THE SOCIAL NARRATIVE RUBIN FOR K–12 VISITS
We are going to the Rubin Museum of Art, also known as the Rubin. The Rubin exhibits art from the Himalayas and surrounding regions.

The Himalayas are a mountain range spanning northern Pakistan, northern India, Nepal, Tibet, Bhutan, northern Myanmar (Burma), and western China.
If we take the school bus, it will drop us off near the Rubin entrance, which is located at 150 West 17th Street between 6th and 7th Avenues.

Or we might take the subway and walk several blocks to the Museum.
When we arrive at the Museum, we will enter through the main entrance.
If we arrive before the Museum opens, or before our tour time, we may be asked to line up outside.

When we do enter the Museum, we will walk through two sets of heavy glass doors.
We will be greeted by an attendant at the admissions desk.

We will go down four steps into the bigger first floor lobby area. The floor will change from wood to shiny marble.
Then we will place our personal belongings in the black pop-up bins that are reserved for our group.

We will see security guards throughout the Museum. They are there to keep us and the art safe. If I can’t find my group, I can tell one of the security guards and they will help me.
Our guide will give us a sticker to put on the front of our shirts; this is our ticket into the Museum.

If our group is large, we will split into two groups, with one tour guide each, and go on separate tours.

Our guide will give us an introduction to the tour theme and go over the rules of the Museum.
Some of the art was made just this year, but most of it is hundreds of years old. This means the art is very delicate, so we will follow the rules to keep the art safe.

RULES TO REMEMBER

• I will use my inside voice.

• I will ask questions and share my thoughts about what I learn.

• I can take pictures without flash.

• I will keep my hands off the art and art cases so that they stay safe and clean.

• I will walk slowly in the Museum.

• I will save my food and drink for lunch time because they can damage the art.
In addition to the Theater Level (TL), the Rubin has six floors. Each floor is its own gallery space. If we stand by the spiral staircase on the first floor lobby, we can look up and see the floors above. The stairs are marble with a colorful carpet on them.

Our guide will lead us into the galleries using the spiral staircase or elevator. There are two snow lions on either side of the elevators. These are pieces of art, and we can look using just our eyes.
During our tour, we will look at art, spend time listening to our guide, and have a chance to ask questions and share our thoughts.

Our guide may show us a sculpture of the Buddha Shakyamuni while teaching us about his life and teachings.
We might also see figures that look very fierce. These are protectors that help people overcome problems and difficult emotions.

We may also visit the Tibetan Buddhist Shrine Room on the fourth floor. This room is a little dark and has many statues and paintings in it. We will hear a recording of people chanting.
We might have time to do a drawing activity while we are in the galleries. If so, we will be given paper and a pencil for drawing, and a flat board to support our paper. We will only draw on the paper, not on the board.
If we need to use the restroom or need a quiet space, we can ask the teacher or chaperone.

For a quiet space they can bring us to the nearest Explore area. Explore areas are on the second, third, and fifth floors beside the elevators.
From the first floor or café, we can take the spiral staircase to the restrooms downstairs in the Theater Level (TL). These are well suited for large groups of people.

There are restrooms downstairs below the lobby in the Theater Level (TL) as well as on the first floor near the café and the third and fifth floors near the Explore Areas.
At the end of our tour, we will get our bags from the black bins in the lobby. Then we will make our way back to the front lobby to exit the Museum.