

Cette épreuve est constituée d'un **thème** et d'un **exercice d'expression écrite** comportant deux questions.

- La première question est notée sur 4.
- La deuxième question est notée sur 8.
- Le thème est noté sur 8.

La réponse à la première question devra comporter 80 mots plus ou moins 10%.

La réponse à la deuxième question devra comporter 180 mots plus ou moins 10%.

Le candidat indiquera le nombre de mots employés dans chaque réponse.

### **Sex and Snow White: how Grimm should children's books be?**

1 Once upon a time there were two little boys who lived in a deep, dark forest. Their name was Grimm, and so was their life. Their father died, and their mother was poor. She slaughtered pigs, while their aunt castrated cocks with a knife. When the boys grew up Napoleon invaded, and one brother travelled to war. He saw villages burned, girls raped and piles of  
5 corpses so big the villagers could not bury them. But this story has a happily ever after. Because when the boys grew up they wrote down stories. They penned "Snow White" and "Cinderella" and indeed the line "happily ever after".

This is a story about children's stories. It is about what stories should include—sugar, spice and all things nice, or frogs, snails and incest?—and how dark their telling should be. In the  
10 Grimms' day, the answer was very. In these stories fathers abuse daughters, Rapunzel falls pregnant and Red Riding Hood is duped into bed ("My, how hairy you are, granny!") and raped. In a Swiss telling of "Snow White", the girl is a "slut", the seven dwarves are murdered and their house is burned down. Disney did not go with that version. Not everyone approved:  
15 gloomy: the famous "happily ever after" ending alternated with the glummer "And if they haven't died, they're still alive." The Grimms responded briskly: take the nasty bits away from children's books and you may as well "blindfold" youngsters so they cannot see at all.

This debate still matters now. Children's books cause conniptions. In Britain Roald Dahl was edited to remove words such as "fat" that, to some modern eyes, seemed objectionable and  
20 (as Dahl might have put it) fizzwiggling. In 2023, 17 American states tried to censor more than 100 books. "

Fashions in children's literature tend to have great "swerves" says Mr Leith, followed by "massive over-compensation". After a recent testy period, tensions have calmed a little: attempts to censor books fell in America from January through August 2023. Penguin, after  
25 noisy complaints, reinstated the fizzwiggling parts of Dahl. Children's books are certainly not as dark as they were in the Grimms' time (incest sells less well these days), nor do they need to be. But perhaps more parents will crave books for their children that better balance dark and light, happily ever afters with big bad wolves.

Adapted from *The Economist*, January 9, 2025

### **Expression écrite**

**Question 1:** According to the text, what type of stories did the Grimm brothers write? (80 words, ± 10%)

**Question 2:** In your opinion, should certain topics be forbidden in children's books? (180 words, ± 10%)

## Traduction : thème

Clarisse descendit prudemment la longue échelle. Arrivée tout en bas, la trappe qu'elle avait laissée ouverte ne formait plus qu'un minuscule carré blanc.

Elle s'attendait à trouver des étagères et des rayonnages, oui. Mais elle s'attendait à ce qu'ils soient recouverts de bocaux, pas de livres de papier et d'encre. Et pourtant, il y en avait des dizaines, des centaines, peut-être même des milliers. Ils remplissaient tout l'espace, l'occupant non seulement par leur présence, mais aussi par leur odeur et leur aura.

Clarisse se mit à glousser nerveusement. Et elle qui croyait que les livres n'existaient pas, ou plus depuis longtemps. Alors qu'ils étaient juste là, sous ses pieds. Est-ce que quelqu'un d'autre était au courant ? Comment pouvait-on cacher un tel trésor ? La ville entière dormait dessus sans le savoir.

Mafalda Vidal, *La Lisiothécaire* (2024)

**Thème**      *Difficulté principale : concordance des temps au passé (prétérit + past perfect)*

Clarisse carefully **climbed down** the long **ladder**. When she reached the bottom, the **trapdoor** she **had left** open was now just a tiny white square.

She **had expected** to find **shelves** and **racks**, yes. But she **had expected** them to be covered with **jars**, not books made of paper and ink. And yet there were dozens, hundreds, maybe even thousands of them. They filled the entire space, occupying it not only with their presence, but also with their smell and aura.

Clarisse began to **giggle** nervously. And she thought books didn't exist, or **hadn't existed** for a long time. But **there they were**, right under her feet. Did anyone else know about them? How could such a treasure be hidden? The whole city was sleeping on it without knowing it.

Mafalda Vidal, *La Lisiothécaire* (2024)