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Elizabeth's experience on the other hand was a complete success. The International Bilingual School of Provence caters to high school students. Those few years make all the difference in the world. The diverse student body gave her a chance to learn about other Europeans.

As a mother, I thought the teens seemed more similar than dissimilar; wearing the same clothes, listening to music and walking around with colored iPods in their ears. The activities and excursions were also well-organized taking

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her to sites like Marseilles' Chateaux D'If, which she had read about in The Count of Monte Cristo. The intensive classroom studies and our additional two weeks' travel enabled her to skip up a full grade-level in French when she returned to her American high school.

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