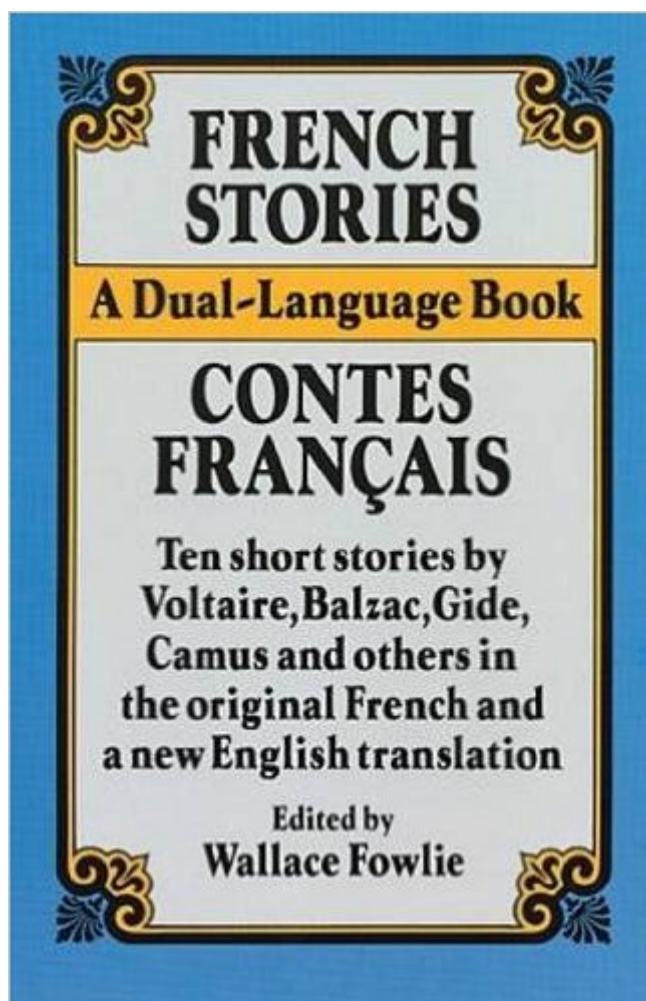


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French Stories / Contes Français (A Dual-Language Book) (English And French Edition)



Synopsis

Drawn from two centuries of French literature, these superb selections by ten great writers span a wide variety of styles, philosophies, and literary creeds. The stories reflect not only the beliefs of various literary schools, but the preoccupations of French civilization, at the various times of their composition, with the metaphysical and psychological problems of man. Contents include *Micromégas* (Voltaire), *La Messe de l'Athée* (Honoré de Balzac), *La Légende de Saint Julien l'Hospitalier* (Gustave Flaubert), *Le Spleen de Paris* (Charles Baudelaire), *Menuet* (Guy de Maupassant), *Mort de Judas* (Paul Claudel), *Le Retour de l'Enfant Prodigue* (André Gide), *Grand-Lebrun* (François Mauriac), *Le Passe-Muraille* (Marcel Aymé), and *L'Hôte* (Albert Camus). Students of French, or those who wish to refresh their knowledge of the language, will welcome this treasury of masterly fiction. The selections are arranged chronologically, allowing the reader to witness the development of French literary art from Voltaire to Camus. Excellent English translations appear on pages facing the original French. Also included are a French-English vocabulary list, textual notes, and exercises.

Book Information

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Each first-year student at the University of California must fulfill the Subject A Requirement. This requirement has evolved since its inception at UC in 1897-98: now many high school students may fulfill it through College Board Sat-II Writing test scores or Advanced Placement (AP) Examination in English scores. However, if you happen to be one of 16,000 students each year who takes the Subject A Exam on the morning of the second Saturday in May, you will be given a prose passage

of some 700-1000 words to read and analyze. Then you will be expected to "write an essay responding on a single topic based on the passage's content. The topic is one of two general kinds: one focusing almost exclusively on the reading passage itself, and the other encouraging students to draw upon their knowledge and personal experience." So what does *French Stories/Contes Français* have to do with passing this dreaded exam? That May morning, as I squirmed in my seat in labyrinthine Dwinelle Hall, I settled on this topic: "The Use of Irony in a Short Story." Somehow, I recalled the final story from *French Stories/Contes Français*: "L'Hôte," by Albert Camus (1913-1960). "L'Hôte" (The Guest) is one of six stories from his *L'Exil et le Royaume* (1957--the same year he was awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature). Editor Wallace Fowlie gives this brief synopsis: "The scene of the story is set on a high plateau of Algeria. An Arab has killed a man in a family quarrel, and he is brought to the schoolteacher who is to take him to prison in the next town. The story is constructed around a dramatic irony which forms the conclusion."

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