

# TEACHING THROUGH SHORT STORIES

## Manual

**Teaching through short stories** is a powerful educational approach that leverages the art of storytelling to facilitate learning, engagement, and retention among students. This method harnesses the natural human affinity for stories, making complex concepts more relatable and memorable. Whether in classrooms, corporate training, or informal learning settings, short stories serve as effective tools to illustrate moral lessons, cultural values, scientific principles, and more. In this article, we explore the multifaceted benefits of teaching through short stories, practical strategies for implementation, and tips to maximize their impact.

## The Power of Short Stories in Education

### Engagement and Attention Retention

Short stories captivate learners' attention by presenting relatable characters, vivid imagery, and compelling plots. Unlike dense textbooks or monotonous lectures, stories evoke emotional responses, making information more memorable. When students are emotionally invested, they are more likely to retain the lessons conveyed.

### Illustration of Abstract Concepts

Abstract ideas such as honesty, perseverance, or environmental responsibility can be challenging to grasp. Short stories provide concrete examples and narratives that illustrate these concepts in real-life or fictional contexts, enhancing understanding.

### Cultural and Moral Transmission

Stories have been used across cultures for centuries to teach moral values and social norms. Incorporating stories from diverse backgrounds fosters cultural awareness and empathy among learners.

### Development of Critical Thinking Skills

Analyzing short stories encourages learners to interpret messages, identify themes, and evaluate characters' decisions. This analytical process promotes critical thinking and discussion skills.

## Advantages of Using Short Stories in Teaching

- Enhances memory retention through storytelling's emotional resonance.
- Fosters creativity and imagination among students.
- Encourages active participation and discussion.
- Adapts easily to various subjects and age groups.
- Provides a versatile tool for both formal and informal learning environments.

## Strategies for Effective Teaching with Short Stories

### Choosing Appropriate Stories

Select stories that align with your learning objectives and are suitable for your learners' age and cultural background. Consider stories that:

- Convey clear moral or educational messages.
- Are engaging and culturally relevant.
- Are concise yet rich in meaning.

### Pre-Story Engagement

Prepare students by discussing related themes or asking questions to activate prior knowledge. For example, if teaching about honesty, ask students about their experiences or opinions on honesty.

### Active Reading and Listening

Encourage students to annotate, ask questions, or predict outcomes while engaging with the story. This active participation deepens comprehension.

### Post-Story Activities

Use reflection and discussion prompts to reinforce lessons:

- Ask students to summarize the story in their own words.
- Discuss the moral or lesson of the story.
- Relate the story to real-life situations or personal experiences.
- Create creative assignments such as role-plays, drawings, or rewriting the story with a different ending.

### Connecting Stories to Curriculum

Integrate stories seamlessly into lessons by linking their themes to curriculum objectives. For example:

- Use a fable to teach about consequences and decision-making.
- Incorporate historical stories to bring history lessons alive.
- Utilize scientific stories or case studies to illustrate principles.

## Examples of Short Stories Used in Teaching

### Fables and Fairy Tales

Classic stories like Aesop's fables or Grimm's fairy tales impart moral lessons succinctly and effectively.

### Contemporary Short Stories

Modern short stories or excerpts from literature can address current social issues, inspiring critical discussions.

### Myths and Legends

Stories from various cultures serve as excellent tools for teaching cultural diversity and history.

## Tips for Creating Your Own Short Stories for Teaching

If you wish to craft your own stories, consider the following tips:

- **Keep it concise:** Aim for brevity to maintain attention.
- **Embed clear morals or lessons:** Ensure the story conveys the intended message.
- **Use relatable characters:** Characters should resonate with your audience.
- **Include vivid imagery:** Paint pictures with words to stimulate imagination.
- **Incorporate conflict and resolution:** Engage learners with a problem and its solution.

## Overcoming Challenges in Teaching with Short Stories

While storytelling is highly effective, educators may face challenges such as:

- Ensuring cultural sensitivity and appropriateness.

- Aligning stories with curriculum standards.
- Maintaining student engagement across different learning styles.
- Balancing storytelling with other instructional methods.

Address these challenges by carefully selecting stories, diversifying teaching methods, and soliciting student feedback.

## Conclusion

Teaching through short stories is a dynamic and impactful pedagogical strategy that enriches the learning experience. By weaving narratives into lessons, educators can foster emotional connections, clarify abstract concepts, and promote critical thinking. Whether using traditional fables, contemporary stories, or creating original narratives, short stories hold the potential to transform education into a more engaging, meaningful, and memorable journey. Embrace this approach to inspire curiosity, moral growth, and lifelong learning among your students.

### Teaching Through Short Stories: A Comprehensive Guide for Educators

In the realm of education, teaching through short stories offers a dynamic and engaging method to cultivate critical thinking, moral values, cultural awareness, and language skills among students. Short stories, with their concise yet profound narratives, serve as powerful tools to spark discussion, inspire creativity, and deepen understanding across various subjects. This approach transforms traditional teaching methods into interactive experiences, making learning both meaningful and memorable.

### Why Use Short Stories in Education?

Short stories possess unique qualities that make them ideal for classroom instruction:

- **Conciseness:** Their brevity allows teachers to introduce, analyze, and conclude lessons within a single class period.
- **Rich Content:** Despite their length, many stories contain layered themes, symbolism, and character development, offering depth for analysis.
- **Versatility:** Suitable for a wide age range and across disciplines? literature, ethics, social studies, language, and even science.
- **Engagement:** Narratives naturally capture students' attention, fostering emotional connections and empathy.
- **Cultural Exposure:** Stories from diverse backgrounds promote multicultural understanding and global awareness.

## Benefits of Teaching Through Short Stories

Implementing short stories in the classroom yields numerous advantages:

- Enhances Reading Comprehension: Students practice extracting themes, motifs, and morals.
- Develops Critical Thinking: Analyzing characters' motives and story outcomes encourages evaluative skills.
- Encourages Moral and Ethical Reflection: Many stories contain moral dilemmas that prompt discussion.
- Supports Language Development: Exposure to varied vocabulary, idiomatic expressions, and narrative structures.
- Fosters Creativity: Students can create their own stories inspired by themes studied.
- Builds Cultural Sensitivity: Stories from different cultures broaden perspectives.

## Strategies for Teaching Through Short Stories

Effectively integrating short stories into lessons involves thoughtful planning and diverse activities. Here's a step-by-step guide:

- Selection of Suitable Stories

Choosing the right story is crucial. Consider:

- Age appropriateness: Complexity of language and themes should match students' developmental level.
- Cultural relevance: Incorporate diverse stories to promote inclusivity.
- Educational objectives: Align stories with curriculum goals?moral lessons, language skills, historical context, etc.
- Engagement factor: Select stories that are intriguing and relatable.

- Pre-Reading Activities

Prepare students for the story to maximize comprehension:

- Discussion prompts: What do they know about the story's theme or setting?
- Vocabulary preview: Introduce key words and expressions.

- Background information: Provide cultural or historical context if necessary.
- Prediction exercises: Guess the story's plot or outcome based on title or illustrations.

### - Active Reading Strategies

Encourage students to engage actively with the text:

- Guided reading questions: Pause to ask interpretive or analytical questions.
- Annotation: Mark important passages, unfamiliar words, or questions.
- Visualization: Draw scenes or characters to deepen understanding.
- Group reading: Read in pairs or groups to foster discussion.

### - Post-Reading Activities

Deepen comprehension and critical thinking through activities such as:

- Discussion and debate: Explore themes, morals, or character decisions.
- Creative writing: Rewrite the ending, write a sequel, or compose a new story inspired by the original.
- Role-play or dramatization: Act out scenes to explore characters' motivations.
- Analytical essays: Examine symbols, themes, or cultural elements.
- Moral dilemmas: Discuss what students would do in similar situations.

## Sample Lesson Plan Using a Short Story

Story: "The Gift of the Magi" by O. Henry

Objective: To understand themes of love, sacrifice, and irony.

Activities Outline:

- Pre-reading: Discuss the idea of sacrifice in relationships; introduce vocabulary.
- Reading: Read the story aloud or individually.
- Discussion questions: Why do the characters sacrifice their possessions? What is the irony?
- Group activity: Students create a list of sacrifices they would make for someone they love.
- Creative task: Write a modern ending or a personal story of sacrifice.

- Reflection: What did they learn about love and giving?

### Incorporating Short Stories Across Different Subjects

While often associated with language arts, short stories can enhance learning across the curriculum:

#### Literature and Language Arts

- Analyzing narrative structure, character development, and literary devices.
- Vocabulary building through context-rich stories.
- Writing assignments inspired by stories.

#### Moral and Ethical Education

- Discussing moral dilemmas and character choices.
- Exploring cultural values and norms.

#### Social Studies

- Stories from different countries and cultures to promote multicultural understanding.
- Historical stories to contextualize events and lifestyles.

#### Science and Environmental Education

- Short stories that illustrate scientific concepts or environmental issues.
- Creative stories about ecosystems, conservation, or scientific discoveries.

### Tips for Effective Story-Based Teaching

- Create a safe environment: Encourage open discussion and respect for differing opinions.
- Use multimedia: Incorporate audio, video, or illustrations to enrich storytelling.
- Connect stories to students' lives: Make lessons relevant to their experiences.
- Encourage student-led discussions: Promote ownership of learning.
- Assess comprehension: Use quizzes, reflections, or presentations.

### Challenges and Solutions

Despite its benefits, teaching through short stories can present challenges:

- Limited time: Short stories are valuable but may need to be integrated into broader lessons.
- Solution: Use them as focal points for multiple activities.
- Varied reading levels: Differing comprehension skills can hinder engagement.
- Solution: Provide differentiated activities and vocabulary support.
- Cultural sensitivity: Some stories may contain stereotypes or outdated perspectives.
- Solution: Choose stories carefully and facilitate critical discussions.

## Conclusion

Teaching through short stories is a powerful pedagogical approach that nurtures literacy, moral reasoning, cultural awareness, and creativity. By carefully selecting stories, employing varied activities, and fostering an inclusive classroom environment, educators can turn simple narratives into profound learning experiences. Whether used as warm-up exercises, core lessons, or reflection tools, short stories hold the potential to inspire, challenge, and transform students' understanding of the world around them.

Start exploring the vast world of short stories today, and unlock new avenues for engaging and meaningful education!

**Question** What are the benefits of teaching through short stories? Teaching through short stories helps students develop critical thinking, enhances vocabulary, improves comprehension skills, and makes lessons more engaging and memorable. How can teachers select appropriate short stories for different age groups? Teachers should consider the students' reading levels, interests, cultural backgrounds, and the lesson objectives to choose stories that are relevant, accessible, and meaningful for each age group. What techniques can be used to effectively incorporate short stories into lessons? Teachers can use storytelling, discussions, role-plays, and creative writing activities related to the story to foster engagement and deepen understanding. How do short stories aid in teaching moral or ethical values? Short stories often contain moral lessons or themes that prompt students to reflect on values like honesty, kindness, and responsibility, facilitating moral education through relatable narratives. Can short stories be used to teach language skills in multilingual classrooms? Yes, short stories are effective for language teaching as they provide context-rich content, introduce new vocabulary, and improve listening, reading, and speaking skills across different languages. What are some challenges of teaching through short stories, and how can they be addressed? Challenges include varying reading levels and cultural relevance. These can be addressed by selecting diverse stories, providing scaffolding, and encouraging discussions to ensure inclusivity and understanding. How can technology enhance the use of short stories in teaching? Technology allows for interactive storytelling, multimedia presentations, and online discussions, making short stories more engaging and accessible for

students in digital learning environments.

**Related keywords:** storytelling education, literary teaching methods, short story curriculum, narrative learning, teaching with stories, story-based instruction, literacy development stories, creative teaching techniques, educational storytelling, fiction-based teaching

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Learning French through stories is an effective and engaging way for beginners and intermediate learners to improve their language skills. Short stories tailored for these levels provide contextual vocabulary, cultural insights, and practical language use, helping learners build confidence and fluency. In this comprehensive guide, we will explore the importance of French stories for learners at different stages, recommend the best resources, and offer tips for maximizing your learning experience with beginner and intermediate short stories.

## Why Use Short Stories to Learn French?

Short stories serve as an excellent tool for language acquisition due to their accessibility and engaging content. Here's why they are beneficial:

### 1. Contextual Learning

- Stories provide real-life context, making vocabulary and grammar easier to understand and remember.
- They introduce idiomatic expressions and cultural references that are common in daily conversations.

### 2. Enhanced Reading Skills

- Regular reading improves comprehension, speed, and familiarity with sentence structures.
- Short stories are manageable and less intimidating for learners at the beginner and intermediate levels.

### 3. Vocabulary Expansion

- Stories incorporate thematic vocabulary, helping learners acquire words related to everyday life, emotions, travel, and more.
- Repetition of key words and phrases reinforces retention.

## 4. Cultural Insights

- Stories often reflect French culture, traditions, and societal norms, enriching learners' cultural knowledge.

## 5. Motivation and Engagement

- Captivating stories motivate learners to read more and stay consistent with their practice.

## Choosing the Right Short Stories for Beginners and Intermediate Learners

Selecting suitable stories is crucial for effective learning. Here's how to choose appropriate materials:

### For Beginners:

- Simplified Language: Stories written with basic vocabulary and simple sentence structures.
- Short Length: Stories that can be read in one sitting, typically 150-300 words.
- Clear Context: Stories centered around familiar themes like family, daily routines, food, or greetings.
- Visual Support: Stories with illustrations aid comprehension and engagement.

### For Intermediate Learners:

- Moderate Vocabulary: Incorporate more diverse vocabulary and idiomatic expressions.
- Complex Sentences: Slightly more complex sentence structures to challenge comprehension.
- Cultural Elements: Stories that delve into French customs, history, or social issues.
- Extended Length: Stories that are 300-600 words, allowing for deeper exploration.

## Top Resources for French Short Stories for Beginners and Intermediates

Access to quality stories is key. Here are some of the best resources categorized by level:

## Online Platforms and Websites

- Le Petit Nicolas: Classic stories suitable for beginners, featuring humorous adventures of a young boy. Available in simplified versions.
- Duolingo Stories: Interactive short stories designed for language learners, with audio and comprehension questions.
- Readlang: Offers a library of French stories with translation features, ideal for intermediate learners.
- French Experiment: Provides free short stories and fairy tales with audio recordings.

## Apps and Digital Tools

- LingQ: An app offering a vast collection of stories with audio, vocabulary lists, and translation support.
- Beelinguapp: Bilingual stories that display French and your native language side-by-side, perfect for beginners and intermediates.
- Yabla: Video stories with subtitles and comprehension exercises.

## Books and Printed Collections

- "French Short Stories for Beginners" by Olly Richards: A collection designed specifically for beginners with vocabulary aids.
- "Short Stories in French for Beginners" by Olly Richards: Features engaging stories with glossary and comprehension questions.
- "French Short Stories for Intermediate Learners" by Frederic Bibard: Offers stories with richer vocabulary and cultural content.

## Effective Strategies for Learning with Short Stories

Maximizing the benefits of short stories involves adopting specific learning strategies:

### 1. Active Reading

- Highlight new vocabulary and expressions.
- Take notes on sentence structures and idiomatic phrases.

- Summarize stories in your own words.

## 2. Listening Practice

- Listen to audio recordings while reading to improve pronunciation and listening skills.
- Repeat sentences aloud for pronunciation practice.

## 3. Vocabulary Building

- Create flashcards for new words.
- Practice using new vocabulary in your own sentences.

## 4. Cultural Exploration

- Research cultural references or customs mentioned in stories.
- Watch related videos or documentaries for broader context.

## 5. Consistent Practice

- Set daily or weekly reading goals.
- Read a variety of stories to expose yourself to different themes and vocabulary.

## Sample Beginner and Intermediate Short Stories to Get Started

Here are some recommended stories to kick off your journey:

### Beginner Level:

- "La Famille" ? A simple story about a family's daily routine.
- "Une Journée à l'École" ? Describes a typical day at school, introducing school-related vocabulary.
- "Le Marché" ? A story about shopping at a local market, useful for learning food and shopping vocabulary.

### Intermediate Level:

- "Une Aventure à Paris" ? A story about a trip to Paris, including cultural landmarks and travel vocabulary.
- "Une Rencontre Surprise" ? Involves dialogues and more complex sentence structures, exploring themes of friendship and surprises.
- "Le Mystère du Château" ? A short mystery story that enhances vocabulary and comprehension.

## Tips to Enhance Your Learning Experience

To make the most of your reading adventures, consider these tips:

- Set Clear Goals: Decide how many stories to read weekly.
- Use Bilingual Resources: Compare the French story with your native language to understand nuances.
- Join Reading Groups: Participate in forums or local clubs focused on French stories.
- Keep a Vocabulary Journal: Record new words and review them regularly.
- Practice Speaking: Retell stories aloud or discuss them with a language partner.

## Conclusion

French stories for beginners and intermediate learners are invaluable tools that foster language development, cultural understanding, and motivation. By choosing appropriate stories, leveraging quality resources, and employing effective learning strategies, you can significantly enhance your French proficiency. Whether you're starting with simple tales or exploring more complex narratives, consistent practice with short stories will pave your way toward fluency and a deeper appreciation of French language and culture. Embark on your storytelling journey today and watch your skills grow with every story read!

French stories beginner and intermediate short stories are invaluable resources for language learners seeking to enhance their comprehension, vocabulary, and cultural understanding. These stories serve as a bridge between basic vocabulary and more complex language structures, offering learners a chance to immerse themselves in authentic French narratives without feeling overwhelmed. Whether you are just starting out or looking to deepen your proficiency, curated collections of beginner and intermediate short stories provide an engaging and effective way to progress in your French language journey.

## Introduction to French Short Stories for Learners

French short stories are specifically designed to cater to different proficiency levels, making them ideal tools for structured language acquisition. For beginners, stories typically feature simple

vocabulary, repetitive sentence structures, and familiar themes that resonate with everyday life. Intermediate stories, on the other hand, introduce more complex grammar, varied vocabulary, and nuanced narratives, challenging learners to expand their skills.

### Why Use Short Stories in Language Learning?

- Contextual Learning: Stories provide context, making new vocabulary and grammar easier to understand and remember.
- Cultural Exposure: They expose learners to French culture, idiomatic expressions, and storytelling traditions.
- Engagement: Narratives are more engaging than isolated vocabulary lists, increasing motivation.
- Reading Practice: Regular reading enhances comprehension, speed, and fluency.

## Features of Beginner French Short Stories

Beginner stories focus on foundational language skills, making them accessible and encouraging. They often feature familiar themes such as family, school, daily routines, and simple adventures.

### Characteristics

- Simple vocabulary and sentence structures
- Repetitive phrases to reinforce learning
- Short length, typically 100-300 words
- Clear illustrations accompanying texts
- Use of present tense predominantly

### Popular Types of Beginner Stories

- Fables and Folktales: Short stories with moral lessons, like "Le Lièvre et la Tortue" (The Hare and the Tortoise).
- Everyday Situations: Dialogues at the market, school, or home.
- Simple Adventures: Stories about pets, friends, or family outings.

### Pros and Cons

#### Pros:

- Easy to understand and follow
- Builds confidence for new learners
- Reinforces basic vocabulary and grammar

Cons:

- May lack variety in sentence structure
- Stories can become repetitive
- Limited exposure to advanced grammar

## Features of Intermediate French Short Stories

Intermediate stories introduce learners to more complex language, richer vocabulary, and more diverse themes. They are designed to challenge learners without overwhelming them.

Characteristics

- Use of past, future, and conditional tenses
- Introduction of idiomatic expressions and colloquialisms
- Longer narratives with more developed plots
- Inclusion of descriptive language and dialogue

Popular Types of Intermediate Stories

- Short detective stories or mysteries
- Cultural tales or legends from French regions
- Stories with moral dilemmas or social themes
- Historical anecdotes

Pros and Cons

Pros:

- Expand vocabulary and grammar knowledge
- Improve reading comprehension of complex texts
- Offer cultural insights and nuanced storytelling

Cons:

- Can be challenging for true beginners
- Might require supplementary grammar review
- Risk of frustration if stories are too difficult

## Choosing the Right Stories for Your Level

Selecting appropriate stories is crucial for effective learning. Beginners should start with simple, predictable narratives, gradually progressing to more complex stories as their skills improve.

Tips for Beginners

- Look for stories with audio versions to improve listening skills.
- Choose stories with illustrations to aid comprehension.
- Focus on stories that use familiar vocabulary and structures.

Tips for Intermediate Learners

- Tackle stories that challenge your current vocabulary.
- Read stories with annotations or glossaries for unknown words.
- Practice summarizing stories to enhance understanding.

## Recommended Resources for French Short Stories

Several platforms and publications cater specifically to French learners, offering collections suitable for beginner and intermediate levels.

Online Platforms

- Duolingo Stories: Interactive stories with comprehension questions.
- Le Petit Nicolas: Classic stories adapted for learners.
- LingQ: Offers stories with audio and vocabulary tools.
- French Short Stories for Beginners (website): Curated stories with translations.

Books and E-books

- Short Stories in French for Beginners by Olly Richards
- French Short Stories for Intermediate Learners by Frederic Bibard
- Read and Listen French Stories series

### Mobile Apps

- Beelinguapp: Bilingual stories with audio support.
- Duolingo: Incorporates stories into lessons.
- LingQ: Extensive library of stories with vocabulary tools.

## Strategies for Maximizing Learning from Short Stories

To get the most out of your reading experience, consider implementing these strategies:

- Active Reading: Highlight new words, note grammar points, and predict story outcomes.
- Listening Practice: Listen to audio versions simultaneously to improve pronunciation and listening skills.
- Vocabulary Building: Create flashcards for new words encountered.
- Story Summaries: Write summaries in French to reinforce comprehension.
- Discussion and Sharing: Join language exchange groups to discuss stories and practice speaking.

## Conclusion

French stories beginner and intermediate short stories are powerful tools that facilitate language acquisition through engaging narratives tailored to different proficiency levels. Beginner stories lay a solid foundation, focusing on basic vocabulary and simple structures, while intermediate stories challenge learners to expand their skills and deepen their understanding of French language and culture. By choosing appropriate stories and employing effective strategies, learners can enjoy a more immersive, enriching, and motivating language learning experience.

Embracing these stories not only improves reading skills but also fosters a genuine appreciation for French storytelling traditions and cultural nuances. Whether you are just starting or looking to elevate your proficiency, integrating French short stories into your study routine is a step toward fluency that is both enjoyable and rewarding.

**QuestionAnswer** What are some popular French short stories for beginners to improve their language skills? Popular French short stories for beginners include 'Le Petit Prince' by Antoine de Saint-Exupéry, 'Les Aventures de Tintin' by Hergé, and simple fables like 'La Cigale et la Fourmi'.

These stories use basic vocabulary and simple sentence structures ideal for learners. How can intermediate French learners benefit from reading short stories? Intermediate learners can expand their vocabulary, improve comprehension skills, and gain exposure to varied sentence structures by reading short stories. Stories with richer language and more complex plots help develop a deeper understanding of French idioms and cultural nuances. Are there recommended online resources or books for French stories suitable for both beginner and intermediate levels? Yes, resources like 'Le Petit Nicolas' series, 'French Short Stories for Beginners' by Olly Richards, and websites like LingQ and Duolingo offer curated stories tailored to different proficiency levels. These provide audio, translations, and vocabulary support. What are some tips for effectively learning French through short stories? Start with stories suited to your level, read actively by highlighting new vocabulary, and try summarizing the story in your own words. Listening to audio versions while reading can also enhance pronunciation and comprehension. How do short stories help in understanding French culture for learners? Short stories often incorporate cultural references, idiomatic expressions, and social norms, providing insights into French traditions, humor, and daily life, which enriches cultural understanding alongside language learning. Can beginner and intermediate French learners use the same stories, or should they choose different ones? While some stories can be enjoyed at multiple levels, beginners should start with simpler texts focusing on basic vocabulary, whereas intermediate learners can tackle more complex stories with richer language and themes for greater challenge. Are there any specific themes in French short stories that are particularly engaging for learners? Common engaging themes include friendship, adventure, humor, and moral lessons. Stories centered around everyday life and traditional tales also resonate well with learners, making language acquisition more relatable. What techniques can help intermediate learners understand more complex French short stories? Techniques include annotating the text, researching unfamiliar vocabulary, reading with audio support, and discussing stories with language partners or tutors to clarify nuances and deepen comprehension. How often should I read French short stories to see noticeable improvement in my language skills? Consistent practice of at least 3-4 times a week, reading for 20-30 minutes each session, can lead to steady progress. Gradually increasing the difficulty and complexity of stories will enhance vocabulary and comprehension over time.

**Related keywords:** French stories, beginner French stories, intermediate French stories, French short stories, French reading practice, learn French stories, French storytelling, easy French stories, French language stories, beginner French reading

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