



Luminescence Review
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Bonjour!

Paris has come to a complete standstill with the most recent round of transportation strikes. This time, the transit workers are protesting pensions. The retirement age can be as low as 50 for truck drivers, and the government is trying to raise the ages to balance the number of retired people coming out of the system and the number of workers still investing. Between strikes and “vacation” (we don’t have classes when the kids are out of school), I think we’ve only managed to work roughly 4 days in the past 3 weeks.

Fear not, I haven’t been idle. They let my roommate and I paint the stairwell and hallway downstairs. This allowed for many adventures. At one point, we got the ladder stuck in the narrow hallway because we failed to recognize the fact that it broke of into three parts. We asked Simon, the



Repairing the effects of the painting

bookkeeper, to help us move the ladder and he said, “Oh, you don’t need the whole thing.” Once we didn’t have to worry about three parts flinging all over and dinging the walls, the ladder seemed remarkably easy to maneuver. Once we got the ladder in place, they sent me up it to paint the top of the walls and the ceiling. Since my height is not my greatest asset, I performed some creative acrobatics on the ladder to reach all the nooks and crannies. Now it’s done and I’ll never have to paint a stairwell in this house again. (There are two of them and we’ve done both.)

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This month, I went on a weekend get away to Strasbourg (in Eastern France near the German border). I got to go to Germany for a morning and then walked around Strasbourg. It was good to get out of the city and see other parts of France where life is calmer and people aren’t in a hurry to get places.



When I have the opportunity to teach, I teach second level literacy. We’re learning how to write in cursive as opposed to just print, and how to change the date from just numbers to numbers and words (i.e.: 3/3/08 becomes March 3, 2008). The women were extremely disappointed that we had to cancel classes due to the transit strike and one even threatened (jokingly) to make banners to protest the strikes so they could have school.

Yays!

- The stairwell is done!
- The women’s desire to come to class
- I already celebrated Thanksgiving with my youth and I’ll have another celebration next week. ☺

Needs:

- Motivation in fighting the good fight. It’s hard to invest in classes when they keep starting and stopping.
- That the women will continue to work at home on their writing and remember the stories. Even when we don’t have class.

Avec reconnaissance (With gratitude),

Lisa