
Blondeau, Nicole and Ferroudja Allouache.
La littérature Progressive du Français.
Niveau avancé.

Paris: CLE International, 2005. ISBN: 978-2-09-033731-0. \$37.95.

La Littérature Progressive du Français is a series of three books introducing students to French and Francophone literature at the beginning, intermediate, and advanced levels. The book reviewed here is intended for teenagers and adults at the advanced level, i.e., students who have completed between 200 and 250 hours of classroom French.

La Littérature Progressive du Français is composed of 65 literary excerpts, including all genres of literature (the novel, poetry, theatre, and the short story), one full text (*L'invitation*, a short story written by Agota Kristof, published in 2005), and 600 student activities. The text is organized in chronological order and spans every period from the Middle Ages through the twentieth century, although most of the book is devoted to contemporary authors.

Each chapter opens with a two-page introduction to the period to allow students to get acquainted with the historical and cultural context of the text under study, including the different literary genres and movements developed during the period. Each sub-section includes a literary excerpt on the left page with a short biography of the author. Definitions and explanations of difficult words and expressions are provided in French in a section titled "Pour mieux comprendre." On the opposite page to the right, students will find guided activities that will help them understand the meaning of the text. Activities are two-fold, focusing on discovery and exploration. The first part, on discovery, consists mainly in helping students acquire a general feel for the text. The part inviting students to explore helps students gain a deeper and more nuanced understanding of the text. The last short story also includes a section titled "Pour aller plus loin," which can trigger in-depth discussions. Suggested corrections are available in another volume that can be purchased separately. Students will also find several indexes organized by genre, topic, and author, as well as a glossary of literary terms.

In *La Littérature Progressive du Français* literary texts are used as pedagogical tools to help students master the language and become acquainted with French and Francophone culture. The authors believe that literature should engage students to express what they think and feel. To this purpose, they designed *La Littérature Progressive du Français* to enhance students' pleasure in reading, discussing, comparing, contrasting, writing about, and exchanging their ideas.

La Littérature Progressive du Français is quite flexible and teachers should feel free to pick and choose texts, as well as the order in which they want to introduce them. However, even though *La Littérature Progressive du Français* offers a broad spectrum of French and Francophone literature, the length of the texts for advanced students could be increased. Indeed, the two other volumes for the beginning and intermediate levels offer texts of similar length. It would be nice to see a progression not only within the book, but also within the different books. Finally, since the authors decided not to include any vocabulary or grammar exercises, teachers will have to design their own activities if they want to work on grammar in context.

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