Un secret-Philippe Grimbert

Just when you thought it wasn't possible to come up with another original take on the consequences of the German occupation on the Jewish population of France, along comes this short, powerful novel in which the author tries to piece together his own parents' passionate and tragic past. The narrator is well aware that in some way he doesn't match up to his father's expectations of him; at the same time, having discovered a ragged toy dog in the spare room, he has invented an imaginary brother with whom he can share his lonely childhood. Confiding in his parents' friend, Louise, a physiotherapist who helps him cope with his many allergies and other weaknesses, the narrator slowly becomes aware that he and the rest of his family are living a lie.

French to English vocabulary

In order to make it easier for an English speaking audience to access the novel, the 12 page 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.

Summary with verb gap fill and additional vocab and chapter by chapter questions

Keeping track of the plot of the story can be difficult for young students of French so the 10 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. There are also questions to go with every chapter.

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.

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.
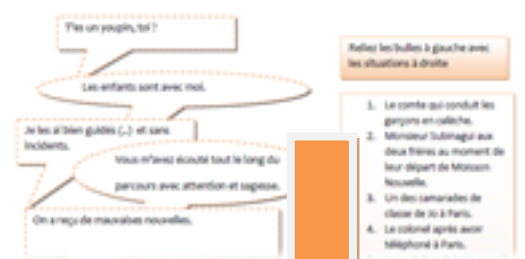
Click the purchase tab to find out how to get these resources for your students

Motivation of characters

A two part exercise. In the first, the student uses a sentence builder with 2nd verb infinitives to capture the protagonists' motivation.. In the second the student practises using more complex constructions to create elegant sentences.

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. Each text on www.alevelfrench.com offers the same range of resources so that language items can be taught as a class with individual students then returning to their own text.

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.

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.

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.

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.