

# Primary French book suggestions

## Ideas for bringing stories and creativity to language lessons

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Final version

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# Overview

## **This document contains...**

Suggestions for storybooks to use in the French primary classroom. Many thanks to Ellie Bowler, MFL Co-ordinator from Cove Junior School for these ideas.

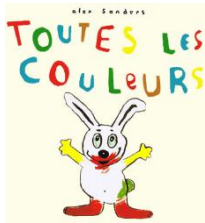
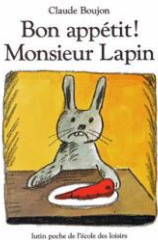
## **Points to consider when using this resource**


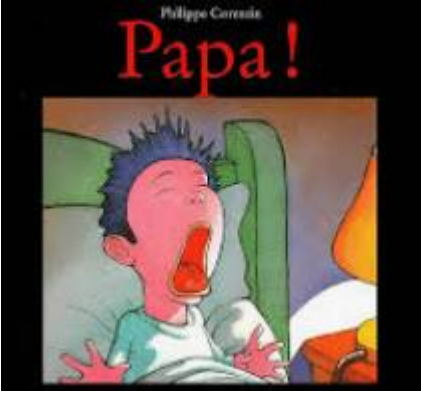
There are many ways to exploit these books using whole class repetition and question and answer.

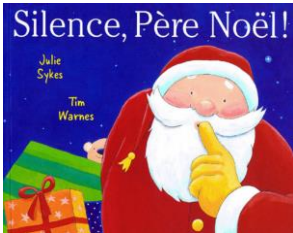
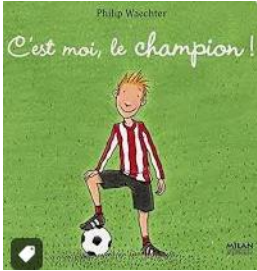
If you are a subscriber to *Languages News*, please also see the article in our autumn 2024 edition titled *Using storybooks in primary MFL*.

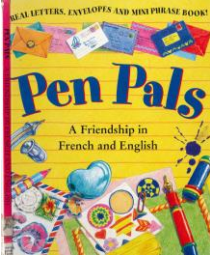
# MFL Primary suggested book list – French

Ellie Bowler from Cove Junior School has kindly put together a list of storybooks for teaching primary French. These are all available on YouTube and are aimed at very young people and native speakers. If you have any further suggestions to add to this list, please let the HIAS MFL team know!

Year Group	Book	Topics covered/content	Possible teaching approaches
3	<p><i>Toutes les couleurs</i> by Alex Sanders</p>  <p><a href="https://www.little-linguist.co.uk/toutes-les-couleurs.html">https://www.little-linguist.co.uk/toutes-les-couleurs.html</a></p>	<p><b><i>Toutes les couleurs</i></b> is a simple story in French that's great for teaching French vocabulary for different colours. This little rabbit is very colourful! He slips on the grass – giving him a green bottom. Next, he eats some strawberries – and ends up with a red mouth. Jumping in mud makes his feet brown and picking flowers gives him yellow paws. Time for a bath in the blue water!</p> <p><b><i>Toutes les couleurs</i></b> is written entirely in French as it is aimed at native French speakers. The vocabulary covered includes simple body parts and basic colours.</p>	<p>Use the YouTube versions of the story and slow down the audio.</p> <p>Repetition of colours and body parts with a focus on phonics (eg <i>couleur, bouche, rouge</i>). Pupils could draw multicoloured animals and label the colours.</p>
	<p><i>Bon appetit, Monsieur Lapin</i> by Claude Boujon</p>  <p><a href="http://www.amazon.co.uk/Appetit-Monsieur-Lapin-Claude-Boujon/dp/2211062814">www.amazon.co.uk/Appetit-Monsieur-Lapin-Claude-Boujon/dp/2211062814</a></p>	<p><b><i>Bon appetit, Monsieur Lapin</i></b> is a funny, simple story in French that is great for teaching French vocabulary for different animals. <i>Monsieur Lapin</i> is fed up with eating carrots all the time and decides to find out what other animals eat.</p> <p><b><i>Bon appetit, Monsieur Lapin</i></b> is written entirely in French as it is intended for native users. The language is fairly simple as it is aimed at young children.</p>	<p>Again, the YouTube video is available.</p> <p>A good activity to practise the animal names would be to mime and repeat them. This could also be followed up with a game of Simon says.</p> <p>True or false statements can be used to check understanding eg <i>le lapin mange une carotte</i>.</p>

<p>4</p>	<p><i>La chenille qui fait des trous</i> by Eric Carle</p>  <p><a href="https://www.little-linguist.co.uk/the-very-hungry-caterpillar-french-la-chenille-qui-fait-des-trous.html">https://www.little-linguist.co.uk/the-very-hungry-caterpillar-french-la-chenille-qui-fait-des-trous.html</a></p>	<p>This all-time favourite follows <i>The very hungry caterpillar</i> as it grows from egg to cocoon to beautiful butterfly.</p> <p><b><i>La chenille qui fait des trous</i></b> is an ideal storybook for teaching the days of the week, counting, colours and fruits in French. The book is written entirely in French as it is aimed at native French speakers, although the language is fairly simple as it is aimed at very young children. Striking pictures and cleverly die-cut pages offer interactive fun.</p>	<p>Lots of repetition and great for the topic of food and drink. Can be linked to artwork and used as inspiration for a French food diary. Also, a good way to practise the third person (<i>il mange etc</i>)</p>
	<p><i>Papa!</i> by Philippe Correntin</p>  <p><a href="https://www.amazon.co.uk/Papa-Philippe-Correntin/dp/0811816400">https://www.amazon.co.uk/Papa-Philippe-Correntin/dp/0811816400</a></p> <p>YouTube videos available of it being read.</p>	<p><i>Papa!</i> is a play on the 'monster in the bed' concept.</p> <p><i>A little boy and a little monster are terrified when they awake to find themselves next to each other in bed</i></p> <p>Repetitive language – 'Quoi?' Qu'est-ce que c'est?</p>	<p>Good for practising question language.</p> <p>It has a humour which engages children and cognates and images which support understanding.</p>

<p>5</p>	<p><i>Silence, Père Noël</i> by Julie Sykes and Tim Warnes</p>  <p><a href="https://www.little-linguist.co.uk/silence-pere-noel-small.html">https://www.little-linguist.co.uk/silence-pere-noel-small.html</a></p>	<p>Its Christmas Eve and Santa's favourite time of year. He sings and laughs noisily, as he delivers his presents. Will his high spirits waken the children before Christmas morning?</p> <p>Guidance for use</p> <p>This book is written entirely in French and so it would be necessary for the teacher to have a reasonable knowledge of French. The audio can be found on You Tube.</p>	<p>Listen and slow down on YouTube.</p> <p>Put the main points of the story in order.</p> <p>Tick off the key words you hear.</p>
	<p><i>C'est moi, le champion!</i></p>  <p><a href="https://www.amazon.co.uk/Cest-moi-champion-Philip-Waechter/dp/2745922726">https://www.amazon.co.uk/Cest-moi-champion-Philip-Waechter/dp/2745922726</a></p>	<p>A boy explaining his dream of being a footballer when he grows up and all of the things he will do in order to become a famous footballer.</p>	<p>Can be used when teaching hobbies and pastimes as a link but also offers a great study of cognates for meaning.</p> <p>Future tense, though not covered in Key Stage 2 curriculum, is an interesting discussion point.</p>

<p>6</p>	<p><i>Pen pals – A friendship in French and English</i> by Catherine Bruzzone and Lone Morton</p>  <p>This is hard to purchase new but is available second hand.</p>	<p>Katie in England becomes <b>Pen pals</b> with Jérôme in France. They exchange many letters and share information about themselves and their daily lives. Translations of each letter.</p>	<p>Used as a whole unit in Year 6. Reading the letters, answering basic comprehension questions about the letters for understanding.</p> <p>Reading aloud for speaking and pronunciation.</p> <p>Writing their own letters of response, which can be a good way to bring together topics studied throughout Key Stage 2.</p>
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# MFL

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