



INTERNATIONAL  
SCHOOL  
OF BROOKLYN

## **French-Language Book Recommendations**

*Selected by members of ISB's Library Committee in Spring 2021*

### RECOMMENDED BOOK PRIZE LISTS

**Prix d'Angoulême** *A lifetime achievement award given to an author/illustrator of bandes dessinées (graphic novels/comics). Considered the most prestigious award in Franco-Belgian comics.*

**Prix des Incorruptibles** *A French literary prize for contemporary children's literature. It is awarded by young readers, from kindergarten to high school. The objective of the prize is to arouse the desire to read among the youngest through selections of quality books.*

**Prix Sorcières** *A French literary prize awarded to works of children's literature. Prizewinners are chosen by librarians & bookstores specializing in books for young readers; (the Association des Librairies Spécialisées Jeunesse, & the Association des Bibliothécaires de France).*

**Prix Goncourt des lycéens** *A prestigious French literary award selected by high school students. It is sponsored by the French Ministry of Education and FNAC, with the stated goal of encouraging young people to read.*

### LOWER SCHOOL RECOMMENDATIONS

***l'afrique de Zigomar* by Philippe Corentin** *The story of a mouse and a frog who try to reach Africa by traveling on the back of Zigomar, a reckless blackbird. A surprising journey, filled with unexpected encounters and amazing characters.*

**. Recommended for Gr. 1**

***Frisson l'écureuil* by Mélanie Watt** *Scaredy Squirrel never leaves his nut tree. It's way too dangerous out there. He could encounter tarantulas, green Martians or killer bees. But in his tree, every day is the same and if danger comes along, he's well-prepared. Scaredy Squirrel's emergency kit includes antibacterial soap, Band-Aids and a parachute. Day after day he watches and waits, and waits and watches, until one day ... his worst nightmare comes true! Scaredy suddenly finds himself out of his tree, where germs, poison ivy and sharks lurk. But as Scaredy Squirrel leaps into the unknown, he discovers something really uplifting ....* **Recommended for Gr. 1**

***Le loup sentimental* by Geoffroy de Pennart** *Lucas Wolf decided it was time to leave home and go and live his life. Grandmother, grandfather, mother, father and brothers are*

sad - but resigned - to see him go. On the doorstep, Father Lucas (see *The wolf is back*) gives a list of good things to eat. Unfortunately for his belly, Lucas is too sentimental, letting go a succulent goat and her seven kids, three small pigs, and even the ugly Pierre ... How to ease his hunger??. **Recommended for Gr. 1**

[La Bande du CE1 - La photo de classe by Sophie Dieuaide](#) The CE1s dressed up for the class photo. However, the photographer is a bit late in arriving. Fatou took the opportunity to go and change: what if she put on her blue dress instead? Or not, the red one! Or the yellow one? Leon, himself, is too well dressed: he could put his head under water... And the master, in his ugly sweater? He might need a little help keeping order. Fortunately for him, the CE1 gang has the situation under control!

**Recommended for Gr. 2**

[Le bureau des mots perdus by Roland Fuentès](#) Timéo does not remember what his mother told him this morning. So he decides to go to the lost words office, in the lost things house. There, he is assigned a word game hunter to help him in his funny quest.

**Recommended for Gr. 2**

[Les Choses précieuses: Une histoire d'Archibald by Astrid Desbordes](#) Sometimes Archibald stops at shop windows to look at beautiful and expensive things he would like to buy. But on second thought, he tells himself that these objects, once you own them, end up locked in drawers, or cupboards. On the contrary, he realizes that the nightingale which teaches him to sing, the big apple tree which offers him a snack, or the moon which stays lit all night to reassure him ... these things are free, but they are the most precious in the world. **Recommended for Gr. 2**

[Les aventures de la famille Motordu by Pef](#) (Lots of french puns!) The Motordu family has an eventful journey. The prince, his wife, their little marble and their little ice cube will taste the charms of the Botte d'Azur and then have some crazy adventures: meet the ghost of a baby chick, participate in a hair race. or even try to catch up with a father who hiccups...

**Recommended for Gr. 3**

[La prophétie des grenouilles by Jacques-Rémy Girerd](#) Tom lives happily with his adoptive parents, Ferdinand and Juliette. But one evening, frogs tell him that a flood threatens all living things on the planet ... And soon, gusts of rain fall for forty days and forty nights on Earth. Only a small troop of humans and animals, led drum beating by Ferdinand, resists. **Recommended for Gr. 3**

[Tara Duncan - Les sortceliers by Sophie Audouin-Mamikonian](#) From fantasy to fantasy. Tara is not a witch like the others: she is a spell-doer, the one-who-binds-the-spells. Her powers, which she discovers by chance, will help her to free her mother, held prisoner on the planet OtherWorld. The first volume of a well-rounded series that honors humor and courage. **Recommended for Gr. 4**

[La sixième by Susie Morgenstern](#) It's official. Margot has the letter in her hands. She is admitted to the sixth grade at the Parc des Grands Pins college. She's finally in the big leagues! First of all, the preparations: take identity photos, copy the vaccination certificates ... and above all decide what outfit she will wear for the first day. His older sister insists: wear jeans, and no schoolbag! The dreaded day arrives. Everyone has a satchel, and

*almost all the girls are dressed in a skirt ... A disappointment that will not prevent Margot from running for class delegates. Because she dreams of becoming popular ...*

**Recommended for Gr. 5**

**[Les sorcières sont N.R.V by Rivais & Laclos](#)** 24 tales full of witches, potions, brooms, ogres ... All in the most perfect confusion, a confusion cleverly maintained by the author, even in his writing, where puns, acrostics, tautograms, charades, anagrams, portfolios, and lipograms alternate at a devilish pace. **Recommended for Gr. 4**

**[La villa d'en face by Pierre Boileau](#)** "What to do when you have bronchitis?" asks Philippe in his room. Watching the villa across the street with daddy's binoculars is fun, but this game can become dangerous if the neighbors are hiding a gangster. Philippe and his sister Claudette want to know a little too much about the mystery of the house opposite. And the gangster doesn't like the curious at all. **Recommended for Gr. 4**

**[L'homme qui plantait des arbres by Jean Giono](#)** "It was understood that men could be as effective as God in areas other than destruction." We can only agree with the narrator when we see the magnificent forest that Elzéard Bouffier patiently raised throughout his life. Ecologist ahead of his time? Without a doubt. This shepherd decided to restore the splendor to this deforested area of Provence by planting a forest of oaks, birches, beeches and maples. Thanks to him, life is gradually returning to this desolate countryside. A story of patience, respect and love for the land. **Recommended for Gr. 5**

**[Mon Grand Petit frère by Brigitte Peskine](#)** Vincent is the youngest in the family and he is tired of his big brother Xavier being so adored by his parents. Everything is only for him. But leaving for a weekend on an island, Xavier falls seriously ill with meningitis and sinks into a coma. He comes out but his brain is damaged. It will never be like it was before.

**Recommended for Gr. 5**

**[Seul contre tous by Hubert Ben Kemoun](#)** The truth does not always come out of the mouths of children ... It all started with a small mistake. A tiny little nothing mistake. But when the little nothing turns into a rumor, Baptiste's day turns into a nightmare ...

**Recommended for Gr. 5**

## MIDDLE SCHOOL RECOMMENDATIONS

**[La balafre by Jean-Claude Mourlevat](#)** Olivier's father is transferred for a year to the countryside. Olivier and his mother follow. They move into a beautiful house. One evening, Olivier is surprised by a dog barking violently in the abandoned house next door. But his parents heard no barking. And who is the little girl who also seems to live in the deserted house? Obsessed by these ghostly apparitions, Olivier wants to understand. A moving book. From 10 years old.

**[La belle Adele by Marie Desplechin](#)** Adèle has had enough. Why should she go out of her way to put on makeup and dress like the other girls in her class? Does she really have to be like everyone else? And Frédéric... He's kind, he's even tragically kind. Isn't that the worst

flaw for a boy? Adèle and Frédéric must urgently find a survival strategy. They then have a bright idea...

**Mondo et autres histoires by J.M.G. Le Clézio** The stories in this collection all concern adolescents who in one way or another leave their familiar (civilized) circumstances and have numinous experiences accompanied by a rite of passage or other initiation. The author was awarded the 2008 Nobel Prize in Literature for his life's work.

**L'oeil du loup by Daniel Pennac** In a zoo, a child and an old one-eyed wolf stare at each other, eye to eye. All the life of the wolf scrolls through the back of his eye: a life in the wild in Alaska, a species threatened by humans. The Child's Eye tells the story of a little African who traveled all over Africa to survive, and who has a precious gift: that of telling stories that make people laugh and dream.

**On a volé le Nkoro Nkoro by Thierry Jonquet** A funny and tender story of the friendship between two dunces who share everything. Oumar, fresh from Africa, and Marcel are the best friends in the world. At the back of the class, they're always laughing. But one day, Oumar brings his grandfather's Nkoro-Nkoro to school. Nkoro-Nkoro doesn't look like much, but it will turn everything upside down ...

**Petit Pays by Gaël Faye** Prix Goncourt des lycéens. The semi-autobiographical story of a 10 year old boy growing up in Burundi during the Rwandan genocide. The author is also a popular musician.

**La rivière à l'envers by Jean-Claude Mourlevat** Where does the young girl come from who asked Tomek, the village grocer, for water from the Qjar River? When he learns that this river flows backwards and that its source has supernatural properties, the idea of going there never leaves him. There is a Forest of Oblivion and its bears, immense blue flowers, a Non-Existent Island from which one never leaves, and trees with squirrel-fruits. Bewitching and endearing.

**Le voyage de Mémé by Gil Ben Aych** Simon's family is moving about twenty kilometers from Paris. His grandma, who has just arrived from Algeria, needs to move with them, but she refuses to get into a car, bus, or metro. She wants to walk, that's all. Simon accompanies her as they walk through the capital and the suburbs. Along the way, Mémé goes from discovery to discovery.