

The New Year has arrived and there has never been a better time to teach or learn a foreign language. For teachers, we have an ever-expanding range of teaching materials to make your new term easier and more successful than ever. Choose from our new range of text and workbooks, book and audio packs, updated dictionaries, grammar and verb guides, photocopyable materials, teacher resource packs and more.

For students, whether you are teaching yourself or learning at school or university, our shelves are bulging with textbooks, CDs, readers, fiction titles and phrase books.

For libraries, we have a whole new range of foreign fiction, both for children and adults and an unbelievable (and still growing!) DVD collection.

Our staff are fully competent to help you with whatever enquiry you may have and are looking forward to providing you with the books and resources that are the backbone of a great academic year.

With all the best for the approaching academic term,

**Gaby & Victor**

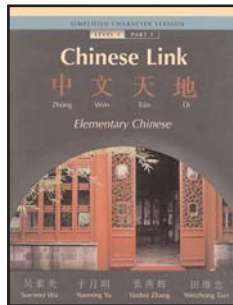
Gaby Brinsmead and Victor Galstyan (editors) and LBC staff.



## CHINESE

### Chinese Link

This practical and straightforward text combines the five C's of language learning (communication, cultures, comparisons, connections and communities) in a program that will suit the needs of most Chinese language teachers and students in the 21st century. New grammar is introduced systematically in order to enhance students' communicative skills. Students start with words and phrases and build up to sentences and passages, applying them in communicative tasks. There are four types of exercises in every chapter: pinyin, character, grammar and communicative tasks. Each chapter includes extensive cultural material (in English) with up-to-date articles on topics like greetings, names, countries, families, making phone calls and getting to know people. A fantastic course for beginners, the text features a clear, attractive layout, includes maps of China, drawings and authentic photographs.

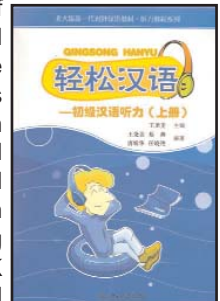


<b>Textbook 1/1</b>	\$82.95
<b>Workbook 1/1</b>	\$39.95
<b>Textbook 1/2</b>	\$82.95
<b>Workbook 1/2</b>	\$39.95
<b>Audio CDs (covers both levels)</b>	\$104.95

### Easy Chinese/ Qingsong Hanyu Book & 3 Audio CDs

\$28.95

This book and CD set contains hundreds of exercises to improve students' speaking and listening skills. There are two volumes in the series, both of which contain thirty lessons and are accompanied by audio CDs. Lesson content is taken from real social environments and focuses on international students learning Chinese in China. In addition to plenty of speaking and listening practice, Easy Chinese also provides HSK sample tests after each lesson. This text will make lesson planning easier for teachers and will encourage the skill and confidence of their students.



### Four Great Inventions

\$4.50

This reader tells the story of the four great Chinese innovations: the art of paper-making, printing, the invention of the compass and the development of gunpowder. Wang describes the events that made these inventions possible and explains why they remain 'the everlasting pride of the Chinese nation.' This affordable reader is an excellent resource for intermediate students of Chinese.

### A Selected Collection of the Analects

\$19.95

Written in English, classical and modern Chinese, this volume introduces students to the basic ideas of Confucianism: politics, philosophy, literature, art and education to the cultivation of morality. Cai's translations are practical and approachable, yet manage to remain faithful to the meaning of Confucius' original thought. With sayings like, 'don't worry about being misunderstood but about understanding others' and 'if one learns the truth in the morning, one would never regret dying the same evening', this is a lively and unforgettable language resource, suitable for Chinese students of all levels.

**10% discount**  
**to all schools, libraries, colleges**  
**& other institutions**  
**(except on net items)**

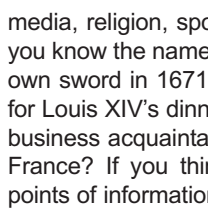
**A Selected Collection of Mencius** \$19.95  
Mencius was the outstanding Confucian sage of the Warring States Period who developed the idea of benevolence. This became the key theme of Confucius' doctrines, and was extended by him to encompass the notion of benevolent government. This text relates Mencius' views on key areas of human interest: politics, education, philosophy, ethics and daily life. Alongside classical and modern Chinese, Cai's English translations remain faithful to the meaning of Mencius and are consistent and readable. This is a great reader for students of Chinese, or those with an interest in Chinese culture and philosophy.



**Dictionnaire de Linguistique (Larousse)** hb \$69.95  
This beautifully presented and comprehensive dictionary sets out to define all that relates to the acquisition and comprehension of the French language. As well as explaining key terms connected to the world's most admired and cosseted language, it is also filled with information about the linguists, from Vaugelas to Guillaume, from Ferdinand de Saussure to Chomsky and Jakobson, who have played decisive roles in its evolution. So if you are curious to know what exactly is aphasia, how to distinguish between a signifier and a signified or how to tell the difference between l'indicatif and l'optatif, then this definitely is the dictionary for you. Stylishly formatted, and entirely in French, this is a must for those who are, or who wish to become, French language experts.

**French Verbs for Dummies** \$26.95  
With easy-to-follow instructions and a spacious layout, this will help even hesitant students to conjugate, cope with and revise their verbs. All terms referring to verbs are explained, and students are shown, with plenty of tips and examples, how to classify and use verbs in all moods and tenses. Each chapter contains verb charts, practice exercises and answers, as well as plenty of cartoons and tips on correct verb-usage. This book cannot fail to improve the skills of language students, and is a great resource for both teachers and learners.

**The French Way: Aspects of Behaviour, Attitudes and Customs of the French** \$19.95  
This elegantly written and wonderfully informative book covers just about everything you could want to know about the French. Designed to enable foreigners to understand how French people live, interact, do business and have fun, it is the ideal guide for those who want to communicate without committing faux pas. It covers topics of interest to students and travelers alike, including vital and quirky information about French food, families, holidays, etiquette, lifestyle, the media, religion, sports, money, entertainment, and shopping. Do you know the name of the famous chef who killed himself with his own sword in 1671 because the seafood had not arrived in time for Louis XIV's dinner party? Or what to do when you first meet a business acquaintance? Or how to fall in love (correctly) while in France? If you think you need these and other indispensable points of information, then this is the book for you.



**Heidi** hb \$12.95  
This is the classic story of a little girl's journey into the Swiss Alps, and of the close friendship which she develops with her grandfather there. In the *Bibliothèque Rouge et Or* series, it has been translated into French and skillfully and sensitively adapted for new and young readers. Fully illustrated and in hardcover, it will bring pleasure to beginning and intermediate readers of French.

**35 Kilos d'Espoir** \$25.95  
Gregoire is 13 years old. He has always hated school, right from the start: there are so many other things he would rather be doing! In particular, he loves spending time with his grandfather. But when he is expelled, his grandfather Leon is furious. Maybe it is time for Gregoire to grow up and learn to face life on his own. This inspiring and beautifully told story by the enormously successful Anna Gavalda is suitable for teenagers or for anyone taking their first steps into French literature.

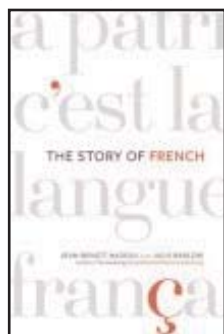


**Le Nouveau Petit Robert 2007** hb \$160.00  
This is the 40th edition of the landmark French dictionary that revolutionized the whole meaning of the word 'dictionary' for the French-speaking world. The collaborators of this edition have been at pains to present the most current and up-to-date version of the language, without losing any of the vitality, the richness, and the precision for which their dictionary has been renowned since 1967 and on which its reputation as market leader is firmly based. Along with 60,000 words and 300,000 definitions, this also features etymologies of words and examples of their uses, synonyms, antonyms, relations between words, phonetic transcriptions, comprehensive indices of abbreviations and cited authors and much more.

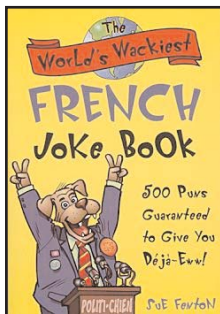
**Le Robert des Enfants Mac/Win CD-ROM** \$45.00  
This multimedia dictionary combines educational material with captivating illustrations and amusing sounds to help children to master new words. It features definitions of 20,000 words, pronunciation of 7000 words and conjugation of all verbs. It is the ideal tool for encouraging children who already understand or who are learning French to consult the dictionary. With written and spoken prompts, this helps children to discover, learn and memorise words, conjugate verbs, form feminine and plural forms of nouns and adjectives, and much more. For six years and up.



**The Story of French** hb \$56.00  
This beautifully presented book is a work of ambitious scope and impressive scholarship. It describes the evolution, development and spread of French in France and throughout the world, and also predicts the pattern of French language learning in the future. It discusses the most significant moments in the history of the language, like the contributions of Bescherelle, the dictionary compilations of Larousse and Littré, the role of the Académie Française, the way writers such as Balzac, Flaubert and Zola contributed to both French and world fiction, and the shape and nature of the French-speaking Empire. It will suit all lovers of French and would be a valuable addition to a school library.



**The World's Wackiest French Joke Book** \$14.95

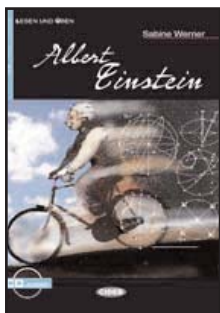


This original and amusing book sets out to teach French, not through lists and activities, but through the medium of riddles, quips and anecdotes. As well as jokes, it features tips about language, pronunciation and grammar and covers topics such as animals, birds, family, numbers, fashion and many more. Riddles are accompanied by cartoons that help to explain new language. Written basically in English but with plenty of French, this book is suitable for all learner levels. Humor is used to expedite learning, explain language, expand students' vocabulary, and, most importantly, to keep language learning fun.



# GERMAN

**Albert Einstein Book & Audio CD** \$30.95



The story of the scientist whose theory of relativity revolutionised the world, who intervened in world politics and who was as famous as a pop star, is related in a simple yet engaging way in this all-German book and CD. The text features guided reading passages (accompanied by vocabulary lists), comprehension activities, and notes on Einstein's birthplace and the scientific environment in which he worked. Beginning to intermediate students will enjoy this introduction to the joys of reading German.

**Duden Bildwörterbuch: Deutsch als Fremdsprache**

hb \$59.95

This illustrated German dictionary is the ideal language tool for anyone keen to learn or improve their German. Clearly labeled illustrations allow readers to see what something is called, what it looks like and where it is found. It contains more than 400 illustrations, arranged according to subject, generating around 30,000 terms. Topics include astronomy, meteorology, geography, the human body, clothes, restaurants and cafes, airports, sports, films, musical instruments and mathematics. Completely in German, it is suitable for intermediate to advanced learners. It is highly recommended for school libraries and will be appreciated by all students looking to refine their understanding of German words and their uses.

**German Through Film**

\$54.00

Eating popcorn is one of the most common activities that accompanies movie-watching. But why not combine the experience with language learning? Not having to read subtitles and just following the rapid-fire banter in *Lola Rennt* should be enticing enough. But one would need a tool to guide this learning process and this excellent title is just that. Using a cross-section of recent German hits, including *Goodbye Lenin* (DVD \$29.95), *Nowhere in Africa* (DVD \$19.95) and *Comedian Harmonists*, the textbook interrogates your viewing and listening experience – solidifying all the knowledge you've gleaned from the films. Unfortunately it's not quite suitable for absolute beginners, but for those who have made a start and are getting sick of generic "Waiter! Can I get some beer with my sausages?" dialogues, this will be blissful respite. The book is suitable for self-study use or as supplementary material in the classroom.



**Grammatik Kreativ** net \$76.95

This all-German text approaches grammar in an original and inspirational way. Grammatical topics, such as verbs, nouns, adjectives and clauses are introduced through speaking and writing exercises and reinforced with photocopiable revision activities and worksheets. The text suggests many new and exciting ways for beginning students, both individuals and groups, to improve their German grammar.

**Tor ohne Grenzen Book & Audio CD** \$30.95



Pedro, a 16-year-old boy from Cuba, arrives in Germany. He misses everything about Cuba, and feels like an outsider until he begins to play for his new school's soccer team. In this book and CD pack, the story of Pedro's eventual triumph is related in a straightforward and yet engaging way. Guided reading passages are accompanied by vocabulary lists, comprehension activities, facts about Germany's Ruhrgebiet, ideas to stimulate written and oral activities and heaps of colourful illustrations. This reader represents a manageable and enjoyable entry into the manifold joys of reading German.

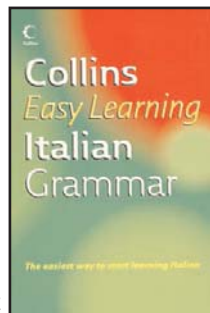


# ITALIAN

**Collins Easy Learning Italian Grammar**

\$19.95

This language guide makes grammar seem easy to understand and even easier to use. Compact and pocket-sized, it covers nouns, articles, adjectives, pronouns, verbs, questions, prepositions and more. With clear, spacious layout, and printed in two colours for easy checking, it includes a comprehensive guide to linguistic terms, handy language tips, verb tables and a verb index. For many students, learning the grammar of a new language is the biggest hurdle: this guide takes the fear out of learning, and is highly recommended for both individual and classroom use, and for students at every level.



**Italian through Film: The Classics**

\$52.95

This outstandingly original and progressive textbook follows **Italian Through Cinema** (Pb \$42.95) by the same authors. More comprehensive and versatile than its predecessor, this text analyses fifteen classic Italian films from the years 1945 to 1981, presenting each as the focus of a number of Italian lessons. The ideal text for educators who believe that language learning should be content-rich and enjoyable, its chronological, non-thematic approach means that it can be used as the foundation upon which teachers can base their individually-designed courses. It consists of fifteen chapters, one for each film, and focuses on classic greats of Italian cinema like *I Vitelloni* by Federico Fellini (DVD \$31.95) (see back page) and *Rocco e i suoi fratelli* by Luchio Visconti (DVD \$31.95). Each chapter includes a sample lesson plan, lists of necessary vocabulary, a review of essential grammar that occurs in the film, activities to test comprehension of the film, as well as open-ended questions to help further the independent learning of advanced students. Includes pictures of the original film posters. A great way to teach and learn.

**Piazza Navona: Corso di Italiano per Stranieri Book & CD** \$86.95

An all-Italian introductory course for adolescent or adult learners keen to be initiated into the wonders of Italian language and culture. 14 units of ascending difficulty prepare students to survive and thrive in real Italian situations: public, personal, professional and educational. The text contains 100-120 hours of material and features clear descriptions of all language aspects covered, thematic grammar and vocabulary, listening exercises, comprehension activities, with transcripts and answers to all exercises. This is an innovative course filled with bright, recent photographs and maps, and authentic or near-authentic reading texts. Communicative and collaborative activities encourage rapid language acquisition, enabling students to develop a high level of competence in all areas.



**Parole Crociate**

Not only are they great fun to do, these easy and entertaining crossword puzzles also assist students in the acquisition and expansion of vocabulary, comprehension of grammar and fluency of expression. Crosswords emphasize the most frequently used and needed words and phrases, covering topics like the house, the city, the family, work, eating and drinking, free time, politics and religion. Each crossword represents a valid test of results achieved, not only in students' mastery of vocabulary and grammar, but also where reading comprehension and writing are concerned. There are revision crosswords and other linguistic games, with answers to all crosswords and puzzles included. Parole Crociate is a great idea for teachers who dread Fridays...

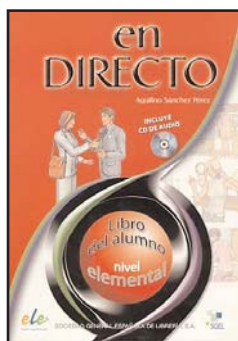
- Livello 1 Elementare** \$21.95
- Livello 2 Intermedio** \$21.95
- Livello 3 Avanzato** \$22.65



**SPANISH**

**En Directo**

The revised version of the popular **Español en Directo** is a bright and enthusiastic language learning kit. Spanish grammar is taught methodically and comprehensively; dialogue and grammar boxes make this course easy to follow for teachers and students, with illustrations to reinforce the understanding of new concepts. The text also includes self-evaluation exercises, revision activities and handy hints on spelling and pronunciation. All dialogues are recorded on the accompanying CD. Because **En Directo** pays special attention to lexical and cultural variations in different Spanish-speaking countries, it can be used as an introduction to both European and Latin American Spanish and is an ideal course for beginners of all ages. **Nivel Medio** continues in the same light, taking students to the next level. The **Guia Didáctica** and **Nivel Medio** workbook will be available shortly. Now available:



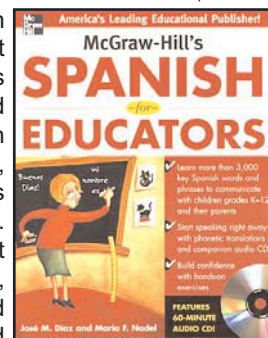
- Nivel Elemental Student Book & Audio CD** \$59.60
- Nivel Elemental Cuaderno de Ejercicios** \$25.80
- Nivel Medio Student Book & Audio CD** \$59.60

**Lights, Camera, Spanish! Book & DVD** hb \$44.95

Using entertainment to learn a language is always the desired method for any student. But unfortunately it is not always as effective as one wishes it to be. This new program introduces students to (Latin-American) Spanish through a purpose-made film featuring romance, intrigue, drama and... well... lots of very deliberately spoken Spanish. The movie is broken down into 9 episodes and the workbook contains numerous exercises which test the students on what they've just seen. It is a truly effective method in drawing your students into the language. The book comes with an answer key and a DVD.

**McGraw-Hill's Spanish for Educators Book & CD** \$34.95

This excellent new publication from McGraw-Hill aims for instant communication in Spanish. It includes 3000 Spanish words and phrases, and grammatical explanations. Seven chapters introduce new vocabulary, teach and explain simple sentences and offer plenty of practice exercises. New vocabulary covers every aspect and stage of a student's schooling, from kindergarten to year twelve, and words that relate to listening and speaking skills are emphasized to facilitate instant communication. Other features include an English-Spanish mini-dictionary, a Spanish grammar primer, hundreds of practical exercises and a 60-minute audio CD. A clear, spacious layout adds to the clarity and appeal of this text. All in all, this is a fantastic reference and workbook that would enhance fluency at every level.



**Must-Know Spanish: 4,000 Words That Give You the Power to Communicate** \$19.95

This intelligently-conceived book is designed to provide instant access to the exact word you need at the exact moment you need it. Learn hundreds of words and phrases required for business, work, travel and when conversing with Spaniards. In addition, make the most of Nissenberg's "must-know" tips for correct Spanish usage, and test your knowledge with over 200 practice and review exercises. Words and phrases are thematically arranged, in topics that range from communicating with others, people and relationships to the human body, education, shopping and work, housing, finance, free time and much more.

**Palabra por Palabra: New Advanced Spanish Vocabulary New Edition** \$21.95

When studying a new language, one of the hardest things to learn is how to sound like a native. This advanced language guide helps you develop the ring of authenticity in your writing and speech, and learn hundreds of new words in the process. Words and phrases are listed thematically, and topics covered include schools and teaching, work and leisure, transport and tourism, and war and peace. All words and phrases are given in both Spanish and English. The text features helpful language and cultural hints, as well as links to heaps of relevant websites. With this guide, students of all levels will find their Spanish rapidly increasing and improving, word by word.

**The Pocket Idiot's Guide to Spanish Phrases** \$14.95

The handy-sized pocket guide is not just a phrase book. It is also a grammar reference, a travel guide and more. Designed for beginning to intermediate level learners, it features easy-to-follow grammar lessons, vocabulary and grammar lists, a comprehensive pronunciation guide and heaps of extra tips and hints on areas of cultural, linguistic and personal interest. Its 15 chapters cover topics like shopping, eating out, socialising and managing at airports, at hotels and in the doctor's office.

## The Sounds of Spanish

\$69.95

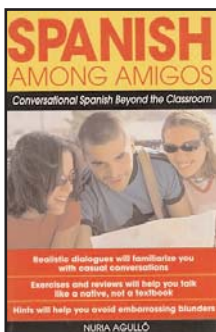


This well-organised textbook offers a comprehensive introduction to the sounds of Spanish. Designed particularly for speakers of English and assuming no prior study of linguistics, it both defines and describes the phonetic and phonological characteristics of Spanish as it is spoken in both Spain and Latin America. With excellent explanations of consonants, vowels, acoustics, stress, syllables, intonation and variations within Spanish, this text also makes clear comparisons between the sounds of Spanish and English. Theory becomes practical with over 50 graded exercises. Divided into 14 chapters and four comprehensive appendices, this fascinating reference guide will be of great value to intermediate and advanced students.

## Spanish Among Amigos: Conversational Spanish Beyond the Classroom

\$24.95

This text takes a lighthearted attitude towards language learning that is as intoxicating as it is original. With short and digestible units, the focus remains firmly on colloquial and communicative language. Pepa and Pili, the main characters, are zany, high-spirited girls from Madrid and as students follow their adventures, they can learn as much about the ways of the Spanish as they can about their language. The fun focus of the text does not detract from its high educational value. Each



chapter contains a dialogue filled with commonly-used words and expressions, explanations of all new vocabulary and grammar, plenty of practice exercises and tips about language and culture. Topics include like and love, dislike and irritation, appearances and beauty, travel, health and fitness, meals and eating out. A complete glossary, English translations of dialogues and answers to exercises appear at the back of the book. A nice detour from the rigidities of conventional language courses.

## Spanish Among Amigos Phrasebook:

### Conversations for the Socially Adventurous

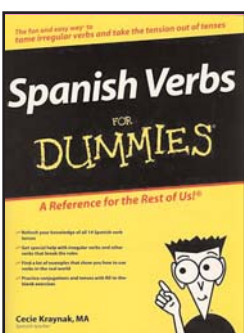
\$19.95

Pepa and Pili are back in this phrasebook, unlike any other, that will help you to dive into conversation and experience the rhythm and the excitement of everyday Spanish. With not too much effort and with lots of fun, you can learn hundreds of expressions (with formal, informal and downtown variations) as well as when and how to use them. Features of the text include a pronunciation guide, heaps of short dialogues, tips on new grammar and vocabulary, comprehension exercises, comics, jokes, false friend alerts, social tips and more. Pepa and Pili will even teach you when and how to swear (within reason!).

## Spanish Verbs for Dummies

\$29.95

This informative and comprehensive guidebook makes Spanish verbs as easy as they can be. Its 26 chapters explain, exercise and revise every mood and tense. Each chapter includes clear instructions, conjugations of targeted verbs, plenty of exercises and an answer key at the end. Cartoons and language notes keep the learner interested, and the sheer volume of its exercises makes it an excellent resource for both teachers and learners. This book is designed for intermediate to advanced students and would be an excellent addition to either a school or a personal library.



## The World's Wackiest Spanish Joke Book

\$14.95

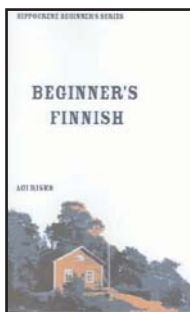
This book contains 500 puns, riddles and quips to provide you and your students with plenty of laughs. Jokes are asked in English, while answers playfully fracture Spanish. Riddles challenge and expand students' language by drawing on the pop culture of Latin America and Spain. With clever punch-lines that emphasize correct Spanish pronunciation, this book also includes language notes, grammar and vocabulary tips and a clear and comprehensive pronunciation guide. Joke topics include animals, celebrations, food, family, fashion and more. While some knowledge of Spanish is required, helpful grammar and vocabulary tips mean that this joke book is suitable for all levels, and is highly recommended as an unusual addition to a class or library collection. So why WASN'T the Mexican lawyer allowed to open a restaurant? Consult **The World's Wackiest Spanish Joke Book** and find out.



## OTHER LANGUAGES

### Beginner's Finnish

\$32.95



This clear and concise handbook aims to teach you instant Finnish. It features notes on the language, a comprehensive pronunciation guide and 12 chapters of ascending difficulty. Each chapter includes a dialogue in up-to-date and colloquial Finnish, a vocabulary list, clear explanations of grammar covered in the dialogue and plenty of exercises to reinforce new language. Answers to all exercises are included in the book, as is a comprehensive glossary and

language appendix. This book is for complete beginners or those interested in communicating in the majestic language of Finland.

### Estonia (The European Union)

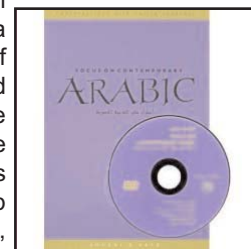
hb \$39.95

This new member of the European Union is still one of the tranquil corners of the world. Hidden for many years behind the Iron Curtain, Estonia is now open for the rest of the world to enjoy (or at least those who can get visas). The book from the new "European Union" series introduces us to the country and its people while paying particular attention to the repercussions EU membership has had on this small nation. Replete with bits of interesting information and illustrations this is a perfect book to have as a resource for the library.

### Focus on Contemporary Arabic Book & DVD

\$80.00

This user-friendly textbook with accompanying DVD teaches Arabic via unrehearsed interviews with a variety of native speakers. Interviews are based on socially relevant topics, while speakers represent diverse areas of the cultural and political spectrum. Topics include food, education in the Arab world, literacy and lack thereof, art, families, the Arab woman, religion and society, customs and traditions, and Arab cultural identity. The text also contains full transcripts of DVD segments, comprehension questions, grammatical and stylistic footnotes, lists of terminology contained in each chapter, as well as practice exercises. Segments are spoken and written entirely in Arabic, making this an ideal textbook for intermediate to advanced learners seeking to enrich and develop their understanding and appreciation of Arabic language and culture.



## Japanese Language and People New Edition



BBC's revised multimedia course is ideal, dynamic and entertaining. It is based firmly on the Japanese of today and suits both independent and classroom students. It offers a basic introduction to Japanese writing, dialogues that are brimming with up-to-date language, succinct lessons on grammar and plenty of exercises. Also included are extensive cultural notes on life in Japan. Topics

include family life, work and shopping, school, travel and leisure. It also features maps, illustrations, language hints, a reference grammar, answers to all activities and a glossary. Six 75-minute Audio CDs are available separately. For beginners of all ages, this is a fantastic introduction to life, language and society in Japan.

**Text** \$71.50  
**Audio CDs** \$142.50

## Russian Language and People New Edition

This is a dynamic and lively course that emphasizes communication and interaction. Lessons are accompanied by comprehension and revision exercises, transcripts to all dialogues, a key to all exercises and a glossary. The text also features a wealth of cultural and historical information on topics that include travel, cooking, the weather, seasons in Russia and Russian architecture, plus pictures and maps. Listening and speaking activities correspond to two 60-minute Audio CDs sold separately. More than highly efficient, the course introduces students to the myriad complexities of a fascinating culture.

**Text** \$55.00  
**Audio CDs** \$71.50



# FICTION

## French

### Les Bienveillantes by Jonathan Littell \$65.00

In this extraordinary, mock-historical novel, written in French, American author Jonathan Littell relates the horrors of the Russian front in World War II from the point of view of Maximilien Aue, an articulate SS Obersturmbannführer. Aue's account is fictional, personal, compelling and disturbing. At the mercy of nothing other than his human nature, he describes the terror and the ordinariness of being caught in the crossfire of what was without a doubt the darkest moment of the 20th century. Sick in mind and body, disgusted by what he knows of himself and his kind, Aue is convinced, in spite of his past, that he is 'a normal man, a man like you.' Littell's 900-page novel won the 2006 *Prix Goncourt* and was the runaway bestseller of the year. It is a darkly humane and engaging attempt to come to terms with the sheer banality of evil and the sordid events of the Second World War. GB

### Ensemble, C'est Tout by Anna Gavalda \$26.95

This is the sensitively-drawn tale of friendship that grows between four people who have all been, in one way or another, damaged by life. Camille used to be an artist but is now a cleaner, haunted by memories of her terrible childhood. Philibert is an aristocrat who looks out for Franck, his personal chef. Franck's grandmother Paulette is dying in a nursing home. Chance and the author bring together four characters who learn, as their stories overlap, that the possibility of happiness is a shared one. This is Gavalda at her best, thoughtful and endlessly optimistic, in what becomes, for her readers, one long, 600-page happy moment. GB

## Une Vie Française by Jean-Paul Dubois \$25.95

The story of Paul Blick, true child of the Fifth Republic, is deeply entwined in the story of a France that believed in de Gaulle after 58, in Pompidou after 68, that offered itself to Giscard and then carried Mitterand to power before falling into the arms of Jacques Chirac. In chapters named after the successive presidents of the Republic, Paul tells his own story; of his first romantic encounter, and then the tepid studies he pursues before marrying Anna, his boss's daughter. Anna, a disciple of Adam Smith and the principle of free-market economics, is also a brilliant business manager who turns the running of the house over to Paul. Paul doesn't seem to mind. As well as raising his family he maintains a secret and heady sexual life and at the same time, falls passionately in love with trees. This *comédie française* becomes something more tragic, though, with the horrible death of Anna and the decline of the family's fortune. Witty, moving and sometimes profound, this is a superbly constructed and told novel, with the laconic humor and subtlety that characterise all of Dubois's novels. It deservedly won the *Prix Fémina 2004*, as well as the *Prix du Roman FNAC*. GB



## Windows on the World (in French) by Frédéric Beigbeder

\$19.95

Beigbeder, author of *L'amour Dure Trois Ans* (Pb \$15.95) has set his most thoughtful novel to date in the World Trade Center on the morning of September 11, 2001. The narrative is divided into two parts that are pursued simultaneously. On the one hand there is Beigbeder, considering the events of that fateful day and offering, in a mixture of polemic, confession and autobiography, his own reactions to 9/11. And on the other hand there is the minute-by-minute unfolding of events from the point of view of Carthew Yorston, a divorced father of two who has brought his children to breakfast at the Towers restaurant, *Windows on the World*. The collision of the two narratives makes for a powerful and earnest examination of the events that shook the *Windows on the World*, and the world itself on 9/11. GB

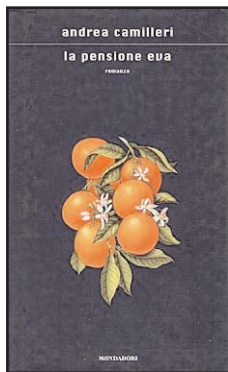
## Italian

### Come Dio Comanda by Niccolò Ammaniti hb \$46.00



The bestselling author of *Branchie* (Pb \$26.95), *Ti Prendo e Ti Porto Via* (Pb \$14.95) and *Io Non Ho Paura* (Pb \$25.95), has, with *Come Dio Comanda*, produced yet another gripping and powerfully told tale. Rino and Cristiano Zena are father and son and a family, because Cristiano's mother has gone. Cristiano could almost be an ordinary adolescent, but Rino is far from being an average or even a satisfactory father. Violent, unemployed and an alcoholic, Rino is practically an outcast, living in fear of Social Security and of losing Cristiano. At the same time, he is devoted to his son and takes care to initiate him into the violence that he believes is to be found at the heart of all human interaction. Rino is not Cristiano's only dubious companion: the latter has formed a gang with two other outsiders, Danilo and Quattro Formaggi, and together all three attempt to carry out a bizarre heist by ripping a cash machine out of a wall. While thought-provoking and disturbing, Ammaniti's novel is not unremittingly bleak. While the author adeptly paints the portrait of a society fraught with vulgarity, baseness and blind brutality, his characters are all, in their own ways, searching for meaning and for some sort of a god. GB

**Il Ladro di Merendine by Andrea Camilleri** \$32.00



In the third book of Camilleri's Inspector Montalbano series, the cynical and world-weary Montalbano uncovers yet another web of corruption and international intrigue. When a wealthy businessman is stabbed to death in an elevator and a crewman on an Italian fishing boat is machine-gunned by a Tunisian patrol boat off the coast of Sicily, only Montalbano suspects that there might be a connection between the two events. His investigations lead him to Karima, a housekeeper and part-time prostitute, whose son steals other schoolchildren's morning snacks. But Karima suddenly disappears, and it is up to Montalbano to save the sandwich thief's life, as well as his own. Wonderfully written, with sly observations about bureaucratic organisations, life in Sicily and human nature, Camilleri's fiction never fails to entice and to satisfy. GB

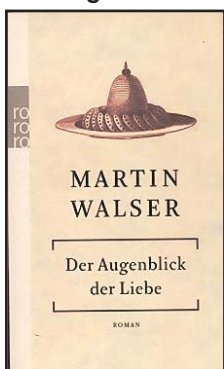
**La Misteriosa Fiamma della Regina Loana by Umberto Eco** hb \$59.95

This edition with full-colour illustrations, tells the story of Yambo, a rare-book dealer who has suffered a strange form of memory loss. Yambo can remember every book he has ever read, but can remember nothing about his own life. He doesn't know his own name, or recognise his wife; he can remember nothing of his parents, or even the details of his own childhood. In order to retrieve the past, Yambo's wife encourages him to return to his old family home. Yambo does, and as he unearths boxes of old newspapers, comics he enjoyed as a child, records he listened to, and diaries he kept, his own life that he thought gone for ever, returns to him. His memories run wild, and like a racy novel the life he has lived flashes through his mind. Yet the memory that Yambo wants to recover most desperately, the face of the girl he loved and then lost when she was only sixteen, continues to elude him. As witty and as erudite as his previous novels have been, Eco's most recent novel is also particularly thoughtful. GB



**German**

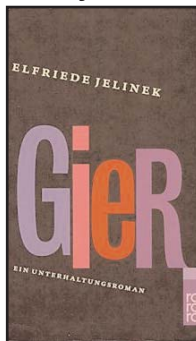
**Der Augenblick der Liebe by Martin Walser** \$19.95



No longer a real estate agent, Gottlieb Zürn lives contentedly with his wife and devotes his time to philosophy until he receives a surprising visit from a young doctoral student. Beate Gutbrod has come to discuss the work of the French philosopher La Mettrie with him, but it soon becomes apparent that Gottlieb is excited by the presence of the young woman, and not just because they share a love of philosophy. When Beate asks the older man (he could be her grandfather, he thinks!) to a La Mettrie conference in the USA, he accepts.

In the weeks leading up to his trip they exchange excited letters, each one making clearer than the last the way the one character feels for the other. Unfortunately for Gottlieb, though, the conference does not turn out as he hopes, and he cuts short his trip and returns home. In clear, swift and beautiful prose, Walser examines the truthfulness of our emotions and the nature of love in old age. At turns funny, sad, and tough, this book is a pleasure to read from start to finish. GB

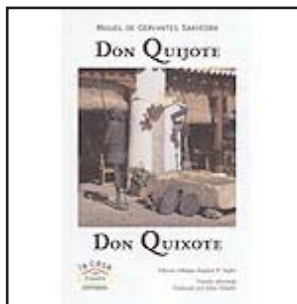
**Gier by Elfriede Jelinek** \$29.95



This unusual thriller by the winner of the 2004 Nobel Prize for Literature chronicles the adventures of Kurt Janisch, a disgustingly greedy policeman and the middle aged, love-hungry women who become his victims. Set among the mountains and small towns of southern Austria, and far more substantial than your average murder mystery, Jelinek's tale is also a meditation on greed and the price of affluence, on the exploitative and unsatisfying nature of the relationships between men and women, and the impossibility of living without such relationships. According to the horrifying vision of the narrator, women want love, marriage and punishment, while men simply want property. There is something shockingly truthful about the mutually destructive ways in which Jelinek's characters relate to each other. GB

**Spanish**

**Don Quixote (Spanish-English) by Miguel de Cervantes** \$46.95



This bilingual adaptation of Cervantes' masterpiece has been abbreviated and simplified so that intermediate learners of Spanish can begin to enjoy, and in a manageable way, one of Spanish literature's greatest treasures. Cervantes' complete (if abridged) tale is presented here, in two parts and 21 chapters. It is accompanied by Gustavo Doré's beautiful illustrations, as well as magnificent photographs of Spain. The text is followed by notes for reading and language comprehension, tips to help with translation from Spanish into English and suggestions for group or class activities. This wonderfully approachable text will suit senior students of Spanish and would be an excellent addition to a school or private library. GB

**Russian**

**Izbrannoe: Selected Works by Anton Chekov (2 volumes)** hb \$36.95

The deceptive simplicity of Chekov's prose hides such profound observations on the human condition that they still rankle in your subconscious long after you've put the book down. The acid wit and razor sharp characterisations give his stories the kind of sheen that only gets better with time and multiple reading. Containing the best of his famous short stories (*Kashtanka*) and those revolutionary plays (*Cherry Orchard*) this collection is aimed at the younger readers and is ideal for students of Russian at any level. VG

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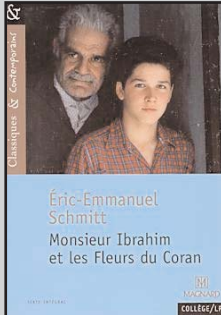
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### Monsieur Ibrahim et les Fleurs du Coran

by Eric-Emmanuel Schmitt \$17.95

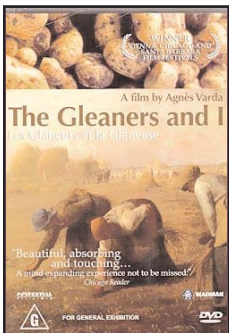
Moïse, having been abandoned twice, stumbles upon a friend in the character of Monsieur Ibrahim, his local grocer. As well as a friend, Monsieur Ibrahim turns out to be a guide to the wisdom of the world and along the path of life. This enchanting and uplifting story, on which François Dupeyron's award winning film was based, is a meditation upon friendship, the will to live, and the need for tolerance. The complete and unabridged text is accompanied by glossary and notes, comprehension questions, an interview with Eric-Emmanuel Schmitt and selected Sufi tales. It is an ideal French reader for upper high school students, or beginning adults. Also available is the film **Monsieur Ibrahim** starring Omar Sharif (DVD \$40.50). Rated M.



## DVDS

### The Gleaners and I DVD (Agnes Varda) (French with English Subtitles) Rated G

\$29.95



As fresh and insightful as all her films, Agnes Varda's luminous documentary is a remarkable look into the modest and fascinating world of gleaners. We are guided by Varda as she joyously points her newly acquired camcorder on a variety of characters that hunt through France's fields, vineyards, markets and rubbish dumps in search of treasures in our detritus. What sounds like a rather distasteful trip down the gutter is in actual fact a truly compassionate, funny and utterly inspirational tale that subtly questions the society's destructive habit of producing unnecessary waste. Also included on the DVD is Varda's follow-up film **The Gleaners and I: Two Years Later**. VG

### I Vitelloni DVD (Federico Fellini) (Italian with English subtitles) Rated G

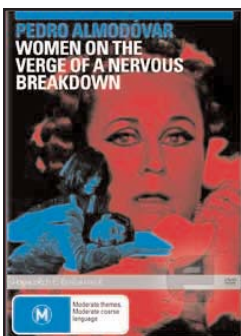
\$31.95

Undoubtedly the first classic film by the great Italian director, this is also his most autobiographical work. Set in the beautiful, but stiflingly backward town of Rimini (Fellini's birthplace), the film tells the story of a group of friends who loiter around, mostly aimlessly, drinking, chasing skirts and desperately trying to keep responsibility at bay. In a lesser director's hand this loose, sprawling and multi-character narrative would dissipate like sand, but Fellini's astonishing gift as a storyteller and a visual maverick make this an endlessly fascinating, poignant and truly emotional experience. Laced with humour and featuring some exceptional performances (notably by Alberto Sordi), this is finally available on DVD and is the recommended place to start for people wishing to explore the amazing Fellini universe. VG



### Women on the Verge of a Nervous Breakdown DVD (Pedro Almodóvar) (Spanish with English subtitles) Rated M

\$20.95



While his latest art-house triumph *Volver* rinses the cinema screens with its beatific glow, it's a good moment to rediscover the earlier opuses of Almodóvar that made his name into a world-wide phenomenon. This is in many ways his breakthrough, a film that put him on the map and made 'camp' a force to be reckoned with. The incredibly convoluted story revolves around Pepa (Carmen Maura) who has been dumped by her boyfriend and is planning a suicide. Things only go pear shaped from there – trotting guns and wearing pink Chanel suits. Almodóvar's genius lies in his ability to make this film exhilarating and joyous even when it deals with the bleakest of issues. The farcical nature of the film doesn't overshadow the director's love for his characters and his humanism along with his humour is truly infectious. Just scream for more! .VG



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