

## Rationale for Full-length material – French classes 2016-2017

### Rationale:

2.1 Students demonstrate an understanding of the relationship between the products and perspectives of the culture studied.

4.1 Students demonstrate the concept of culture through comparisons of the cultures studied and their own.

**From the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Standards for Foreign Languages Learning**

### French I

#### Movies

- *Une vie de chat* by Alain Gagnol and Jean-Loup Felicioli (2010) is an animated film telling the story of a young Parisian girl whose cat leads her to unravel a thrilling mystery. It was nominated for the Academy Award for Best Animated Feature. (rated PG)
- *Le papillon* by Philippe Muyl (2004) is a family-friendly movie. Often lonely because of her single mother's busy work schedule, eight-year-old befriends an elderly neighbor man, eventually joining him on a trek to find a rare butterfly. (rated PG)
- *Princes et Princesses I* from renowned animator Michel Ocelot (2000) is a film that unravels six epic tales of love and adventure. It won an award at the Chicago International children's Film festival.
- *Les Contes de la Nuit* (2011) from Michel Ocelot. In this dazzling and magical film, history blends with fairytales as viewers are whisked off to visit enchanted lands.

### French II

#### Book and Movie

- *Le Petit Nicolas* created by Rene Goscinny and illustrated by Jean-Jacques Sempe was first published in 1959. The humor of the books derives from their unique story-telling style: the adventures of Little Nicolas, growing up in the 50's are told in the first person by Nicolas himself. This successful book is an early example of modern children's literature that revolves around the experience of the child. The film was released in 2009.

#### Movies

- *Les choristes* by Christophe Barratier (2004). When he becomes a music teacher at a boarding school, Clement Mathieu is unprepared to deal with troubled boys, but he is able to spark his students' interest in music. Nominated for 2 oscars (PG 13).
- *Un monstre à Paris* by Bibi Bergeron (2011), a critically-acclaimed animated movie set in Paris in the year 1910 and centered on a monster who lives in a garden and his love for a beautiful, young singer.

- ***Une hirondelle a fait le printemps* by Christian Carion (2001).** Sandrine gets tired of life in Paris and decides to leave her work in computers and become a farmer. Trials and tribulations in a harsh lifestyle then follow. Nominated for 2 Césars awards. (unrated)
- ***Intouchables* by Eric Toledano and Olivier Nakashe (2011)** unravels true story of a wealthy, physically disabled French man, whose world is turned upside down when he hires a young, good-humored, African-French young man as his caretaker. Their bond proves that friendship can hold over all social and economic differences. This irreverent comedy received 7 international awards (Rated R)

## Books

- ***Le Petit Prince* by Antoine Saint Exupery (1943).** This famous fiction is the most read and most translated book in the French language, and was voted the best book of the 20th century in France. It can be read on many different levels to provide pleasure and food for thought for readers of all ages. The author, an aviator, crashes with his aeroplane in the middle of the Sahara desert. While he is trying to repair it, a little boy appears and asks him to draw a sheep. The author learns that The Little Prince comes from asteroid B-612 where he has left behind three volcanoes and a rose.

## French IV

### Books and Movies

- ***Jean de Florette and Manon des Sources* by Claude Berri (1985).** This saga follows the incredible efforts of Jean Cadoret who inherits a farm from his mother as his greedy neighbor is plotting to steal the land from him. Best film at the British Academy Awards (rated PG)
- ***L'homme qui plantait des arbres*, Jean Giono, 1953**  
This short novel is about the unique achievement of Elzéard Bouffier, a shepherd who patiently reforests a barren piece of land. The forsaken landscape is gradually transformed: springs, cultivated fields and thriving villages are regenerated.  
After the reading, we will watch the animated version directed by Frederick Bach (1987) who received the Academy Award for best animated short film (rated NR).

### Movies

- ***Être et Avoir*, Nicolas Philibert 2002)**  
This documentary follows a small rural school through a single school year in the village of Saint Etienne sur Usson. It is just a small class of mixed ages, with a dedicated teacher who shows patience and respect for the children. The film won a French César for Best documentary in 2002 and the Sacramento French Film Festival Audience Prize in 2003.
- ***Entre les murs*, Laurent Cantet (2008)**  
Teacher and novelist François Bégaudeau plays a version of himself as he negotiates a year with his racially mixed students from a tough Parisian neighborhood. This documentary-like movie won the Golden Palm at the Cannes movie festival in 2008. (rated PG 13).
- ***Monsieur Lazare* de Philippe Falardeau (2011).** At a Montréal public grade school, an Algerian immigrant is hired to replace a popular teacher who committed suicide in her classroom. While helping his students deal with their grief, his own recent loss is revealed. Nominated for best foreign movie at the Academy Awards. (PG 13)