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Le Petit Nicolas (French Edition) (Folio)



Synopsis

Told from the perspective of a young French boy, this collection of charming stories--presented in French--isn't just for young readers. It doubles as an entertaining primer for anyone who is studying the French language.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Jean-Jacques Sempe est un dessinateur a l humour bien connu des francais. Les Editions Denoel publient son premier album de dessins humoristiques en 1962 et il collabore regulierement avec la presse magazine: Paris-Match, L Express, Le Nouvel Observateur ou Telerama. Depuis 1979, il realise de nombreuses couvertures pour le New Yorker. Son dernier album, Bourrasques et Accalmies, est publie aux Editions Denoel en octobre 2013. Rene Goscinny est auteur de bandes dessinees, mais aussi realisateur et scenariste de films. Il est le createur d Asterix, Iznogoud et du Petit Nicolas, ainsi que le scenariste principal de Lucky Luke. Il est l un des auteurs francais les plus lus au monde: l ensemble de son 1/2uvre represente 500millions d exemplaires vendus.

It would be hard to overstate the charm of these wonderful stories. Like many others, I picked up this book to help with my project of trying to teach myself French. Not only does it serve that purpose, but it is so engaging that it has held me on course when the inherent difficulty of the language and some cross-cultural exasperation has tempted me to chuck the whole project. No way could I ever write this little dude and his copains out of my life. Although hilarious, the Nicolas stories also touch you in a much deeper place. He is a little boy full of life and good humor, but he and his

friends are also filled with every possible anxiety about growing up and finding their manly places in the world. They are charmingly obsessed with their status and their dignity. One of my favorite stories is "Louissette," which recounts the visit of a young girl who comes with her mother for tea. Nicolas is pouty from the beginning as his mother dresses him up, in his view, like a clown. And maman assures him that if he doesn't show that he is well raised, he will have an affair with her! Although Nicolas is always filled with explanations that burst forth in run-on sentences, this traumatic visit brings him close to tears more than once. In Nicolas's world, not crying is one of the main imperatives. Another is assuming a male's naturally dominant [irony] and superior role over young girls, who, after all, cry all the time. Louissette starts off telling Nicolas that he looks like a monkey and things go downhill from there. She is so much more quick-witted, not to mention athletic, that she repeatedly leaps ahead and distracts him just when he is deciding whether to give her a punch in the nose or to pull her hair. And it is Louissette who is landing all the successful coups on Nicolas. Meanwhile, Louissette is always batting her eyelashes at the mamans and impressing them with what an adorable innocent she is! As with the "Louissette" story of a young boy having to deal with a very formidable young girl who does not fit into his template defining his superior place in the world, all these stories are filled with such very real anxieties of male childhood. Let me say again, though, they are very, very funny! You love this kid. How easy/difficult is this book for a student of French. My feeling is that previous reviews have made it seem a little easier than it is. There are definitely difficult bits such as when Nicolas is playing cowboys and describes all the various cowboy accoutrements that he and his friends have hung on themselves. Often, too, sentences are very run-on, mimicking Nicolas's overflowing emotions and self-justifications. And the mannerisms of his speech are realistic and more difficult than the dry dialogue of textbooks. But this is worth a little difficulty - I just want to caution against expecting a child's book to be extremely easy. It is manageable, but not in the first few weeks of studying French. I also have a two-CD set of these stories read in French which I ordered from .fr. The CD set is a dramatic reading and it is an absolute delight. But it is considerably more difficult than the book. Those run-on sentences are read in rapid bursts, as intended. The reading wonderfully captures the charm of the book but definitely does not make it any easier. My only exasperation with the Nicolas books is that I can not share them with my English-only friends. They touched me so much and made me laugh so hard. I hope I have inspired someone here.

Le Petit Nicolas is a funny, laugh-out-loud story about the escapades and adventures of Nicolas and his family and friends. I would put this book at the upper intermediate level for French language

learners. Lots of opportunities to learn new vocabulary- I kept my dictionary handy. I recommend it!

I've loved it!

I love petit Nicolas and the whole collection to the point of sending it to little family members!

I bought this for my French class a few years back. I love the French language but to be honest it's not the easiest and I forgot about half the things I learned, haha! But I still find myself picking this book up and reading it all the time. It's not for beginners, but the way it is written makes it easy to follow. You can just have a basic dictionary with you for vocabulary words and you're good to go! The stories about the little schoolboy Nicolas and his classmates are so cute, and the illustrations go perfectly with them. Any French fanatic should have this in their library!

Charming, funny, and in beautiful rather simple French. A great read for French students like me.

I purchased this book for my granddaughter. I read the beginning chapters. Seemed good to me.

very simple to read for beginners in french fun stories in it!! great book I gave it as a gift to my brother who also studies french as i do, and the first day we read it together and we couldn't stop reading it, we were obsessed with it. I can't wait to buy another of the books from the author. 100% recommended

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