

French Lexicon for *Aurore of the Yukon*, provided by Keith Halliday

Canada is a bilingual country where both English and French are spoken. Aurore's home province of Quebec is primarily French-speaking, while the Yukon and Western Canada are primarily English-speaking. At the time, Quebec lumberjacks and river men such as Kip's father were famous for their skills in the forest and on the water.

Many French and English words look similar, but the pronunciation can be quite different. Aurore and Yves would have been able to tell from people's accents whether they were from Quebec or had learned French in an English-speaking school somewhere else.

French word or phrase	How to say it (approximately!)	Explanation
Alouette	Al-oo-ett-uh	Popular French children's song about a bird called an alouette (lark in English)
Bonne anniversaire	Bon ann-ee-vers-air	Happy birthday
C'est fini. Nous rentrons à Montréal.	Say fin-ee. Noo ren-tron a Mon-ray-all ('t' hardly pronounced)	It's over. We're going back to Montreal.
Coueurs du bois	Coor-err du bwah	Famous French-Canadian woodsmen and fur traders
En garde!	On gard!	Traditional warning to opponent in a duel with swords. Taken from <i>The Three Musketeers</i>
Fantastique!	Fan-tas-teek!	Fantastic!
L'heure du dodo!	Lerr doo doh-doh!	Bedtime (used for children)
La cache est vide! Complètement vide! Qu'est-ce que les enfants vont manger cet hiver?	La cash ay veed. Com-plet-men veed! Kes-kuh lay-z-on-fance von mahn-jay set ee-ver?	The cache (or food storage place) is empty! Completely empty! What are the children going to eat this winter?
Ma chouette	Ma shoe-ette ('a' in Ma pronounced the same as in English work 'sack')	My little owl (a common term of endearment for children)
Mais	May	But
Nous allons au Yukon!	Noo-z-all-on oh Yukon!	We are going to the Yukon!

Rochefort	Rosh-for (do not pronounce ‘r’)	Count Rochefort is a villain in The Three Musketeers
Savez-Vous Planter Les Choux?	Sa-vay voo plant-ay le shoe?	Popular children’s song “Do you know how to plant cauliflowers” (it rhymes in French)
Tu n’es pas ‘la heroine’ de Skagway! Heroine! Plutôt, une petite fille très méchante!	Two nay pas la hair-o-een de Skagway! Ploo-tow, oon pe-teet fee tray may-shant!	She’s not the ‘Heroine of Skagway.’ She’s a very naughty little girl.
Un, deux ... trois!	Unh-duh-twah!	One-two-three!
Aline	Ah-lin (do not pronounce last ‘e’)	A French girl’s name
Aurore	Ah-roar (do not pronounce the ‘e’)	A name that also means “Aurora” as in “Aurora Borealis” or “Northern Lights”
Maman	Mah-man (‘n’ not fully pronounced)	Mom
Papa	Pah-pah	Dad
Papillon	Pa-pee-on (‘a’ in Ma pronounced the same as in English work ‘sack’, and last ‘n’ not fully pronounced)	An unusual name that means “butterfly” in French
Tante Josephine	Tahnt Jo-seh-feen (‘J’ pronounced softly, more like ‘zh’ than English “joe”)	Aunt Josephine
Thibault	Tee-bow	A French family name
Yves	Eev (do not pronounce ‘e’ or ‘s’ at end)	A French boy’s name
Gaspé	Gas-pay	A region of Quebec
Trois Rivières	Twah Riv-ee-ehrz	A town in Quebec
Québec	Kay-beck	French pronunciation of Quebec