

Bonjour Tristesse de Françoise Sagan

Françoise Sagan burst onto the literary scene at the age of 19 with this novel produced quickly during her summer holidays. With the main character being a young carefree girl fed up at the thought of having her holidays ruined by her father's new house guest we have a theme students will identify with. However the lengths to which Cécile goes to and the, at the time, dubious moral standards she displays are still very relevant today. The inner thoughts of Cécile offer up some difficult challenges language wise which the alevelfrench.com course aims to tackle.

French to English vocabulary

In order to make it easier for an English speaking audience to access the novel, the 17 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.

Table with 3 columns: French terms (e.g., Un sac de billes, Le livre de poche), English translations (e.g., French street hockey, Instrument), and additional context (e.g., Un compagnon-companion, Trousse-one of the leading Russian revolutionaries).

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 7 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 (e.g., devant le salon de coiffure de leurs parents. Les devoirs rapidement expédiés, les 3 garçons [filler] à l'aventure dans le quartier. Mais tout à coup, sur l'avenue, [filler] à grands bras aux hautes bottes claires et brillantes à 55 [entrer] se faire couper les cheveux chez le père Joffe, coiffeur juif. Dehors les enfants [égaler]), and English translations (e.g., Expédier-to polish off, Filen-to go off, to rush, Crier-to yell/shout, Se faire couper les cheveux-to have a hair cut, Rigoler-to laugh).

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 (e.g., amoral, Amoral, Autodestructeur, Bagarreur/brute, Calculateur/froid, Célibe, Courageux/brave, Jaloux/jealous, Indulgent)

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. 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.

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.



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 Thèmez Rus

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.

