

Each entry gets a copy of the text as the timer starts for 2 minutes. They can use the time as they see fit, but cannot use any resources (cell or computer) and must simply prep the piece to the best of their availability.

After 2 minutes (or sooner if the competitor is ready), the competitor delivers their dramatic reading of the text. There is no end limit, but time should be appropriate to the length and complexity of the text.

Excerpt from an Essay by Ta-Nehisi Coates on the benefits of doing difficult things, in this case, French, but learning of all varieties.

To “have it,” I must manage my emotional health. Part of that long-term management — beyond French — is giving myself an opportunity to get better at difficult things. There is absolutely nothing in this world like the feeling of sucking at something and then improving at it. Everyone should do it every ten years or so.

I don’t know what comes after this. I have said this before, and will say it again: Studying French is like setting in a canoe from California to China. You arrive on the coast of Hawaii and think, “Wow that was really far.” And then you realize that China is still so very far away. “Feelings” come and go. Likely, someone will say something — in the next hour or so — which I do not understand and I will feel a little hopeless again. But right now, I feel high. And one must savor those moments of feeling high, because they are not the norm. The lows are the norm. The Struggle is the norm. May it ever be thus.