

## French Top 10 Reading List

### Top Reads

**Le petit Prince, by Antoine de St Exupéry** – read and recommended by Mr Regnier. It is about a little blond boy who looks at the world through the eyes of a child but articulates his observations like a wise man. The prince touches on friendship, love, technological progress, consumption and the decay of modern society. These elements make the book more popular and relevant today than ever.

**L’Etranger, by Albert Camus** – read and recommended by Miss Forrest. “In our society any man who does not weep at his mother’s funeral runs the risk of being sentenced to death.” Meursault is a man who refuses to play the game that society requires him to play, and as a result he is a strange, unfamiliar narrator presenting a view of the world that is at once one-dimensional and trustworthy, simple and complex.

**Le Château de Ma Mère, by Marcel Pagnol** – read and recommended by Mrs Virk. This book recalls Marcel’s friendship with Lili, a country boy who would seem Marcel’s opposite in so many ways. However, their mutual love of roaming about the hills setting traps for various birds and small game unites them. Each boy accepts the other’s strengths: It is a wonderful reminder, of how successfully and naturally children can negotiate social differences of all types and find friendship with those of radically different backgrounds.

**Les malheurs de Sophie, by La Comtesse de Ségur** – read and recommended by Miss Deloison. It's about a four year old, who does bad things, but does not learn from them. One chapter she decides she wants to put food on her tea set plates, and steals her mother's pet fish, chops up half and salts to death the other. After getting caught, she cries and swears she'll never do it again, and then the next chapter she's chopping up a bee with a pocketknife so that 'it can never sting anyone again' after the bee had the unlucky chance of sitting in her window.

### Easy Reads

Les Aventures de Tintin) is a series of 24 bande dessinée albums **created by Belgian cartoonist Georges Remi, who wrote under the pen name Hergé. Tintin is a young Belgian reporter and adventurer, who becomes involved in dangerous cases in which he takes heroic action to save the day. He is aided by his faithful dog Snowy.**

**Astérix et Obélix are comics written by René Goscinny and illustrated by Albert Uderzo. They are about the village hero Asterix, who is aided in his adventures by his rather corpulent and slower thinking friend, Obelix, who, because he fell into the druid's cauldron of the potion as a baby, has permanent superhuman strength.**

**Tom-tom et Nana** (recommended by Miss Deloison) is a French comic strip series published in the monthly magazine *J'aime lire* since 1977.<sup>[1]</sup> The first

authors of the series were writer Jacqueline Cohen and artist Bernadette Després. The cartoon covers the Dubouchon family, proprietors of the restaurant The Good Fork, which is often turned upside-down by the mischief of the two youngest children, Tom-Tom and Nan

### Enrichment Reads

Mary Glasgow Magazines have four French-language magazines to cover every level from beginner to advanced. Each magazine covers a variety of fun, up-to-date topics to keep teens engaged and each article focuses on a particular aspect of language learning, from simple descriptive vocabulary in beginner-level *Allons-y !*, to complex debate topics in advanced-level *Chez Nous*. The magazines are packed with short articles, comic strips, puzzles, quizzes, videos, interviews and songs. They deepen cultural understanding and help students to improve accuracy and fluency in French.

### Challenging Reads

**Notre Dame de Paris**, by Victor Hugo. The cathedral itself is the most significant aspect of the novel. The book portrays the Romantic era as one of extremes in architecture, passion, and religion.

**Quinze contes**, by Henry-René-Albert-Guy de Maupassant. The short stories are set during the Franco-Prussian War of the 1870s, describing the futility of war and the innocent civilians who, caught up in events beyond their control, are permanently changed by their experience.