

Introduction

Hi, I'm **Torrey Mahall**, author of **The Search for the Golden Mission**.

SHOW BOOK

I am **12** years old, and currently in the **7th** grade at **Miller** Middle School in **Riverside**.

For my **4th** grade **mission project**, I decided to **visit** all 21 California **missions** and **write** a **book** about them.

(1) SHOW BOOK PAGE ii

I visited my **first** mission, Mission San Fernando, in **September**, and my **last** mission, Mission San Jose, in **April**. The book's purpose is to **show** readers the **missions** through the **eyes of a 4th grader**. I hope it will also **motivate you** to **write your own book** or **visit** the **missions**, too.

Mission Highlights

The **missions** really had a lot of **cool stuff**!

In fact, at the end of each mission chapter, there is a **favorite things section** like this. Here's my first favorite thing at Mission San Francisco.

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If a mission had a **cat**, like this one, it would be **number 1 on the list**. Probably out of all the neat things I saw at the missions, the **cats** were the **best**. I really **love cats**.

At Mission San **Diego**, I got to help some **archeologists dig** with shovels and spades and other cool stuff. We didn't find anything, but I still enjoyed it.

Mission San **Antonio** is located on a **military base**.

I got to ring the **bells** at Mission San **Francisco** and San **Gabriel**.

At Mission **La Purisima**, **animals**, like this horse, were still kept at the mission.

There was a **sidewalk** with really neat designs in front of Mission **Santa Cruz**.

And **roosters** were walking around all over Mission **San Juan Bautista**.

Mission **San Fernando** was the only mission with a **Madonna room**, and the only mission with **coins** scattered everywhere.

Mission **San Luis Rey** has a **statue** on the church with **no head**.

The **13th** mission that we visited, was also the **13th** mission founded, and we visited it on **Friday the 13th**. That's a lot of 13's.

Father Serra is **buried** Mission San **Carlos**.

At Mission San **Buenaventura** there is a really **cool long fountain** in front.

At Mission **Soledad** there was a **padre mannequin** that was only as tall as me. I wrote about him in my book.

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Traveling Highlights

I have a "**Planning a Trip**" section

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in the back of the book. It gives **mission information** and other **cool things to do** in that area.

During our **Thanksgiving vacation** to **Cambria** and **Santa Barbara**,

REFERENCE TO MAP

the **green** trip, we visited **7 missions** and...

-visited **Bubble Gum Alley** – my mom thought it was disgusting, but I thought it was super cool

-played and hunted for moonstones on **Moonstone Beach** – they're supposed to be rare, but they were very easy to find

-visited the **elephant seals** and toured **Hearst Castle**

Over the **Presidents' weekend** in **February**,

REFERENCE TO MAP

our **blue** trip, we went to **Salinas**, visited **4 missions**, and...

-toured the **Steinbeck museum**

-WENT CRAZY AT THE **SANTA CRUZ**

BOARDWALK!!!!!!! This might have been my favorite part of the whole mission journey.

During our **spring break** vacation to **San Francisco**,

REFERENCE TO MAP

our **orange** trip, we visited **5 missions**, and...

-biked over the **Golden Gate Bridge**

-**sailed** under it too

-saw unbelievable things at **Ripley's Believe it or Not museum**

-drove down curvy **Lombard Street**

-and there are so many more cool activities mentioned in the book.

Book Idea

You may wonder how I came up with the **book idea**.

Well, I have been writing "**books**" since **kindergarten**. The books I wrote then weren't really books.

SHOW 1ST GRADE BOOK

They were pieces of **paper stapled** together with **drawn pictures** in them. Some of the children **couldn't read** yet, but I gave them a **book anyway**. The books were made up **fantasy stories** about my friends, with them as the **main character**. I wrote this story in **1st grade**.

I knew I wanted to do something **different** for my **mission project**. Not the typical model and report. So, in **4th grade**, I approached my teacher and asked him if I could **write a book** for my mission project. He said that would be **cool**. I **didn't** plan on doing a **published book**...just another one of my regular stories.

After touring my 1st mission, I started writing. It was like a **travelogue**. The **main character** was **me**, and I was basically **documenting** my travels. I kept reading it over, and I realized it was **super boring**. 'I went **here**.' 'I went **there**.' I **hated** the way it sounded.

I thought about this for a while and I created two main characters, **Mark** and **Allison**, and their flying tour guide, **Mishie**. They would be searching for a treasure, the **Golden Mission**.

I wrote the first two mission chapters in **third person** with Mark and Allison taking the tour, and I **liked** it.

Later, I went to my teacher to update him on the progress of the book. He seemed pleased, but asked me **whose point of view it was from**. I didn't know. Because of that, I changed the book to **Allison's** point of view. Now it's like this.

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Writing the Book

I visited more missions and wrote more chapters. Usually, I started writing the chapter on my **dad's laptop in the car** as soon as we left the mission or **later in a hotel**. This reminds me, if you want to write a book, one of the best things you can do is **learn to type**. I used the **pictures** my dad took at the mission and my **reference notes** to help me document our tour.

In order to make the book interesting, I added some humor to it. Here's a **funny** excerpt from the book.

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When the mission project was **due**, I had **16** missions completed. I still had **5** more missions to tour. I **printed** the book **up to the 1st un-toured mission** and turned the **rest** in on a **CD**. All I had left to do was write, print out, and insert the last 5 missions.

This is what I turned in on the due date.

SHOW CLASP BINDER

My **finished book** would look **just like this**, only **thicker**.

While I was writing the last 5 chapters, my **Dad** discovered that **Staples did binding**. So when I completed them, we got it **bound** at **Staples**.

SHOW STAPLES BOOK

Now my project was actually **looking like a book!** Maybe I could do something with it after all!

Binding the book at Staples, as a paperback, will cost **\$4.99 or less depending on the size**, and you can walk out with the finished product. This **hard cover** version

SHOW HARD COVER STAPLES BOOK

will cost **\$10.99**, but the cover has to be ordered so it will take a **couple of days**.

Book Revisions

Now my Dad starting helping me to get my book published. We started **distributing copies** for review. We made **12 paperbacks** and **1 hardcover**.

While all this was happening, my **dad** also was **contacting publishers**. Most of them said **no**, but one, **Lowman Publishing**, seemed **interested**. My dad e-mailed them a **preview copy** like this.

SHOW PREVIEW COPY

They **liked the preview**, and wanted to see the complete book. We continued **handing out Staples** books and receiving comments.

I got really **great** improvement suggestions and words of encouragement. Somebody asked **why** the chapters were in the **order** they were in, and I said that was because that's the **order** the **missions were founded**. Of course, nobody knew that, so I changed it from like "**Chapter 1**" to "**Mission 1**."

I **didn't** want to put in **illustrations** because I **can't** really **draw**, and because **without** illustrations you are able to **imagine** what the **characters** look like. This is a description of Mishie.

(7) READ FROM BOOK page 3

When we got everyone's **suggestions back**, at the end of the school year, my Dad and I **looked over** them and **changed** what **I** wanted to change. We **fixed confusing things** and **added** an **introduction** where **I**, the author, **talked about the book**. The introduction **wasn't** from **Allison's point of view** anymore.

We reread the entire book again looking for **typos** and **punctuation errors**. Then we reread it for the third time looking for how I could improve **vocabulary** or **content**. Some chapters were better than others, and we wanted them to be equal. This took about a **month over** the **summer**.

Publishing-Lulu

By now, we knew we were **publishing the book**. We weren't sure if we were going to use the **publisher** or if we were going to just **self-publish** it.

My dad discovered **Lulu.com**. It is an **on-line self-publishing** company, and one of many, but lulu was his favorite. Unlike a **vanity press**, where they **print a lot** of your books and if you **don't sell** them you're **stuck with them**, Lulu is a **Print On Demand** company. If somebody **orders one book**, they print **one book**. If somebody **orders 5 books**, they **print 5 books**. There is **no inventory!** Lulu also gives you the option to **print in small quantities**. For example, if you **buy 10 books**, you can **save** on the **printing cost** and save dramatically on the **shipping**. Now you can **sell books yourself**.

After some reformatting, downloading, and other things on the website that I don't really understand, it was **ready!** Almost. We received **2** actual **books from lulu** on August 3rd. The book was **GREAT!**

SHOW STAPLES BOOK

Our **Staples** version of the book was **so thick** it intimidated many students. I had written "***Don't be scared by the thickness of this book. You don't have to read all the chapters, maybe just the missions you're interested in.***" to try and eliminate the Staples "**thickness fear.**"

SHOW AND COMPARE STAPLES and LULU

This book is actually **29 pages longer than the Staples** book because of all the revisions and additions. And it is **not scary** at all. So I had to **remove** the **thickness** reference. Now we were **ready to release the book** to the world. Our **first book** was sold on **August 12.**

On that **same day**, we received a **rejection** email from Lowman Publishing. It's funny, on the **same day** they **turned us down**, we **sold our first** book. It was a **good thing** we **didn't wait** for the publisher. Here is a **copy** of the publisher's **e-mails**, good and bad, if you'd like to look at them later.

SHOW LOWMAN EMAILS

End

Since publishing the book, we have **established** our own **distribution network**. I am in most of the California mission giftshops as well as many school supply stores. In order to **provide my book to stores** at a reasonable **wholesale** price, it is now **printed at Lightning Source**, in Tennessee. By **ordering 250** books, we can get a dramatically **reduced price** versus Lulu.com.

I have also gotten a website, **torreymahall.com**, where you can access more information about me and my book.

One school **found out** about the **book** and requested a "**reading**," which turned into this **presentation**. I have presented to many **schools** and **organizations**. I have also been **fortunate** enough to be **invited** to **book fairs and signings**.

The book now has an **ISBN number**, which makes it **available** to **everyone**. **Ingram** handles that part of the **distribution**.

Touring the missions was a **great experience**. For me, for my dad...probably for my whole family! I hope you now want to visit a mission, and that your **mission adventures** will be **golden**. **Publishing a book** was a **dream** of mine. I hope you share the same dream, and that you **fulfill your dream** and **go for it!**

I would appreciate it if **you** would **sign** or **write comments** in my **autograph book**.

SHOW HARD COVER STAPLES BOOK

Please only **write** on the **two pages** it is open to.

Now, does anybody have any **questions** about the **missions** or **writing a book**?