

Minnesota AATF - A Vous La Parole Oral French Contest

Choosing Pieces for Students...

The following list of suggestions of materials has been provided by the teacher listed in parenthesis after having successfully used it/them in past years. See the bottom of the entire list for contact information if you'd like more information. This is only to be used as a model – SELECTED PIECES DO NOT NEED TO BE LISTED ON THIS SHEET TO BE USED FOR THE COMPETITION. You will notice that some selections are listed under several levels – sometimes the individual skills of a student will drive the choice of a particular piece.

French I Prose & Poetry

Danse - Cécile Perin; Le Pélican - Robert Desnos; Pour un art Poétique - Raymond Queneau;
Dualisme - Paul Gery; Libérté - Paul Eluard (all ideas from Woodbury)
Déjeuner du Matin or Le Cancre, Jacques Prévert (Jennings)
Le Dernier Poème, Desnos (Jennings)
5th par. -chapter 4 of Le Petit Prince (begin with "Si je vous ai raconté . . ." (Muske)
"Le Printemps" by Charles d'Orléans (Fisk)
"Le Petit Prince" where the fox is talking to the little prince about being tamed. (Fisk)
"Demain, dès l'aube" by Victor Hugo (Fisk)
"Le Dormeur du Val" by Arthur Rimbaud (Fisk)
"La Cigale et la fourmi" by Jean de la Fontaine (Fisk)
poems from the book "Les Plus Beaux Poèmes de la Langue Française" published by Hachette Jeunesse (Fisk)

French II Prose & Poetry

Déjeuner du matin, Chanson pour les enfants l'hiver or Familiale, all by Jacques Prévert (Woodbury)
Le Corbeau et le Renard, Jean de la Fontaine (Woodbury, Hagen)
Complainte du petit cheval blanc, Paul Fort (Woodbury)
Page d'écriture, Jacques Prévertet tous les enfants entendent la musique. (Sturm)
Chanson des escargots qui vont à l'enterrement, Jacques Prévertvous verrez du pays. (Sturm)
Le cancre, Jacques Prévert (Sturm and Jennings)
En sortant de l'école, Jacques Prévert pour le Japon. (Sturm)
Libérté, Paul Eluard (Sturm)
Pour faire le portrait d'un oiseau, Jacques Prévert.....Pendant des années. (Sturm)
Déjeuner du Matin, Jacques Prévert (Jennings)
Le Dernier Poème, Desnos (Jennings)
A Ma Mère, Camara Laye (Jennings)
Je Vis, Je Meurs, Labe (Jennings)
Je suis malade (chapter of Le Petit Nicolas) ça fait des histoires. (Sturm)
Djodjo (chapter of Le petit Nicolas) (Skip "il a souri.....droles de morceaux". Go to....au piquet.) (Sturm)
poems from the book "Les Plus Beaux Poèmes de la Langue Française" published by Hachette Jeunesse (Fisk)

French III Prose & Poetry

Pour faire le portrait d'un oiseau, Jacques Prévert (Woodbury, Hagen)
L'Afrique, David Diop (Woodbury)
Le pot de fleurs, Theophile Gautier (Woodbury)
Pater Noster, Jacques Prévert (Woodbury)
Chanson des escargots qui vont à l'enterrement, François Perier (Woodbury)
Le chat et l'oiseau, Jacques Prévert (Sturm)
A Ma Mère, Camara Laye (Jennings)
Je Vis, Je Meurs, Labe (Jennings)
Un souvenir qu'on va chérir (chapter of Le petit Nicolas)tous ses problèmes. (Sturm)
On fait le marche avec Papa (chapter of Le petit Nicolas)..... m'a envoyé me coucher. (Sturm)
La lampe de poche (chapter of Le petit Nicolas).....les millefeuilles, c'est bon. (Sturm)
Le football (chapter of Le petit Nicolas).....sifflerait à la place d'Agan. (Sturm)

Madame de Sévigné , Le Roi et son vieux courtesan (Choffrut)
Le petit prince, ch 21, le renard, extrait (Choffrut)
Le retour de Russie, Victor Hugo (Choffrut)
La Petite Marchande de Fleurs, Coppée (Choffrut)
poems from the book "Les Plus Beaux Poèmes de la Langue Française" published by Hachette Jeunesse (Fisk)

French IV Prose & Poetry or beyond

La Dernière Fleur , Thurber, Camus (Jennings)
Prière à Dieu, Voltaire (Jennings)
extraits de la pièce Marius de Marcel Pagnol as a monologue (Choffrut)
Le Chat – Baudelaire; Sens dessus dessous - Raymond Devos; Le Deserteur Boris – Vian; Page d'écriture - J. Prevert; Voëu - Henri de Regnier; Chanson d'automne – Verlaine; La cigale et la fourmi - Jean de la Fontaine;
Le pont Mirabeau - Guillaume Apollinaire; Une vie de chat - Yves Navarre; Le petit prince - St. Exupéry;
La rue cases-negres - Joseph Zobel; Les misérables - Victor Hugo (all ideas from Wieland)
beginning of "L'Etranger" by Camus done by a male student "Aujourd'hui maman est morte..." (Hagen)
poems from the book "Les Plus Beaux Poèmes de la Langue Française" published by Hachette Jeunesse (Fisk)
Anne Muske uses "Introduction to French Prose & Poetry, a dual-language book" that gives French poems along with their English translations and that comes with a cassette. She uses the cassette to give the students a recording of the poem they're learning.

Beginning Theater

Mimi Jennings likes choral readings for beginning level theatre and she has had students do Max et les Maxi-Monstres; and legends, fables, and longer poems broken into voices.
cute dialogues/situations from any textbook either introducing vocabulary or with cultural significance (Hagen)
selections from the reader "Le Vol de la Joconde" broken into play parts (Wesely)
selections from the reader "Un Été pas comme les Autres" broken into play parts (Wesely)
"Astérix and Obélix" cartoon done as a play (Wesely)
adapt some of the plays from "Mighty Mini Plays" by Patti Lozano published by Dolo Publications, Inc. Houston, Texas (Fisk)

Intermediate Theater

the beginning of Voltaire's Candide (Muske)
La Partie de Cartes, (Fanny?) Pagnol (Jennings)
La Cantatrice Chauve, Ionesco scenes 4, 7 or 11 (Jennings)
the beginning of La Leçon, Ionesco (Hagen)
various scenes from "En attendant Godot", Beckett (Hagen)
"L'hôte" from L'exil et le royaume, Camus halfway through the short story.. "Viens" "Tu as faim?"...Viens avec nous".
(no need for narration --- act out instead with props (Hagen)
any dialogue section from a novel can be broken into a play --- simply have students memorize the dialogue and have one student memorize the narration in between if needed (Hagen)

Advanced Theater

Les Femmes Savantes, scene 1 (Jennings)
Huis Clos - Sartre; La Leçon – Ionesco; La Cantatrice Chauve – Ionesco; Bal des Voleurs – Anouilh (all ideas from Wieland)
any dialogue section from a novel can be broken into a play --- simply have students memorize the dialogue and have one student memorize the narration in between if needed – use a longer text for the advanced level (Hagen)

A few ideas for songs...

Carolyn Fisk has used children's songs on current cassettes or CDs. Carmen Campagne sings songs for little children that work for beginning levels. Old 40's songs (shortened though and arranged however you wish) by Charles Trenet and Maurice Chevalier work well with beginning levels. (Les Grands Boulevards, Y a de la Joie, Ca sent si bon la France, J'aime la Pub)
Francoise Hardy is easy for students to sing. (Tous les garçons et les filles, Le temps de l'amour, le premier bonheur du jour, Je veux qu'il revienne). They love newer groups like L5, Lorie, MC Solaar, musicals like Romeo et Juliette and Les Mis.
"L'air du vent" from Pocahontas, "Belle" from Belle et la Bête, "Sous l'océan" from The Little Mermaid and "La Belle et la Bête"

Some beginning solo suggestions from Fisk... "Juste une aventure" by Lucie Blue Tremblay, songs from "Les Misérables", Lorie songs, L5 songs, "Si seulement" by Edith Lefel and Céline Dion songs.

Chanson/groupe de 3 French .I: “En passant par la Lorraine” - 4 strophes (Sturm)
Chanson/groupe de 3 (Fr. II ou III): “A la claire fontaine” - Sturm
“Au bal masque”, La compagnie créole - Sturm
Duet Fr.II: “Ce rêve bleu” (Aladin) - Sturm

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reformatted for MnAATF website on 3 Jan. 2006