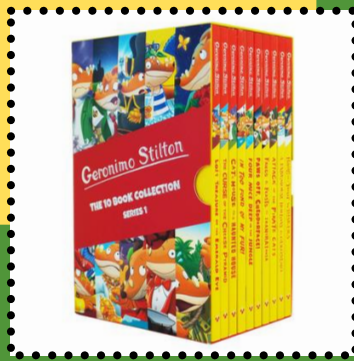


Books

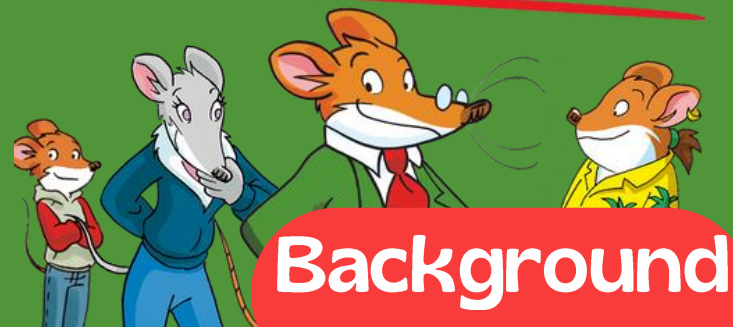
1. Lost Treasure of the Emerald Eye
2. Curse of the Cheese Pyramid
3. Cat and Mouse in a Haunted House
4. I'm Too Fond of My Fur!
5. Four Mice Deep in the Jungle
6. Paws Off, Cheddarface!
7. Fangs and Feasts in Transratania
8. Attack of the Pirate Cats
9. A Fabmouse Holiday for Geronimo
10. Hang Onto Your Whiskers

(all UK editions)

Sections marked with a blue star are based on a data analysis of 5 random books



Geronimo Stilton



Background

Geronimo Stilton, a mouse reporter, is the creation of Elisabetta Dami, an Italian children's book author. He is a mouse, and he runs the most popular newspaper in New Mouse City: **The Rodent's Gazette**. He is an untraditional hero: clumsy, scared, and awkward. We hear the story as he tells it, which involves a lot of rambling (in the most amusing way).

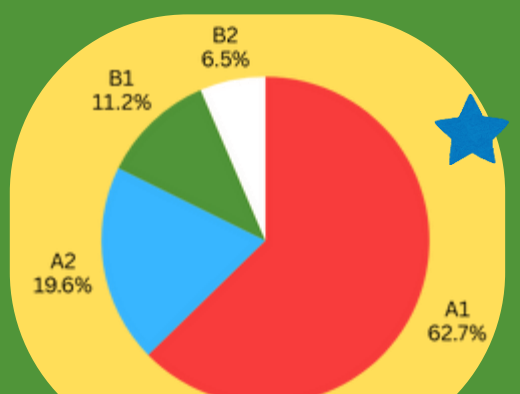
The original **Geronimo Stilton** novels are around 100 pages in length, and are aimed at elementary school-aged kids (5-10). There are also some spin-off series, which focus on different characters (Thea Stilton & Creepella Von Cacklefur), as well as those that dive into a specific genre (fantasy and sci-fi).

The books were originally written in Italian, but have been translated into 49 different languages. I read them in English growing up, and was pleasantly surprised to find out they were originally published in Italian! Over 187 million copies have been sold worldwide. I highly recommend going to your local library to see what **Geronimo Stilton** books they have.

For this analysis, I chose to look at only books from the original series. I presume that many of the original features are present across the spin-offs (linguistic and use of semiotic resources in particular). I also presume that the features of the genre are consistent across different translations, which makes the series a **really interesting material for any language classroom**.

Most frequent past-tense dialogue verbs

Implications for Teaching
Given the distribution of CEFR levels in vocabulary, alongside the frequency of more unique, mouse-related vocabulary, I believe these books would be best used at the B1-B2 levels.



CEFR distribution of tokens that occur at least 10 times across novels

Implications for Teaching
An important note, that can be seen in some of the examples, is that many made-up words and word plays may confuse learners. Such "distractors" can serve as an opportunity for learners to better parse words and make decisions about the kinds of vocabulary that they need in order to understand a text.

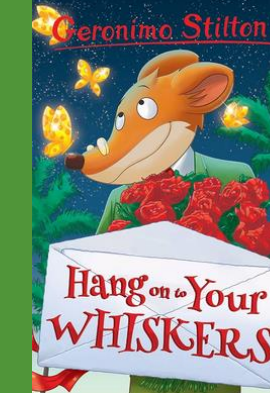
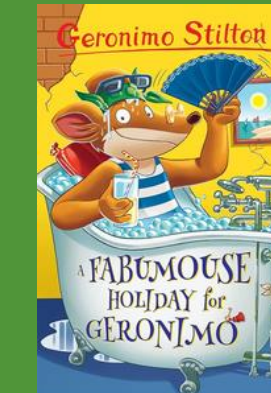
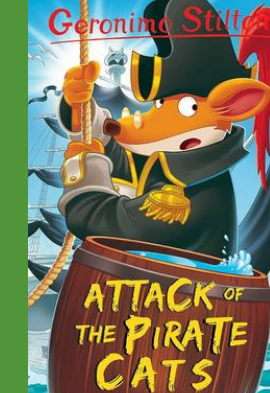
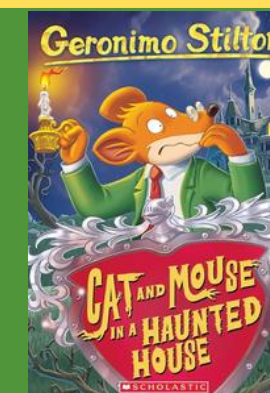
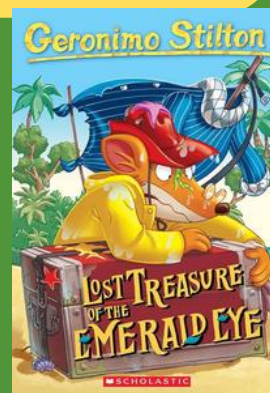
Rationale

I started studying Italian in 2019. As I progressed, I realized that I needed to work on my reading comprehension and find a way to expand my vocabulary. In the summer of 2021, I went to Italy for two months to work as an au pair.

My job involved speaking and teaching English, which meant that I had to improve my Italian in my spare time. I ended up reading one of the kids' books, a **Geronimo Stilton** book, and I found it to be a great resource. I had read the books growing up, so I was familiar with the characters and the typical structure of the novel. I believe that the text was accessible and instrumental in improving my Italian due to my familiarity with the genre, as well as the illustrations, simplified text for children, and use of fonts as semiotic resources.

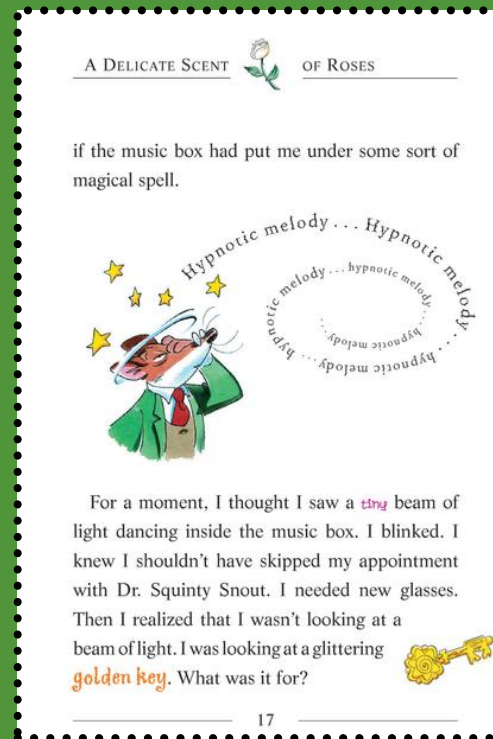
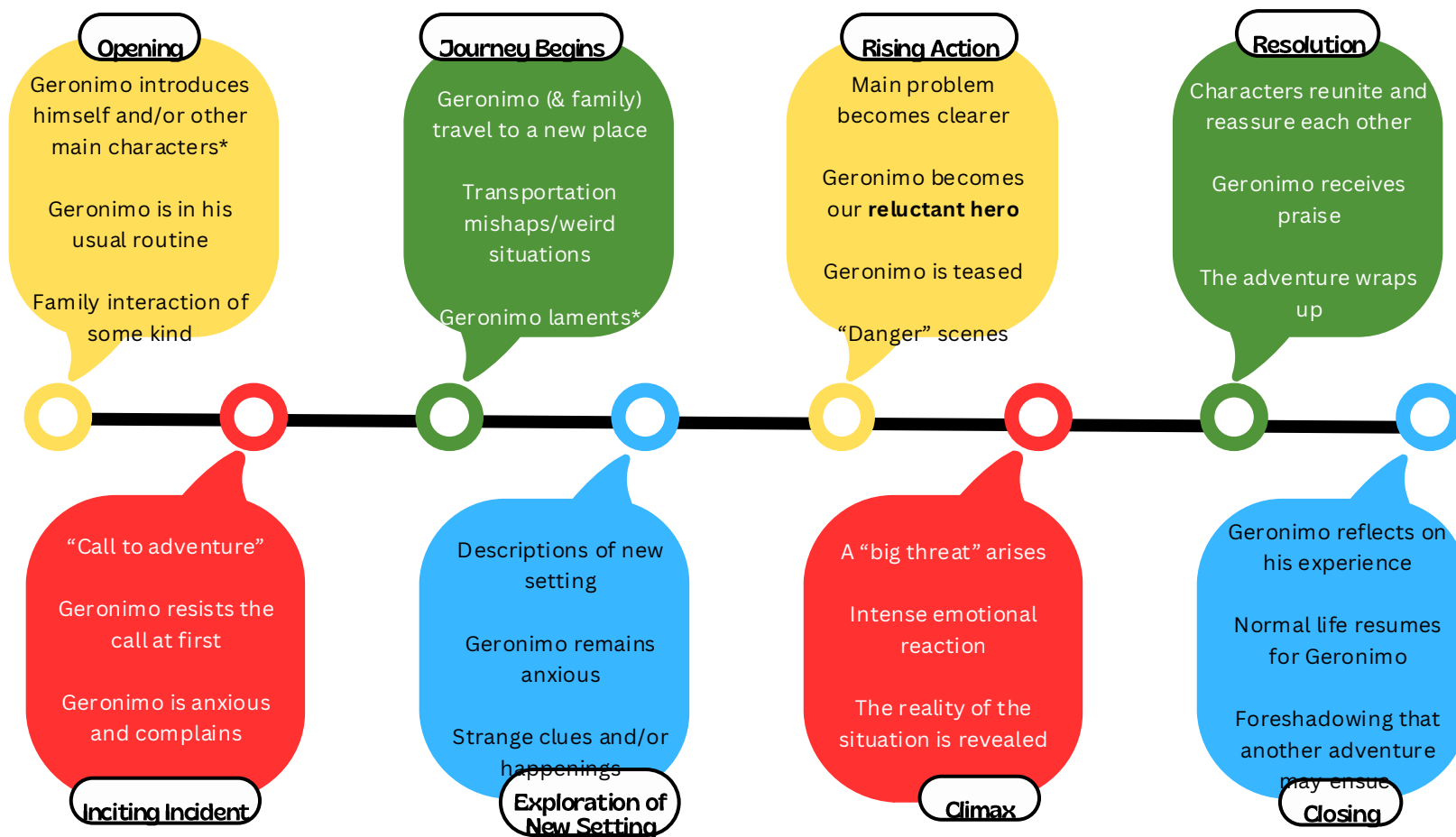
The novels use humor throughout. It is usually difficult to understand comedy in a new language, but these novels use various types, many of which I believe are comprehensible for language learners. Based on my experience and analysis, I believe **Geronimo Stilton** novels would be a great addition to any language classroom.

Examples of features marked with * are in this table!



Typical Narrative Structure

and common plot features!



Scan the QR code to learn more about Geronimo Stilton!

Linguistic Features

- Figurative language
 - Onomatopoeia
 - Simile
 - Metaphor
 - Hyperbole
 - Alliteration
- Repeated words and phrases (within same novel and across novels)
- Exclamations
- Lexical fields
 - animals/rodents
 - emotion and reactions
 - food, often cheese
 - journalism
- Conversational tone mixed with mock-formal diction
- Direct address to the reader

Comedic Features

- Situational Humor
 - ridiculous situations or interactions
- Character Humor*
 - comedic tension, often between family members
 - exaggerated characteristics
- Verbal Humor*
 - wordplay
 - repetition
 - hyperbole
 - hyper-specific references
- Meta-Humor
 - breaking the fourth wall
 - self-deprecation
 - narrator interruptions of the plot
- Physical Comedy*



Holey cheese!

Slimy swiss balls!

Rancid rat hairs!

Curdle me sour!

Cheese niblets!



Font Distinction

"LINE UP!"

ICY WATER

spinnnnnnnnn.

RANCID RAT HAIRS!

THUMPI THUMPI THUMPI!

The Rodent's Gazette.

popular colour on our island. We have **yellow** cars, **yellow** schools, and **yellow** aeroplanes. In fact, one

Cheap Mouse Willy.

Lucky Lady.

FLUFFY

TERRIFYING.

CHATTERING.

"BLEAH!!!!"

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