Eiffel tower is framed. Kathleen (from *Shawn O'Hisser*) creeps by.

**Page 8:** Andrew McGroundhog is framed. Melon is eating French bread. The Paris Times on the floor uses the weather page to predict the French Revolution. It is hinted at by the two other sections. Box of French Fries on the floor. Foreshadowing of the disagreement with Michael can be seen in the book title: 1000 Rooster Recipes.

**Page 9:** Red Bird from *Andrew McGroundhog*. The statue of the military cat actually represents the pigeon's revenge.

**Page 10:** The "Humpback" of Notre Dame rings the bell. Justin Potemkin runs by in the background. The character in the green uniform in foreground is talking but you can't hear him because.....he's a little horse.

**Page 11:** Alina's Pork Rinds is just another pig-shot. Gargoyle removes a piece of fruit from the circle of juggled items.

**Page 12:** Who says you can't make a silk purse out of a sow's ear? (Another pig-shot!) Why Bastille II? Because Bastille I is in Paris.

**Page 13:** 1789, Melon's address and the date of the French Revolution.

**Page 14:** Several places in the book including here emphasize Melon's love of fishing and fish. Another foreshadowing item. The ship framed on the wall, the Isere, carried the Statue of Liberty to America. Notice even Melon's cat got cleaned by that rascal rooster.

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**Page 15:** The dart target is also the tri-colors plus of France. The first two of my books are present. Framed on the wall is a French Braid, the Tour de France, Uncle Jambon (at one point, Melon's name but I changed it back to the original) and in the dark room the French Open. FMAM on the cup is a magazine I write for. The dressing for his fast food – Slop To Go --- is French, of course.

**Page 16:** In the background, two houses representing turning points in French history: The Russia House represents the War of 1812 and Waterloo Place represents Wellington's victory over Napoleon. On the tree is a poster to "Visit Corsica," one of the places to which Napoleon was exiled . Also on the tree, a carved heart for Louis XVI and Marie Antoinette, of course.

**Page 18:** The famous Maginot Line. On the other part of the wall is French hero, Joan of Arc.

**Page 19:** Hickory Dickory Dock, the mouse ran up the clock. The picture on the wall represents Caesar's famous line, "All of Gaul is divided into three parts." The Statue of Liberty and the dome of the University of Notre Dame. The spider webs indicate "old French" influence in the US. Melon's clothing label-PORK- is a little take off on DKNY and the whole fashion scene.

**Page 20:** A play on words, "Paris fish are in Seine" (the river in Paris, of course.) The anteater's empty balloon is a challenge to the reader to discover which word in the glossary should go there. Again, an invitation to study the picture and learn the words.

**Page 21:** In France, the debate rages over which animal can find the best and most truffles, a dog or a pig. Hence the argument in The Truffles Company offices.

**Page 23:** The guillotine scene: Playful word usage such as "Half Off" and "Sharp" as well as a historic reference to one of the key players in the French Revolution, Robespierre.

**Page 24:** The Papal Bull represents Pope Gregory whose efforts brought us the Gregorian Calendar, the one still in use today.

**Page 26:** Dow Jones report laying on The Stocks. Michael hiding in a "French Fried Chicken" bucket. "Pork, The Other White Meat" ad is another pig-shot. The two posters are characters from *Justin Potemkin*. The Palace of Versailles is the yellow building and my family's names appear on the Greek Temple.

**Page 27:** The Montgolfier Brothers are recognized as two of the first people to fly a controlled flight (in a hot air balloon.) The three segments of the French Revolution: Liberty, Equality and Fraternity are represented at the Tea Booth. Marie Antoinette was supposed to have uttered the words "Let Them Eat Cake" in response to the starving Parisians cry for bread. The Earl of Sandwich operates a food stand. Three (little) Pigs in a Blanket off on the right.

**Page 28:** Mona Lisa was painted in 1582. The vendor is selling "French" toast.

**Page 29:** Several April Fool jokes.

**Page 30:** The king sits on his "throne" but if he pulls that handle, he will have a royal flush. Numerous townsfolks are characters from past and future books.

**Page 32:** We wrap it up with a little Rooster-French: Cock-a-doodle-adieu. Farewell.

## Michael's Missing Words

A E K P R I L E F H K J O O L  
T C N C U G S K Q G O I O Z H  
F N P V I E B G X U N F N K U  
N A N U E R I A G A P D F G E  
G R U H L C T R U L J F X L E  
R F C I G I D G E P Z J D X D  
G N A G B I G O M F N W E U X  
P N Q U A D U Y C V A Q T F B  
S Q Q A O R H L M D N R Z I C  
D L V W L X M E Y I U O K S U  
C A L E N D A R P F C W L H X  
F G A Z L L D A F A P H R E Q  
Y W D T K H L L D S R E A S M  
X W K X T C E O I M J I G E Q  
H B D N J S E I G G I P S F L

|          |        |       |        |          |
|----------|--------|-------|--------|----------|
| CALENDAR | CHEESE | FISH  | FRANCE | GARGOYLE |
| JOKE     | KING   | LAUGH | MELON  | MICHAEL  |
| PARIS    | PIGGIE | SNAIL | TRICK  | TRUFFLES |

— — — — — — — — — —

## Michael's Word Search

R E T S O O R A H S I F F Y C  
E C S D H U F P I I V T W E E  
K B Q E V Q I P K I W J W A P  
L B O B E P Z L L Y S O W D H  
U A P O G H E E L N N U S A N  
M Z U B Y A C I O O M U M M G  
X M Y G Z S R L I V O S E I Q  
C W B E H I E G C X T F A C C  
C E K V H M T V O E T G K H D  
A C S B N X U U R Y R I R A G  
S N A I L T I X T P L P X E K  
A A A H R U O T L O U E U L I  
W R U I W F V K O R M N B Y O  
X F C F W A C M Q X Z H C I U  
A K T C F S F G Q B L E D V N

|         |        |          |         |
|---------|--------|----------|---------|
| APPLE   | CHEESE | FISH     | FOOL    |
| FOX     | FRANCE | GARGOYLE | HAMSTER |
| LAUGH   | MELON  | MICHAEL  | PIG     |
| ROOSTER | SNAIL  | TRICK    |         |

# Solutions!

## Michael's Missing Words Solution

```

A E K P R I L E F H K J O O L
+ C + C + + S + + G + I O + +
+ N + + I E + G + U + + N K +
+ A + + E R + A + A + + + G E
+ R + H L + T R + L + + + + +
+ F C I + + + G + + + + + + +
+ + A + + + + O + + + + + + +
+ N + + + + + Y + + + + T F +
S + + + + + + L M + N R + I +
+ + + + + + + E + I U O + S +
C A L E N D A R P F C + L H +
+ + + + + + + + F A + H + E +
+ + + + + + + L + + R + A + M
+ + + + + + E + + + + I + E +
+ + + + + S E I G G I P S + L

```

(Over, Down, Direction)

|                     |                    |                      |
|---------------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| CALENDAR (1, 11, E) | CHEESE (3, 6, NE)  | FISH (14, 8, S)      |
| FRANCE (2, 6, N)    | GARGOYLE (8, 3, S) | JOKE (12, 1, SE)     |
| KING (11, 1, SE)    | LAUGH (10, 5, N)   | MELON (15, 13, NW)   |
| MICHAEL (9, 9, SE)  | PARIS (9, 11, SE)  | PIGGIE (12, 15, W)   |
| SNAIL (1, 9, NE)    | TRICK (7, 5, NW)   | TRUFFLES (13, 8, SW) |

## **Missing Words: APRIL FOOL**

## Michael's Word Search Solution

```

R E T S O O R A H S I F + + +
+ + S + + + + P + + + + + +
+ + + E + + + P + + + + + + +
L + + + E + + L + + + + + + H
+ A + + G H + E L N + + + A +
+ + U + + A C + O O + + M M +
+ + + G + + R L + + O S + I +
+ + + + H + E G + + T F + C +
+ E + + + M + + O E + G + H +
+ C + + + + + R Y + I + A +
S N A I L T + X + + L P + E +
+ A + + R + O + + + + E + L +
+ R + I + F + + + + + + + +
+ F C + + + + + + + + + + +
+ K + + + + + + + + + + + +

```

(Over, Down, Direction)

|                   |                     |                    |                     |                   |
|-------------------|---------------------|--------------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| APPLE (8, 1, S)   | CHEESE (7, 6, NW)   | FISH (12, 1, W)    | FOOL (12, 8, NW)    | FOX (6, 13, NE)   |
| FRANCE (2, 14, N) | GARGOYLE (5, 5, SE) |                    | HAMSTER (15, 4, SW) |                   |
| LAUGH (1, 4, SE)  | MELON (6, 9, NE)    | MICHAEL (14, 6, S) | PIG (12, 11, N)     | ROOSTER (7, 1, W) |
| SNAIL (1, 11, E)  | TRICK (6, 11, SW)   |                    |                     |                   |

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## MICHAEL LE SOUFFLÉ AND THE APRIL FOOL Written and illustrated by Peter J. Welling

*"The watercolor-and-ink illustrations bubble with a goofy spontaneity."* --Publishers Weekly  
*"A few laughs to go around."* --Booklist

Once upon a time in 1564, Charles IX, the king of France, ruled that the first day of the year would be January 1 instead of April 1. Those who forgot the change and celebrated New Year's Day on April 1 were ridiculed by having fish thrown at them.

In the skilled hands of Peter Welling, this history takes on a hilarious dimension. In the French town of Bakonneggs, there exists a rivalry between the Mayor Melon de Plume, a pig, and a prankster rooster, Michael Le Soufflé. The mayor lacks a sense of humor and is annoyed to be disturbed from his slumber by Michael's crowing laughter. He issues new laws (including a ban on all feathers), but the town continues, under the rooster's leadership, to laugh and play.

Then one day, Michael posts a law, signed by the king, on the official oak tree: New Year's Day will no longer be April 1. From now on, the first day of the year will be January 1. Melon is in disbelief and chases the rooster with a wagon of fish, accidentally hitting the king with one, for which he is put in the stocks. The next year, he still celebrates April 1 as New Year's Day, and the king orders that he be pelted with fish until he comes to his senses. Melon is undaunted: he scoops up the fallen fish and hosts a big party, starting an annual day of celebration we now know as April Fools' Day. Populated by a menagerie of animals and creatures real and imagined, including a crafty crew of gargoyles, *Michael Le Soufflé and the April Fool* is sure to keep readers young and old coming back to discover new laughs on every page.

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Peter Welling was, for many years, the art director for *Futures* magazine. He is a father of four and grandfather of three. He twice won the Parent Volunteer of the Year Award and is an active member of the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators. He is the author/illustrator of four other books for young readers: *Andrew McGroundhog and His Shady Shadow* (\$15.95), *Justin Potemkin and the 500-Mile Race* (\$15.95), *Shawn O'Hisser, the Last Snake in Ireland* (\$15.95), and *Joe Van der Katt and the Great Picket Fence* (\$15.95). To learn more about Peter Welling, visit his Web site at [www.peterjwelling.com](http://www.peterjwelling.com).

### MICHAEL LE SOUFFLÉ AND THE APRIL FOOL

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