## Les Amants D'Avignon



### Brief synopsis of the book.

Juliette Noël is a beautiful typist/ secretary who works for a newspaper in wartime Lyons after moving from Paris. She lives with her aunt Aline and her aunt's adopted son José. Juliette is a resistance worker, a courier. We follow her during the very cold Christmas period as she finds possible safe houses in the countryside, catches a bus and then a train to Lyons. She is carrying secret documents and money. Her contact, Dr Arnold, sends her to Avignon to meet Célestin to warn of six forthcoming arrests. She and Célestin spend Christmas day wandering through the beautiful city and pretend to be lovers, reading lovers' graffiti on walls. Celestin is called away and Juliette is to return via Valence where she is to meet someone and on home to Lyons which she dislikes but now knows very well. After a short time with her family she goes to a house but is warned off as the Germans are searching it and takes refuge in Dominique's house. The doctor is to expect Celestin from Avignon and Juliette is to meet him at the station. She takes Célestin to a hotel room where he reads a message Juliette gives him which he then burns. As she leaves the hotel, she realises she is being followed. Two men stop her and want to know when she will meet her "lover" Celestin again. No such meeting has been arranged but she pretends it's near the Opéra. She finally manages to escape by diving into a "traboule", but is now compromised. She warns the doctor that Celestin is in danger and goes to the doctor's. Arrangements are made for Célestin to leave the country, for Juliette to stay in the countryside and Aunt Aline and José to be kept safe. Celestin and Juliette say good bye but clearly have feelings for each other.

This novella, written and secretly published during the war, gives us an insight into Juliette's hopes and dreams, the courage of resistance workers, the privations and difficulties for the civilian population during the Nazi occupation, both at home and when travelling. We also have a very contrasting view of "dingy" Lyons and "free" Avignon.

	Description of activity and suggested uses	Skills covered
Activity 1	Effect on the plot. The students are required to identify from a choice of three possible answers the effect that Juliette has on four other characters or her relationship with them.	Literature appreciation skills- characterisation, understanding the effect the characters have on the structure/ plot of the novel  Reading skills. In this task, the student has to select some salient features of the characters in the book.

Unit 3 - Structure

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### **Activity 2**

Mindmap.

The students are to use the mind map, which has six prompts, to analyse and write down the impact of the character Célestin on the novel.

Analytical skills, thinking skills reading and understanding and writing skills.

Students can do this as an individual or group task (e.g. a pair/ individual group take one prompt each). The results can be discussed and evaluated and the written versions can be checked, and if needs be, rewritten in the light of errors or improvements in content suggested

#### **Activity 3**

Removing the character

A description of an important character is given (Dr Arnold) and her influence on the plot. Students are required to provide a similar, shorter version by summarising the evaluation given

Analytical skills. literary skills. Writing- Summary skills in French
Writing clear, concise passages in correct French
Self-evaluation

Unit 3 - Structure