

Re: Bilingualism has ruined Canada but there is still hope.

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Neeraj Mathur wrote:

- > *Under this system, one of the fourteen prescribed credits was French. This*
- > *was usually done in the first year of high school, Grade Nine. After this,*
- > *French became optional. French instruction was usually started in elementary*
- > *school, although there was some flexibility as to when it started. The*
- > *school board where I lived started French in Grade Four, that is, when the*
- > *student was about nine years old. A school board where I used to live*
- > *started French in Grade One, when the student was six years old. Still, the*
- > *Grade Nine French course was at the same level across the province.*
- >
- > *It is not possible to consider oneself a Francophone having only completed*
- > *Grade Nine French. At this point, the student really only knows three*
- > *tenses: the present, the compound past with *etre/avoir*, and the 'near*
- > *future' with *aller*. The knowledge of pronouns is limited, as relative*
- > *pronouns and emphatic personal pronouns are not introduced until the next*
- > *year or two. Essentially, the student is equipped only to deal with a short*
- > *tourist visit to a French speaking region with the expectation that people*
- > *there will be charmed at the attempts of the student to speak their language*
- > *and then switch to English.*
- >
- > *Even after OAC French, there is still a long way to go. I took French*
- > *through to OAC and in my final year we were expected to read 'Bildungsroman'*
- > *type juvenile trash literature – I rebelled and read Hugo's 93 instead.*

Hmm. In first-year German (10th grade), we read Erich Kästner's **Emil und die Detektive** (a young-adult book by a well-known novelist) and Storm's **Immensee** (practically the caricature parade example of Romanticism), both in American-student editions with glossary and grammatical notes; the latter in Fraktur, even.

(I'm still on the lookout for the sequel, **Emil und die drei Zwillinge**, which apparently was also available in a student edition.)

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