

V Read the following passage and write an English summary in one sentence in your own words in the space provided on the separate answer sheet.

Marie Antoinette was widely considered to love wild parties and extravagant spending. However, contrary to the image portrayed by the quote, “Let them eat cake,” many believe that the young queen was actually quite kind-hearted. Stories have been told of her helping a poor peasant who had been injured by a wild animal, and others have also mentioned her kind and generous character. In fact, the famous quote attributed to her may not even have been hers. When Rousseau wrote *The Confessions* in which the phrase appears, Marie Antoinette was only 10 years old. Either he made it up or, as some historians think, it was probably said by her mother, Maria Teresa. The idea also may not be as terrible as it sounds. “Cake” is really a mistranslation of “brioche,” an egg-based bread, which is a richer type than the water-based bread eaten by the poor. The problem was that French law demanded that bakers sell this bread at the same price as the inexpensive bread. That would have been bad for business!



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