



SOCIÉTÉ DES AMIS DE
MARCEL PROUST
ET DES AMIS DE COMBRAY

READER GUIDE

Read *À la recherche du temps perdu* online

Illustrated reader guide

The Society makes the complete text of *À la recherche du temps perdu* available online. Reading is free: there is nothing to install, no account to create and no password to remember. This page illustrates every available action, one by one.

The reader interface, the text and the screenshots remain in French. · 4 September 2026 — annotated edition, local translation

Reader guide

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1. Open the text

The reader's home page bears the novel's title and a large button. Click **Commencer la lecture** (Start reading): the text opens at the beginning of the first volume.



1. The work's title: you are in the reader.
2. Commencer la lecture (Start reading); later it becomes Reprendre la lecture (Resume reading).
3. The toolbar, always at the top of the page.
4. The Actions menu: **Au hasard** (Random) and **Imprimer** (Print).

The reader remembers where you stopped. On your next visit, **Reprendre la lecture** (Resume reading) takes you back to that page.

In the **Actions** menu at lower right, **Au hasard** (Random) opens a randomly selected section from the whole work, and **Imprimer** (Print) prints the section in view.

2. The toolbar, your dashboard

This bar remains at the top of the screen throughout your reading. On a computer, **Sommaire** and **Rechercher** are on the left; in the middle are the part title and current section; the six reading actions are on the right. On a phone it uses two rows: Sommaire, Rechercher and the part or section above; the six actions below.



1. **Sommaire** (Contents): volumes, parts and chapters.

2. **Rechercher** (Search) the whole work; shortcut: **Ctrl + K**.

3. The part title and current section, in the middle.

4. **Partager** (Share) the displayed passage.

5. **Marquer** (Bookmark) the section.

6. **Repères** (Markers), with its counter.

7. **Focus**: hides **Sommaire** and secondary actions; the command bar remains available.

8. **Mode d'emploi** (Reader guide): the guide to the reader.

9. **Affichage** (Display): the *Confort de lecture* (Reading comfort) panel.

Focus hides the **Sommaire** and secondary actions to give the reading room. The command bar remains available. Click it again to restore them. The *Échap* (Escape) key closes any open panel.

3. Move through the work

Click **Sommaire** (Contents), at the left of the toolbar. A panel opens with the novel's seven volumes.



1. **Sommaire (Contents)**, which opens the panel.
2. **The seven volumes: click one to change volume.**
3. **Retrouver une section (Find a section):** enter a number, title, or opening words.
4. **The volume's parts; click to expand them.**
5. **The sections and their opening words; the current one is highlighted.**
6. **Close the contents; Échap (Escape) does this too.**

In the middle of the toolbar, the selector shows the current part and lets you change it without leaving the volume.

To go from one section to the next, scroll to the end of the text, where **Section précédente** (Previous section) and **Section suivante** (Next section) appear. The left and right arrow keys do the same.

4. Search for a word

Click **Rechercher** (Search). Enter the word or phrase you want, then confirm: the reader searches all seven volumes. *Ctrl + K*, or *Cmd + K* on a Mac, opens this window directly.

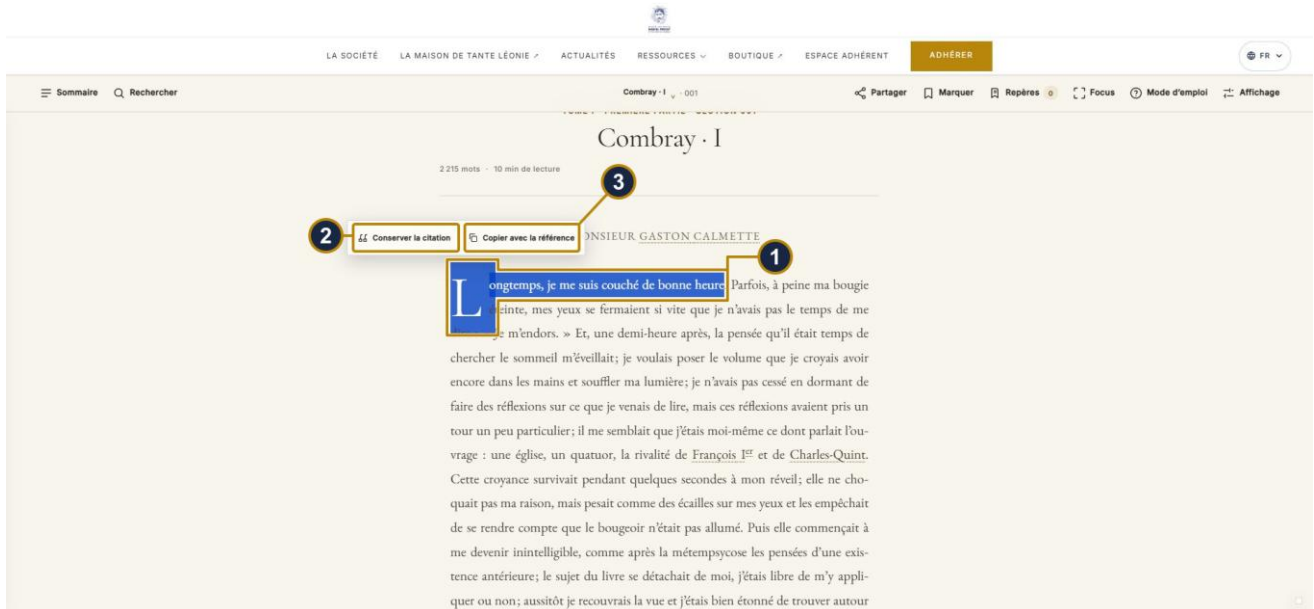


1. Your word or phrase, then **Rechercher** (Search).
2. Options de recherche (Search options), to expand for finer choices.
3. Mode: *Expression exacte* (Exact phrase), *Tous les mots* (All words), or *Au moins un mot* (At least one word).
4. Volume: *Toute l'œuvre* (Whole work), or one volume.
5. Order: *Ordre du roman* (Novel order) or *Pertinence* (Relevance).
6. *Mots entiers* (Whole words), *Accents stricts* (Match accents), and *Casse stricte* (Match case).
7. The number of sections and passages found.
8. A result: volume, section and excerpt. Click to go there.

Mots entiers (Whole words) is selected by default: *mer* will therefore not return *amertume*. Clear it to search within words too. *Accents stricts* and *Casse stricte*, cleared by default, distinguish “e” from “é” and capitals from lowercase respectively.

5. Save a quotation

Drag across a passage with the mouse button held down, as when highlighting it. On a phone, press a word and drag your finger. A small bubble appears above the selection with two buttons.



1. The passage you selected.

2. Conserver la citation (Save quotation): stores it in your markers.

3. Copier avec la référence (Copy with reference): copies passage, reference and address.

Copier avec la référence prepares everything: paste it into an email, article or lecture. You get three lines:

« Longtemps, je me suis couché de bonne heure. »

— Marcel Proust, *À la recherche du temps perdu*, Tome I, *Du côté de chez Swann*, section 001.

<https://www.amisdeproust.fr/ressources/oeuvres-de-proust/lire#tome=1§ion=t1-s001¶graphe=t1-p0001>

First comes the quoted passage, then its reference — title, volume in Roman numerals and title, section number — and finally its exact address. That address lets a reader return to the right paragraph.

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6. Bookmark a section

You need not select a passage to keep a page close at hand. The **Marquer** (Bookmark) button in the toolbar — the fifth button, see the illustration in section 2 — places a bookmark on the entire section.

Once used, the button becomes **Marquée** (Bookmarked). Click again to remove the bookmark.

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7. Find your markers

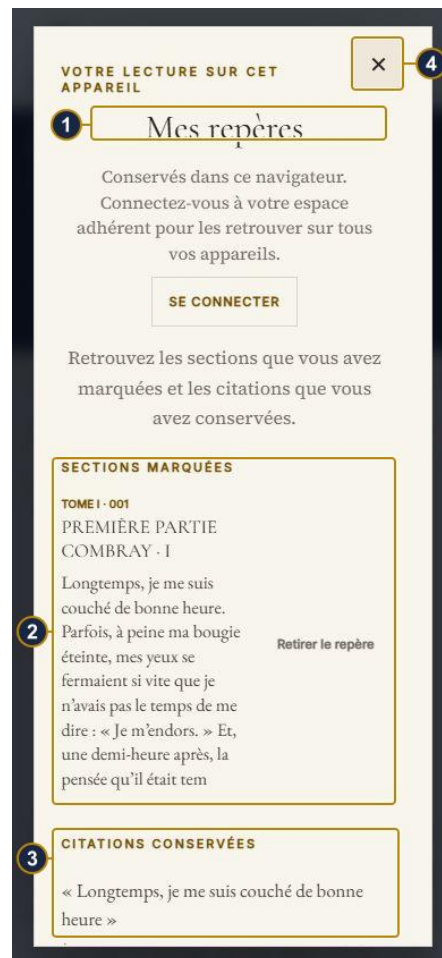
The **Repères** (Markers) button — the one with a counter — opens the **Mes repères** (My markers) window. It shows your bookmarked sections first, then your saved quotations below.



1. Where markers are stored, and **Se connecter** (Sign in).
2. A bookmarked section: volume, number and opening lines.
3. **Retirer ce repère** (Remove this marker).
4. A saved quotation.
5. Its exact reference.
6. **Relire dans le texte** (Read again in the text): reopens the passage.
7. **Copier avec la référence** (Copy with reference), as in the bubble.
8. **Retirer** (Remove): deletes the quotation.
9. Close the window.

On a phone, the same window runs down the screen. Bookmarked sections come first, then saved quotations. Scroll through the dialogue to reach the quotations and their actions, then tap the cross to close it.

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1. The same *Mes repères* window on a phone.
2. Your bookmarked sections.
3. Your saved quotations.
4. Close.

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8. Keep them across devices

If you are not signed in, your markers are kept only on this device. They survive closing the page and switching off the computer, but do not follow you to another device; they disappear if you clear your browser data.

If you are a member and signed in to your account, they are copied automatically between devices. *Mes repères* then displays “Synchronisés avec votre espace adhérent” (Synchronized with your member account), and you find the same quotations on your phone, tablet and computer.

Your member-account dashboard lists them under **Mes repères de lecture** (My reading markers), with **Relire dans le lecteur** (Read again in the reader) and **Retirer** (Remove) for every quotation.

If copying fails — a lost connection or an expired session — nothing is lost: the reader tells you and continues to keep your markers on the device.

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9. Share a passage

The **Partager** (Share) toolbar button, the fourth one, offers the displayed passage to your device's apps: email, messages and social networks. If your device cannot do that, the reader instead copies the precise link to the passage, ready for you to paste wherever you wish.

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10. Reference links

Proust invokes hundreds of paintings, books, operas, newspapers and real people. The Society has linked 992 of these mentions to a page presenting them: 611 real people, 108 painters, sculptors and architects, 93 literary works, 71 stage and musical works, 87 artworks whose reproduction we offer, and 15 newspapers and periodicals.

These words have a dotted gold underline. When you hover over one, the line becomes solid and the word turns gold.



1. The 'Vue de Delft' link at rest: a dotted gold underline.

2. The 'Ver Meer' link under the mouse: its line becomes solid and the name turns gold.

Clicking opens the reference page in a new tab, so you do not lose your place in the novel. For an artwork it is the museum's page; for all else it is the French Wikipedia article.

The links are added when the text is displayed: they do not alter a single character of the novel's transcription. This indexing work belongs to the Society and is published under the [Creative Commons BY-SA 4.0](#) licence.

11. View a painting in full size

The 87 artworks whose reproductions we host work slightly differently. A simple click does not take you away: it displays the image full size over the text.



1. The caption: title, artist, date, holding institution and credit.

2. 'Page du musée' (Museum page) and 'Wikipédia'.

3. Zoom in on the reproduction.

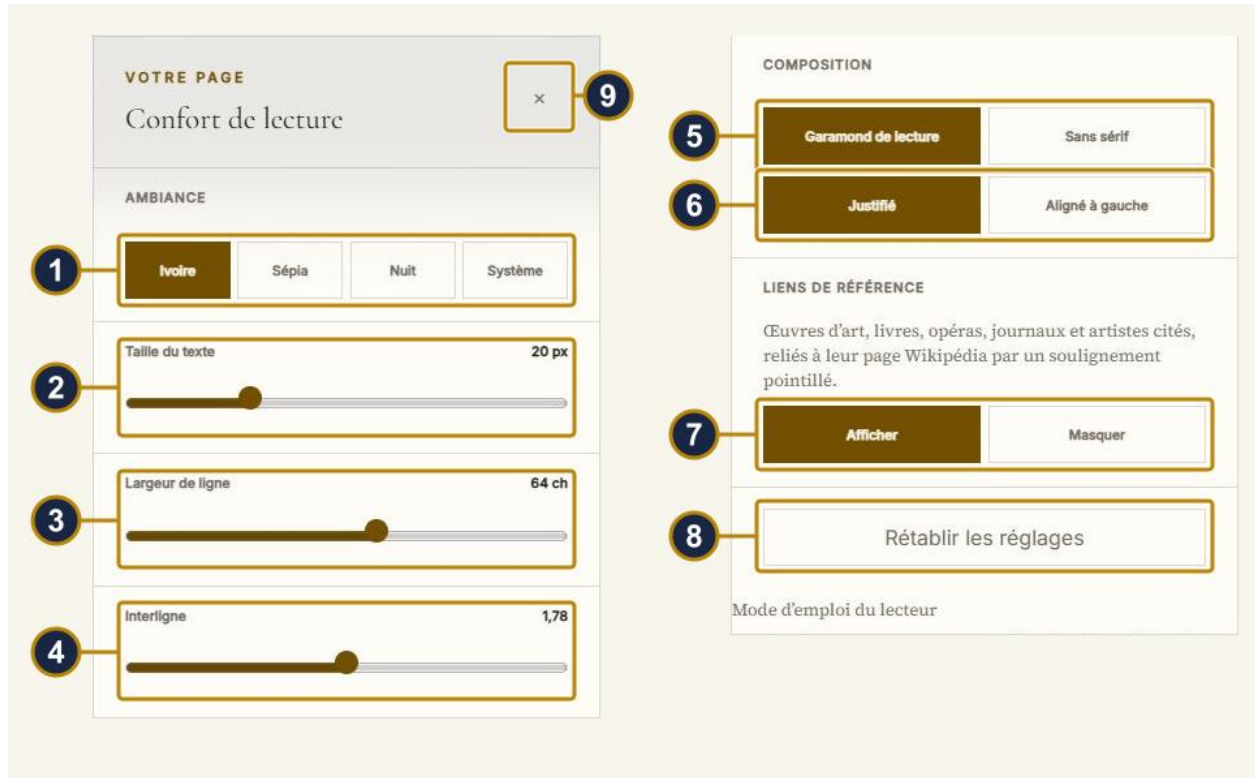
4. Close and return to the text; Échap (Escape) does this too.

To go directly to the museum page, use the middle mouse button: it opens in a new tab, as other links do.

12. Adjust the display to suit you

The **Affichage** (Display) button at the far right of the toolbar opens the *Confort de lecture* (Reading comfort) panel. Every setting changes live as you move a slider.

The panel scrolls: on a shorter screen, scroll down to **Liens de référence** and **Rétablir les réglages**.

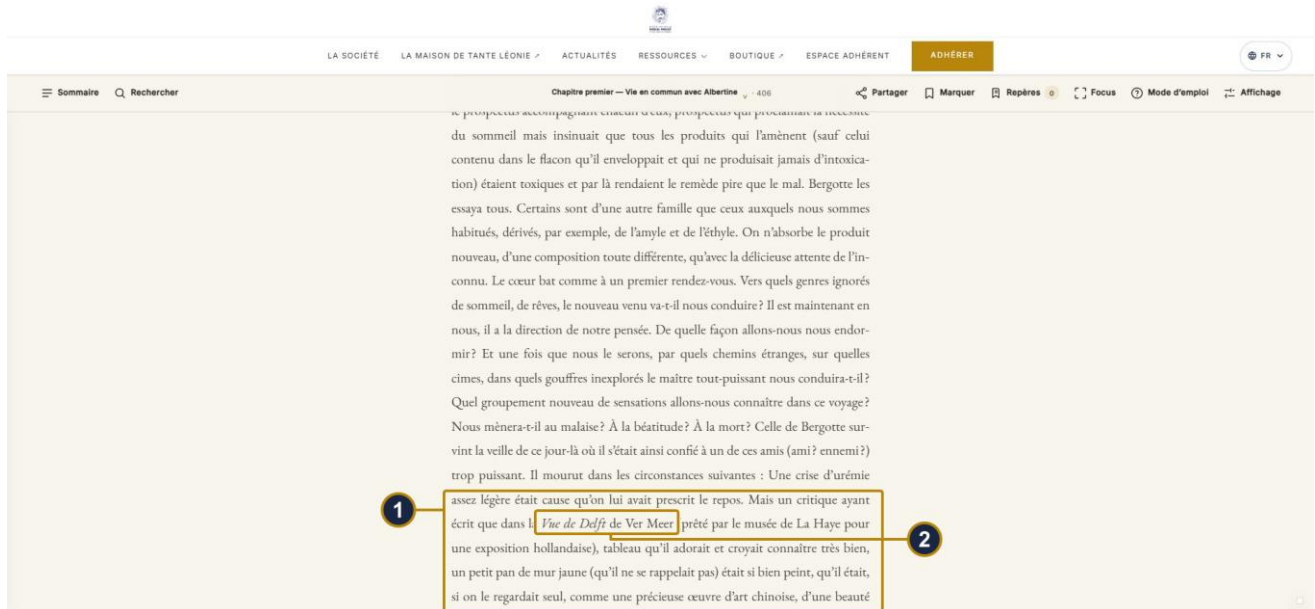


1. Theme: Ivoire (Ivory, default), Sépia, Nuit (Night), or Système (System), matching your device's light or dark setting.
2. Taille du texte (Text size): 17 to 28 pixels, 20 by default.
3. Largeur de ligne (Line width): 48 to 76 characters, 64 by default.
4. Interligne (Line spacing): 1.5 to 2.1, 1.78 by default.
5. Composition: Garamond de lecture or Sans sérif.
6. Justifié (Justified) or Aligné à gauche (Left-aligned).
7. Liens de référence (Reference links): Afficher (Show) or Masquer (Hide).
8. Rétablir les réglages (Restore settings): restores the defaults.
9. Close the panel.

Your choices are retained from one visit to the next, so you make them only once.

13. Read without links

If the underlines distract you, choose **Masquer** (Hide) on the *Liens de référence* (Reference links) row in *Confort de lecture*. Here is the section 10 passage with links hidden.



1. The same passage with links hidden: no underlining remains.

2. The name stays in the text, but is no longer clickable.

The text you then read is strictly that of the edition, with no additions. Return to **Afficher** (Show) whenever you wish.

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14. The edition used

The text served is that of the seven volumes published during Proust's lifetime and in the years following his death: *Du côté de chez Swann* (1913), *À l'ombre des jeunes filles en fleurs* (1919), *Le Côté de Guermantes* (1920), *Sodome et Gomorrhe* (1921), *La Prisonnière* (1923), *Albertine disparue* (1925), and *Le Temps retrouvé* (1927): 541 sections, 4,685 paragraphs and a little over 1,205,000 words.

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Our only interventions are technical: removing Wikisource navigation markers, cleaning and harmonizing characters, and dividing the text into sections. The text itself is never altered.

At the foot of every section, under *Sources et crédits* (Sources and credits), *Consulter* (View) details the source revision, original photographs, contributors and checksums for the displayed volume. The [provenance notice](#) can be downloaded from the same window.

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15. If you need help

Cannot close an open panel? Press *Échap* (Escape), at the upper left of the keyboard, or click the cross.

Has the display become odd? Open *Affichage* (Display) and click *Rétablir les réglages* (Restore settings).

A typo in the text, a link to the wrong person, an incorrect reproduction, or simply a question: write to contact@amisdeproust.fr and we will correct it. If possible, indicate the volume and section number displayed at the top of the page. This reader is made for Proust's readers, and improves with your comments.

[Return to the reader](#)

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7	Reference links Proust invokes hundreds of paintings, books, operas, newspapers and real people.
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