

**JOAN OF ARC:  
FRENCH  
COMPOSITION**

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Joan of Arc: French Composition by H. A. Guerber

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**H. A. GUERBER**

**JOAN OF ARC:  
FRENCH  
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# JOAN OF ARC

FRENCH COMPOSITION

WITH NOTES AND VOCABULARY

*Hélène* BY  
*Adeline*  
H. ADLER GUERBER

NEW YORK · CINCINNATI · CHICAGO  
AMERICAN BOOK COMPANY

TO  
THE MEMORY OF MY PUPIL  
*Nettie Comphins La Fetra*

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ENTERED AT STATIONERS' HALL, LONDON

—  
Joan of Arc  
W. P. I

1911  
J. C. Hinger and  
Margaret Effinger Huggard  
6-22-1933

## PREFACE

COLLEGE and Regent requirements call for considerable translation from English into French of consecutive passages. The following biographical sketch is intended as a bridge between the customary grammar work and selected passages from the works of various writers.

Teachers will find that the best results can be attained by first translating this material at sight in class, having the written version made afterwards from memory.

While copious notes and a complete vocabulary have been annexed, they will not be necessary if this method is pursued, and it will be found that students will learn most if they depend on memory rather than upon external helps. Much material like this is supplied off-hand to my own pupils for rapid translation, and this is offered to the public in the hope that it may prove both suggestive and helpful.

H. A. GUERBER.

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# JOAN OF ARC = JEANNE D'ARC

[Words in italics are to be omitted in translation.]

## I

### THE CHILDHOOD OF JOAN

The French heroine, Joan of Arc, was born<sup>1</sup> *on* the sixth of January, *one* thousand four hundred *and* twelve, in the little village of Domremy, which is situated in the north-eastern part<sup>2</sup> of France, between the provinces of Champagne  
5 and of Lorraine.

Her parents were respectable peasants, but not of the poorest class; she had three brothers and one sister, and was probably the youngest of the family. Joan may have kept<sup>3</sup> sheep in her childhood, as do<sup>4</sup> most country children in  
10 Europe, but she was not *a* shepherdess, as many people have supposed.<sup>5</sup>

Her mother taught her to spin, to weave, to sew, to knit, and even to embroider. She was so clever with her needle, that it may be that some<sup>6</sup> of the handsome church vestments  
15 which are preserved in the treasury of the cathedral of Rheims were<sup>7</sup> embroidered by her.

Joan's mother was very pious, and she not only taught her children to recite their prayers and the creed, but also told them Bible stories, and anecdotes of the lives<sup>8</sup>  
20 of the saints and martyrs.

<sup>1</sup> Translate by the Past Indefinite or Past Definite.

<sup>2</sup> *in the part northeast, or to the northeast.*

<sup>3</sup> *It may be that Joan kept.*

<sup>4</sup> *as it do.*

<sup>6</sup> *quelques-uns.*

<sup>7</sup> Past Subjunctive.

<sup>8</sup> *of the life.*

Although small, the village church had, without doubt, some stained glass windows, and a picture on the altar, where St. Michael, trampling the dragon, St. Catherine, and St. Margaret were duly represented. These saints, whose picturesque adventures always strike a childish imagination, must have<sup>1</sup> been Joan's favorites, for during her short career she often makes mention of them, adding that many saints and angels, whom she does not name, accompanied them, when they appeared to her.

## II

## THE STATE OF FRANCE

10 France was then in a pitiable condition.<sup>2</sup> The king — poor Charles *the Sixth*<sup>3</sup> — had been crazy or imbecile since thirteen hundred *and* ninety-two. His wife, the horrid Isabeau de Bavière, was not faithful to him, and by her bad conduct had helped to bring about the ruin of France.  
15 It was, moreover, in the very midst of the Hundred Years' War, when the English were trying to obtain possession of the throne of France.

The two disastrous battles of Crécy and of Poitiers, under the predecessors of Charles VI, had been followed by the  
20 defeat of Azincourt, in fourteen fifteen, during his own reign, and the French were naturally very discouraged.

As if these misfortunes were not enough, poor France was also torn by civil war, for two of the great peers of the realm, the dukes of Burgundy and Orleans, after having  
25 been secret enemies for a long time, had come to<sup>4</sup> open

<sup>1</sup> *must have* = *devoir*.

<sup>2</sup> *condition pitiable*.

<sup>3</sup> *the poor Charles six*.

<sup>4</sup> *en venir à*.

hostilities. One evening, when the duke of Orleans was returning home, he was attacked and murdered by the servants of the duke of Burgundy in the streets of Paris.

The result of this crime was a civil war, during which 5 the partisans of the deceased duke — led by his son's father-in-law, the count of Armagnac — made bitter war against the Burgundians.

The court, under the influence of the queen, — who, during the insanity of the king, governed France, although 10 very badly — ranged itself either on one side or on the other, according to her fancy.

The Dauphin — a rather weak and worthless prince<sup>1</sup> — often quarreled with his mother, and joined the opposite party. Weary of warfare, a peace was proposed<sup>2</sup> in *one* 15 thousand four hundred *and* nineteen, and a meeting was arranged<sup>2</sup> between the Dauphin and the duke of Burgundy, at the bridge of Montereau.

There, either by accident or by premeditation, the duke was murdered, and the Burgundians, exasperated by this 20 treachery, joined the English.

### III

#### A SHAMEFUL TREATY

The English had little by little become masters of the greater part of France, and in *one* thousand four hundred *and* twenty, Henry *the* Fifth of England forced Charles *the* Sixth to sign the treaty of Troyes. By this treaty, the 25 French king pledged himself to give his daughter Catherine

<sup>1</sup> *prince rather weak and insignificant.*

<sup>2</sup> Change passive to active, e.g., *one (or they) proposed a peace, etc.*