

Stupeur et tremblements

This short novella recalls the year the Belgian writer spent working for a Japanese company. Having learnt the language and being taken on to perform interpreting tasks she finds the job doesn't match up to her expectations. Initially at least the presence of her admirable superior Fubuki provides some compensation as does the amazing view over Tokyo. However, whenever Amélie shows a little initiative she lands herself in trouble and this tendency goes from bad to worse. An amusing and illuminating analysis of the different world view of two cultures.

French to English vocabulary

In order to make it easier for an English speaking audience to access the novel, French to English vocabulary assumes a fairly lower starting point and a considerable amount of relatively high frequency words are given. Chapter and page numbers are given for navigation purposes.

Table with 3 columns: French word, English translation, and French word. Includes items like 'Un sac de billes', 'Le livre de poche', 'French street looking', 'Un compagnon-companion', etc.

Summary with verb gap fill and additional vocab

Keeping track of the plot of the story can be difficult for young students of French so the 9 page summary is designed to help them learn the details. Written with a focus on the action, the majority of the verbs are given as an infinitive to fill in with either the present tense or range of past tenses.

Table with 2 columns: French text with gaps for verbs, and English translation. Includes text like 'Les cheveux rapidement expédiés, les 2 garçons [fill] à l'aventure dans le quartier...'.

Character guide with translation exercises

Encouraging students to talk with confidence about the characters in the novel is challenging. The comprehensive list of adjectives appropriate to this novel makes this more straightforward. Students translate sentences which demonstrate templated ways of saying what particular character traits reveal.

Table with 2 columns: Adjectives in French, and Adjectives in English. Includes words like 'amable', 'audacieux', 'calculateur', etc.

Essay planning tool and sample essay

The essay planning tool takes the principle of the spider diagram for planning an essay. A flow chart shows the way it needs to be built up and this links through to a completed 400 word sample essay on the same topic to provide a model for future efforts.



The comprehensive tools and exercises to accompany this novel are designed to give you as a teacher the freedom if you wish to have several texts on the go in a class.

Direct and Indirect Speech exercises

A two part exercise. In the first, the student works out in which situation each quotation was made. In the second part, the student makes a reported speech version of the utterance manipulating the tenses and pronouns. A useful exercise for evidencing without giving the exact words.

Complex block containing speech bubble exercises and a list of situations for direct and indirect speech.

Exposé creation guide

The generic exposé creation guide is designed to give students a starting point for building up an oral or written exposé. Such heading as "Cause and Effect" and "Empathy" are just two of the many writing frames which will help begin the process of getting opinions down on paper.

Complex block showing an 'ORAL-LE TRACBUSTI' template for creating an exposé.

Themes of the novel ThemezRus

The student is given a collection of quotations to match to six suggested themes. Some of the quotations may be appropriate to more than one. After thinking out what goes where he is then encouraged to discover his own examples from the text.

Complex block showing 'THEMEZRUS un sac de billes' template for matching quotations to themes.

The A Factor

This exercise is designed to demystify the constructions which make for getting high marks for quality of language. The present participle, passive and subjunctive are all introduced with exercises all using the context of the novel. PowerPoints are available for the passive and subjunctive, both using AS topics as subject matter.

Complex block showing 'ALF The "A" Factor' template for grammar exercises.

Multi-tense exercise « The Tensinator »

The "Tensinator" takes a particular verb and gives an example of it in each tense with a context relevant to the novel. There are two examples; students are then asked to create their own. The aim of this exercise is to pull together understanding of how tenses relate to one another.

Complex block showing 'the Tensinator' template for multi-tense verb exercises.