France is known for its architecture, for its delicious food and for the Tour de France bicycle race. Explore the streets of Paris with Madeline and abundant cheese choices with Anatole in this scrumptious Read-Aloud.

**Everybody Bonjours!** by Leslie Kimmelman  
**Ages 3 to 6**  
A young girl explores Paris and discovers that everyone says “Bonjour!” instead of “Hello!” This rhyming story is perfect for very young readers. It shows many aspects of Paris, both cultural and architectural, while keeping the text to a minimum.

*A Spree in Paree* by Catherine Stock  
**Ages 4 to 10**  
One day farmer Monsieur Monmouton decides to visit Paris. All of his farm animals insist on accompanying him. This silly tale follows the sheep as they shop and the geese that wade in the Seine.

**Madeline** by Ludwig Bemelmans  
**Ages 3 to 8**  
Kids will relate to feisty Madeline, who isn’t afraid of tigers or ice. Be prepared to explain that Miss Clavel is a governess and Madeline lives in a boarding school. The rhyming text keeps the story moving and provides the opportunity for kids to guess what comes next. The large, bold illustrations make this book a not-to-be-missed classic.

**Anatole** by Eve Titus  
**Ages 6 to 12**  
Anatole the mouse is upset to discover that humans dislike mice sampling their leftovers. He comes up with an honorable mission: to taste and then to give feedback on the cheese at the cheese factory in Paris. The workers are elated to be able to improve their cheese, and Anatole now has a purpose that makes him proud.

**The Inside-Outide Book of Paris** by Roxie Munro  
**Ages 7 to 12**  
Explore the fabulous architecture of Paris. Discover what’s inside those buildings. Building interiors and exteriors, interpreted in a kid-friendly way by well-known illustrator Roxie Munro make this a great read for small groups of older kids.

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More books about France

This is Paris by M. Sasek
Ages 5 to 10

Dodsworth in Paris by Tim Egan
Ages 4 to 9

Fancy Nancy and the Boy from Paris by Jane O’Connor
Ages 4 to 7

Activities

1. After reading Anatole by Eve Titus, have a cheese-tasting event. Bring in a variety of types of cheese to taste, including some kid-friendly cheeses like Babybel or American cheese.


4. The Tour de France takes place each July. Use your activity time to learn about the Tour. This website gives a good overview of the Tour, even though it’s a little bit out of date. http://www.cyclesprog.co.uk/get-cycling/get-ready-the-tour-de-france-is-here/

5. Teach and sing the song Frère Jacques.

Conversation Starters

1. Find France and Paris on a map. What countries and cities are nearby?

2. What does the French flag look like? Compare it to other flags that are red, white and blue. How are they the same and different?

3. What kinds of foods are traditionally French? Cheese, baguettes, crepes, wine and quiche are a few examples. Bring in some samples and have a taste test.

4. How many French words can you think of that we use in English? Some common ones are souvenir, encore, blonde/brunette, RSVP, déjà vu, bon voyage, beret and à la mode.