

Novel Study: The Little Prince

Big Idea: Exploring stories and other texts helps us understand ourselves and make connections to others and to the world.

Curricular Competency: Comprehend and Connect - Think critically, creatively, and reflectively to explore ideas within, between, and beyond texts

Curricular Competency: Comprehend and Connect - Construct meaningful personal connections between self, text, and world

Curricular Competency: Comprehend and Connect - Respond to text in personal, creative, and critical ways

Content: Story/text : forms, functions, and genres of text, text features

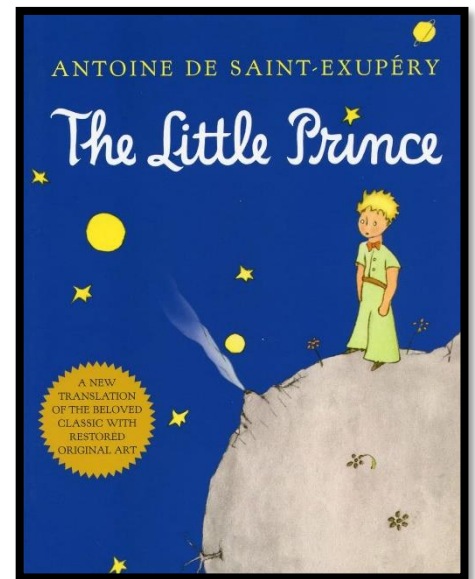
First Peoples Principles of Learning: Learning is reflective

Name: _____

Predictions

Authors choose certain words to make a title. They choose images to put on the front cover. Look at the front cover. What are some predictions about what is going to happen in the book? What makes you think that?

Prediction	Reasons why



Rubric:

Emerging	Developing	Proficient	Extending
Answers are provided, but contain repetitive or surface-level information. Insight into the novel is not evidenced. Work is messy, and challenging to read. Oral contributions are infrequent, insightful, and do not lead to further discussion.	Answers are reasonable, accurate, and complete. Some examples are given. Work is legible. Oral contributions are infrequent, but accurate and reasonable.	Answers are logical, reasonable, creative, complete, and provide many examples, and evidence from the novel. Work is neat, legible, and detailed. Oral contributions are accurate, reasonable, and continuous.	Answers are insightful, meaningful, thought-provoking, complete, and provide a plethora of examples, and concrete evidence from the novel. Work is neat, legible, and detailed. Oral contributions are stimulating, engaging, thoughtful, and continuous.

Historical Background



Born in Lyons, France, in 1900, Antoine de Saint-Exupéry considered himself a pilot above all else. For twenty years, he flew everything from cartography missions to commercial airlines, and flying occupied a significant place in his writings. The theme of aviation was often Saint-Exupéry's launching point for more abstract discussions on issues like the search for wisdom and the meaning of life.



Saint-Exupéry began writing *The Little Prince* during World War II, after Germany's invasion of France had forced him to give up aviation and flee to New York. In addition to his torturous thoughts of the war in Europe, having to leave his homeland and no longer being able to fly planes affected Saint-Exupéry deeply. The novel's nostalgia for childhood indicates both Saint-Exupéry's homesick desire to return to France and his hope of returning to a time of peace. This wartime stress undoubtedly contributed to the sense of urgency in Saint-Exupéry's message of love and compassion.

Some of the story of *The Little Prince* uses events taken from Saint-Exupéry's own life. If the novel's surreal fairy tale feels strangely real and personal, this effect is achieved, at least in part, by the fact that Saint-Exupéry was drawing from his own experiences. In *Wind, Sand and Stars*, his 1939 account of his aviation adventures, he recollects a crash landing he was forced to make in the Sahara desert. In his wanderings across the desert, Saint-Exupéry had a number of hallucinations, including an encounter with a fennec, a type of desert sand fox that bears a striking resemblance to the fox depicted in *The Little Prince*.

Saint-Exupéry may have seen himself in his characters of both the narrator and the little prince. Like his narrator, Saint-Exupéry was a pilot, crashed in the Sahara, and experienced there a kind of mystical revelation. The prince, however, represents aspects of Saint-Exupéry as well, and he very definitely embodies Saint-Exupéry's philosophy and aspirations. The prince's relationship with the rose could be a reflection of Saint-Exupéry's relationship with his wife, and the prince is also an explorer and traveler of the skies—it is one of the first things that the prince and the narrator share in common. Seen in this light, *The Little Prince* can be read as a metaphor of the process of introspection itself, wherein two halves of the same person meet and learn from each other.



Although *The Little Prince* was undoubtedly influenced by the tenor of World War II, Saint-Exupéry aims for a general, apolitical analysis of human nature. The prevalence of symbols of death and evil in *The Little Prince* are often interpreted as references to Nazi Germany, but the book's universally applicable fairy-tale symbols and the emblems of World War II make an awkward match. *The Little Prince* builds on a long tradition of French parables and fantasy literature, most notably expressed in Voltaire's *Candide*. Like Voltaire, Saint-Exupéry urges his readers to participate actively in the reading process, using their imaginations to assign deeper meaning to deceptively simple prose and poetry. Saint-Exupéry and his novel were certainly affected by the historical events of the time, but *The Little Prince* aspires to be a universal and timeless allegory about the importance of innocence and love. Indeed, since it was first published, *The Little Prince* has become one of the most widely translated books in the history of French literature.



CIRCLE THE FIVE KEY IDEAS FROM THIS TEXT.

Timeline

The Little Prince story follows a young prince who visits various planets, including Earth, and addresses themes of loneliness, friendship, love, and loss. Despite its style as a children's book, The Little Prince makes observations about life, adults, and human nature. Place the following events on the timeline below.

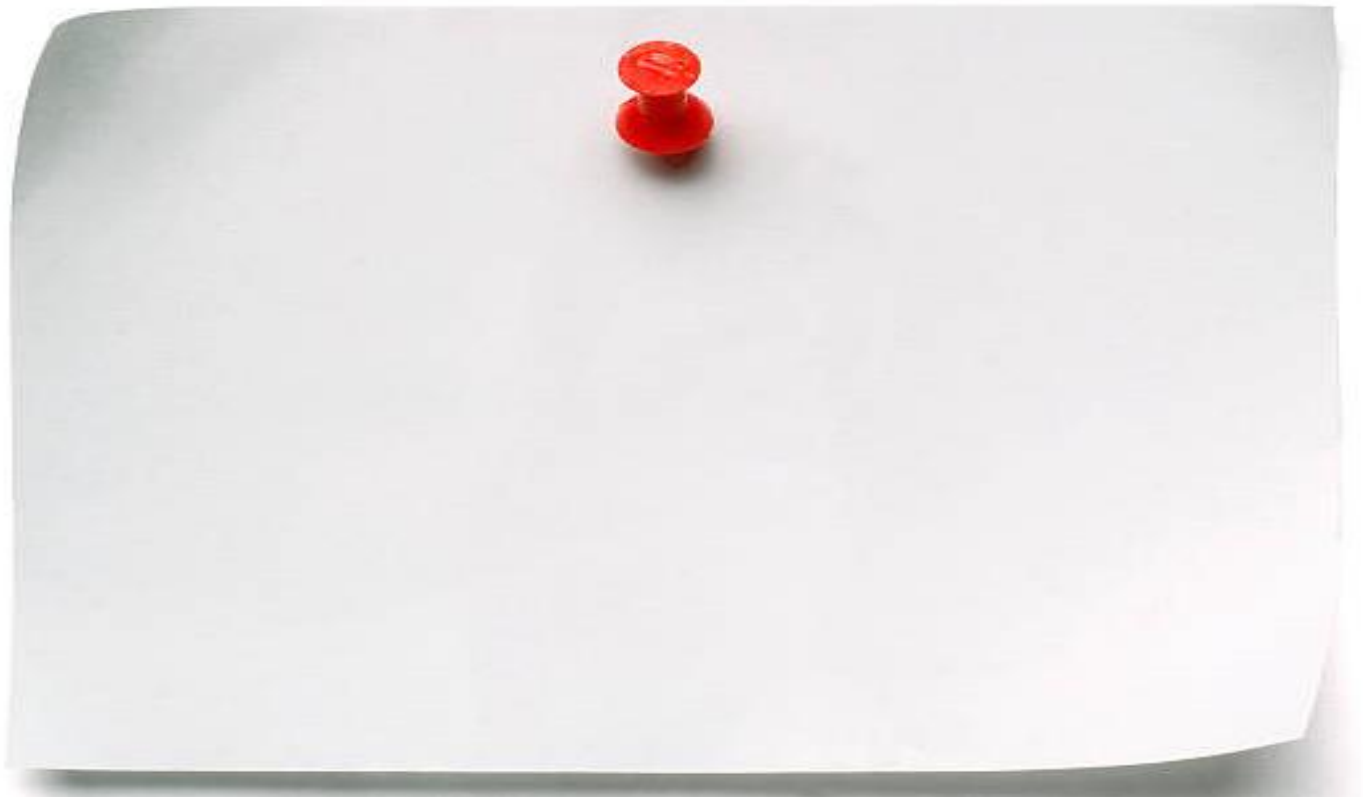


The narrator saw a picture of a boa constrictor in the act of swallowing an animal.	The narrator wonders when the little prince will come back	The little prince talks about his flower, and how he wants to protect her
The little prince visits the King	The little prince meets a merchant	The little prince drinks from a well
The little prince meets a conceited man	The little prince meets a drunkard	The little prince meets the lamplighter
The little prince meets a geographer	The narrator draws a sheep	The little prince leaves planet Earth
The little prince meets a snake	The little prince goes to Earth	The little prince talks about baobabs
They talk about sheep eating flowers	The little prince meets a flower with only 3 petals	The little prince is offered the job of judge
The little prince meets a businessman	The little prince meets a fox	The little prince hears an echo

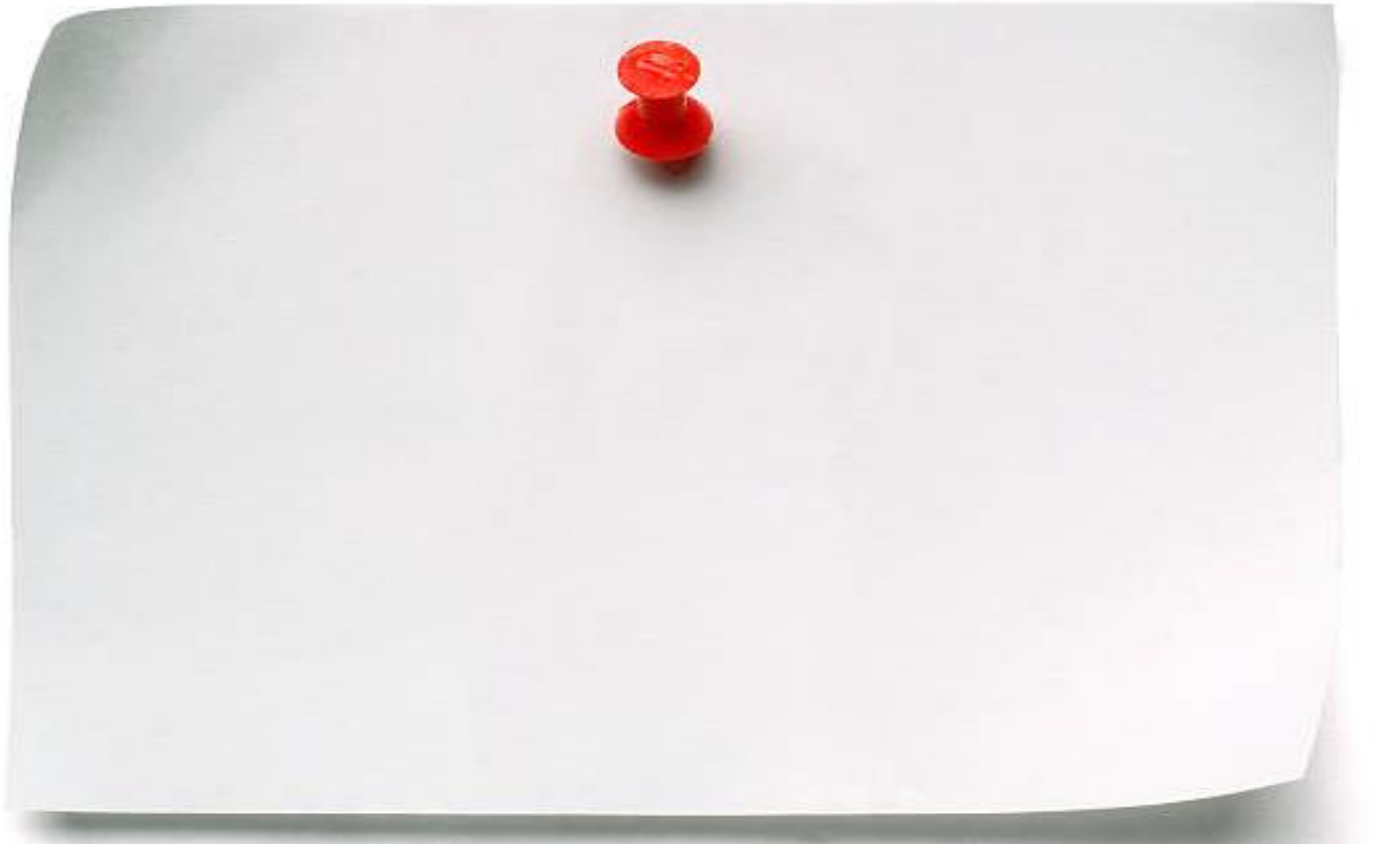
Impact of Setting on Characters



The story has a very unique **SETTING**. The setting is where and when a story takes place. Sketch two different settings for this novel, in the space below. Then, discuss how the setting would impact a person.



Impact of Setting on Characters



Redesign the Book's Cover



The book's cover can grab, or deter a reader. If you were working for a publishing company, and your task was to redesign the cover for a special edition, how would you reimagine the front cover? Explain your choices on the next page.



Redesign the Book's Cover



Why did you choose the artwork and layout that you did, for the redesign? Explain your ideas here:

The writing area is a large rectangle with horizontal lines. It is decorated with floral illustrations: a cluster of flowers and leaves in the top right corner and another cluster in the bottom left corner. The lines are evenly spaced and cover most of the central area of the page.

Characters and Vacation:



To truly understand a character, you would be able to apply what you know about them, to a new setting. For each character, decide which destination they would want to go to, and explain why. Please choose a different destination for each character. Use examples from the text to support your decisions.

The Narrator

A lonely pilot who, while stranded in the desert, befriends the little prince. They spend eight days together in the desert before the little prince returns to his home planet. Although he is discouraged from drawing early in his life because adults cannot understand his drawings, the narrator illustrates his own story and makes several drawings for the little prince. The narrator is a grown-up, but his view of the world is more like a child's than an adult's. After the little prince departs, the narrator feels both refreshed and saddened.

Where would the narrator want to go on vacation?

Why is that?

The Little Prince

One of the two protagonists of the story. After leaving his home planet and his beloved rose, the prince journeys around the universe, ending up on Earth. Frequently perplexed by the behavior of grown-ups, the prince symbolizes the hope, love, innocence, and insight of childhood that lie dormant in all of us. Though the prince is sociable and meets a number of characters as he travels, he never stops loving and missing the rose on his home planet.

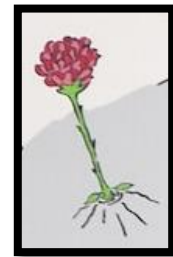


Where would the Little Prince want to go on vacation?

Why is that?

The Rose

A coquettish flower who has trouble expressing her love for the little prince and consequently drives him away. Simultaneously vain and naïve, she informs the little prince of her love for him too late to persuade him to stay home and not to travel. Throughout the story, she occupies the prince's thoughts and heart.

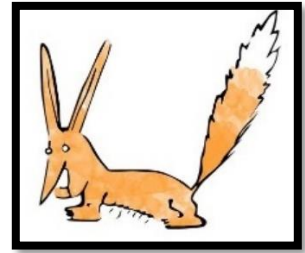


Where would the rose want to go on vacation?

Why is that?

The Fox

Although the fox asks the little prince to tame him, the fox is in some ways the more knowledgeable of the two characters, and he helps steer the prince toward what is important in life. In the secret the fox tells the little prince before they say their good-byes, the fox sums up three important lessons: only the heart can see correctly; the prince's time away from his planet has made him appreciate his rose more; and love entails responsibility.



Where would the fox want to go on vacation?

Why is that?

The Snake

The first character the prince meets on Earth, who ultimately sends the prince back to the heavens by biting him. A constant enigma, the snake speaks in riddles and evokes the snake of the Bible, which incites Adam and Eve's eviction from Eden by luring them into eating the forbidden fruit.



Where would the snake want to go on vacation?

Why is that?

The Baobabs

Baobabs, harmless trees on Earth, pose a great threat to smaller planets like the prince's if left unchecked. They can squeeze whole planets to pieces with their roots. Although Baobabs have no malicious opinions or intentions, they represent the grave danger that can befall people who are too lazy or indifferent to keep a wary eye on the world around them.



Where would the baobabs want to live?

Why is that?

The Drunkard

The third person the little prince encounters after leaving home is a drunkard, who spends his days and nights lost in a stupor. The drunkard is a sad figure, but he is also foolish because he drinks to forget that he is ashamed of drinking.



Where would the drunkard want to go on vacation?

Why is that?

The King

On the first planet the little prince visits, he encounters a king who claims to rule the entire universe. While not unkindly, the king's power is empty. He is able to command people to do only what they already would do.



Where would the king want to go on vacation?

Why is that?

The Vain / Conceited Man

The sole resident of the second planet the little prince visits. The vain man is lonely and craves admiration from all who pass by. However, only by being alone is he assured of being the richest and best-looking man on his planet.



Where would the vain man want to go on vacation?

Why is that?

The Businessman

A caricature of grown-ups who is the fourth person the little prince visits. Too busy even to greet his visitor, the businessman owns all the stars. Yet he cannot remember what they are called and contributes nothing to them. Although the little prince comments on the oddity of the grown-ups he meets, the businessman is the only character the prince actively chastises.



Where would the businessman want to go on vacation?

Why is that?

The Lamplighter

The fifth and most complex figure the prince encounters before landing on Earth. At first, the lamplighter appears to be yet another ridiculous character with no real purpose, but his selfless devotion to his orders earns him the little prince's admiration. Of all the adults the little prince encounters before reaching Earth, the lamplighter is the only one the prince thinks he could befriend.



Where would the narrator want to go on vacation?

Why is that?

The Geographer

The sixth and final character the little prince encounters before he lands on Earth. Although the geographer is apparently well-read, he refuses to learn about his own planet, saying it is a job for explorers. He recommends that the little prince visit Earth, and his comments on the ephemeral nature of flowers reveal to the prince that his own flower will not last forever.



Where would the narrator want to go on vacation?

Why is that?

The Railway Switchman

The railway switchman works at the hub for the enormous trains that rush back and forth carrying dissatisfied adults from one place to the other. He has more perspective on life than the unhappy, thoughtless passengers his trains ferry. He agrees with the prince that the children are the only ones who appreciate and enjoy the beauty of the train rides.

Where would the railway switchman want to go on vacation?

Why is that?

The Salesclerk

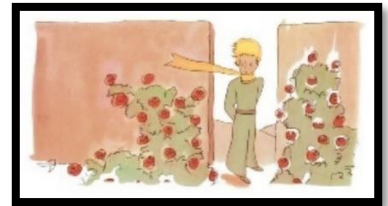
The salesclerk sells pills that quench thirst on the grounds that people can save up to fifty-three minutes a day if they don't have to stop to drink. He symbolizes the modern world's misplaced emphasis on saving time and taking shortcuts.

Where would the salesclerk want to go on vacation?

Why is that?

The Roses in the Rose Garden

The sight of the rose garden first leads the prince to believe that his flower is not, in fact, unique. However, with the fox's guidance, the prince realizes that even so many similar flowers cannot stop his own rose from being unique.

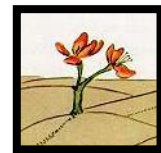


Where would the rose garden want to live?

Why is that?

The Three-Petaled Flower

The three-petaled flower lives alone in the desert, watching the occasional caravan pass by. She mistakenly informs the prince that there are only a handful of men in the world and that their lack of roots means they are often blown along.



Where would the three-petaled flower want to go on vacation?

Why is that?

The Little Prince's Echo

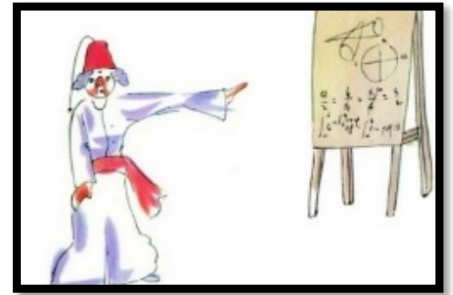
The little prince's echo is not really a character, but the little prince mistakes it for one. When he shouts from a mountaintop, he hears his echo and believes that Earth people simply repeat what is said to them.

Where would the Little Prince's echo want to go on vacation?

Why is that?

The Turkish Astronomer

The first human to discover the prince's home, Asteroid B-612. When the Turkish astronomer first presents his discovery, no one believes him on account of his Turkish costume. Years later, he makes the same presentation wearing Western clothes, and his discovery is well received. The scientific community's treatment of the Turkish astronomer reveals that ignorance propels xenophobia (a fear or hatred of foreigners) and racism.





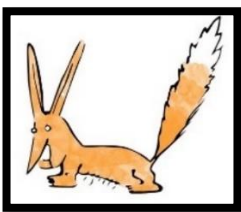


Where would the Turkish astronomer want to go on vacation?

Why is that?

Characters and Alternate Worlds



To truly understand a character, you would be able to not just identify their characteristics, but you would be able to apply what you know about them, to a new setting. For the characters below, decide on an alternate world (Star Wars, Harry Potter, Lord of the Rings, DC, NFL, Hunger Games, Disney, Canucks, Marvel, etc). Discuss how these characters would survive (or not) in these new worlds. How would their personalities assist or hinder them in these alternate worlds?

Character	How would they do?
 <p>The Little Prince</p>	<p>Alternate world: _____</p>
 <p>The Rose</p>	<p>Alternate world: _____</p>
 <p>The Fox</p>	<p>Alternate world: _____</p>
 <p>The King</p>	<p>Alternate world: _____</p>
 <p>The Businessman</p>	<p>Alternate world: _____</p>

Symbolism



Symbolism is when the author mentions something, but it represents something else. It's when an object or action hints at something else. What do the following symbols represent? Do they represent parts of our society? Emotions? Feelings? Fears? Limitations?

The stars	
The desert	
The trains	
Water	
The rose	
The fox	
The elephant being eaten by a snake	
The snake	
The volcano	
The Baobab	
The astronomer	
The lamplighter	
The king	
The businessman	
The Little Prince	

Symbolism – prove it

Symbolism is when the author mentions something, but it represents something else. Design a really cool skateboard that includes symbols from The Little Prince. Be sure to explain the symbols by drawing arrows, and describing them in the space around the image.



Theme

The theme is the main idea.

The theme is the one word that could sum-up the entire thought.



Look at the themes listed here. Choose one theme that you think best represents the story The Little Prince. Write down why you think that theme is the best fit. Give examples.

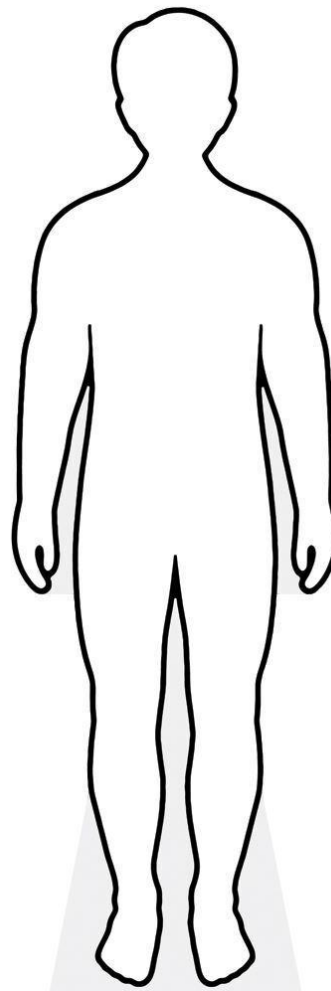
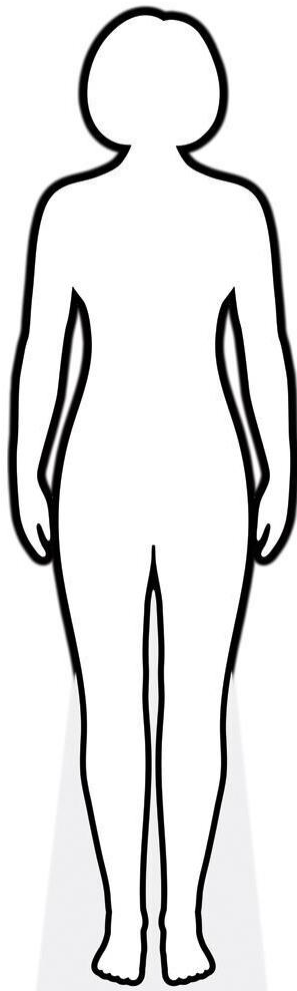


A large, blank sheet of paper with horizontal lines for writing. At the bottom right corner, there is a small illustration of a fox standing next to a row of colorful flowers.

Theme and Symbolism

The theme is the main idea – the central feeling or emotion that pulls everything together. It's the thing that unites everything. Choose a theme from the selection below. Your task is to choose two different themes from The Little Prince, and embody those themes in their own outfit. Choose colours, patterns, embellishments, designs, etc, that will represent and symbolize the themes presented. Use arrows to indicate the elements that you incorporated to express the theme symbolically. Write your notes and explanations in the white area around the mannequins. Draw the outfits directly on to the mannequins.

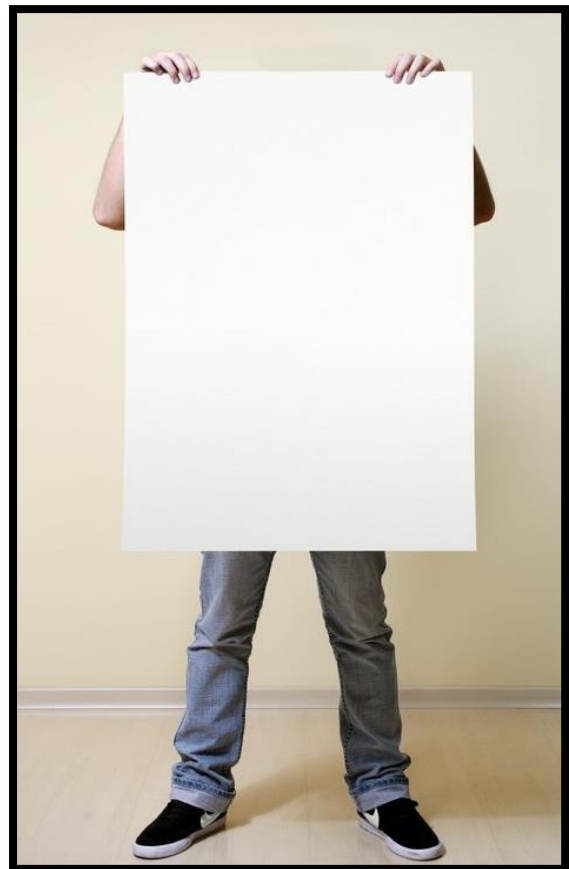
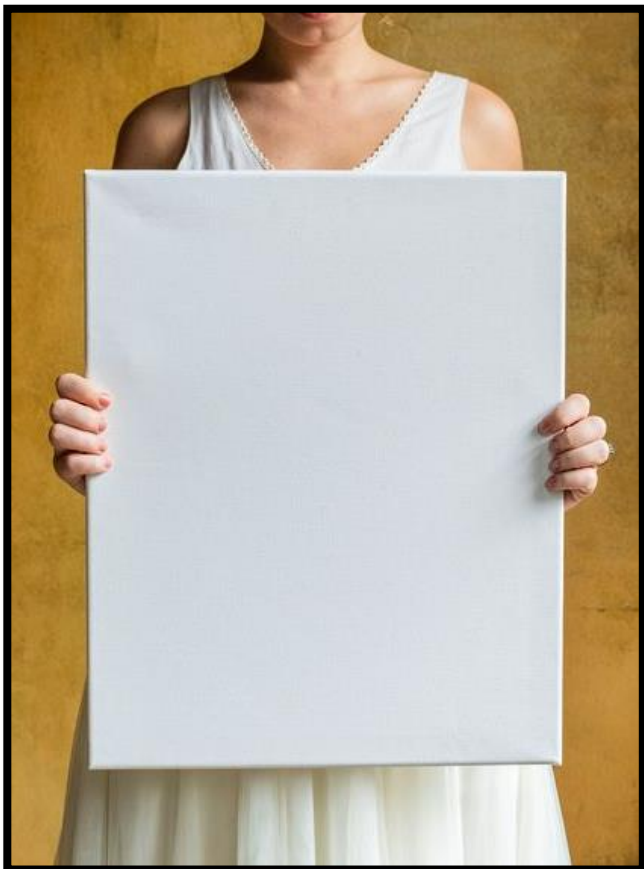
The Dangers of Narrow-Mindedness	Enlightenment through Exploration	Relationships Teach Responsibility
Relationships	Childhood vs Adulthood	Innocence
The folly of human nature	Live in the moment	Simplicity
Love	Loss	Purpose
Loneliness	Friendship	Effort



Quotes

The Little Prince has many memorable and philosophical quotes. Choose your favourite two quotes, and write them on the canvas below. Then, on the next page, discuss why you think that those quotes are particularly insightful and valuable.

"It is only with the heart that one can see rightly; what is essential is invisible to the eye."
"All grown-ups were once children... but only few of them remember it"
"It is the time you have wasted for your rose that makes your rose so important."
"The most beautiful things in the world cannot be seen or touched, they are felt with the heart."
"What makes the desert beautiful,' said the little prince, 'is that somewhere it hides a well..."
"Grown-ups never understand anything by themselves, and it is tiresome for children to be always and forever explaining things to them"
"Well, I must endure the presence of a few caterpillars if I wish to become acquainted with the butterflies"
"It is such a mysterious place, the land of tears."
"You see, one loves the sunset when one is so sad."
"People where you live," the little prince said, "grow five thousand roses in one garden... yet they don't find what they're looking for..."
"It's a little lonely in the desert..." "It is lonely when you're among people, too,"
"One runs the risk of crying a bit if one allows oneself to be tamed"
"A rock pile ceases to be a rock pile the moment a single man contemplates it, bearing within him the image of a cathedral."
"I have lived a great deal among grown-ups. I have seen them intimately, close at hand. And that hasn't much improved my opinion of them."
"But the conceited man did not hear him. Conceited people never hear anything but praise."
"But the eyes are blind. One must look with the heart."
"It is much more difficult to judge oneself than to judge others. If you succeed in judging yourself rightly, then you are indeed a man of true wisdom."
"No one is ever satisfied where he is."
"Words are the source of misunderstandings."

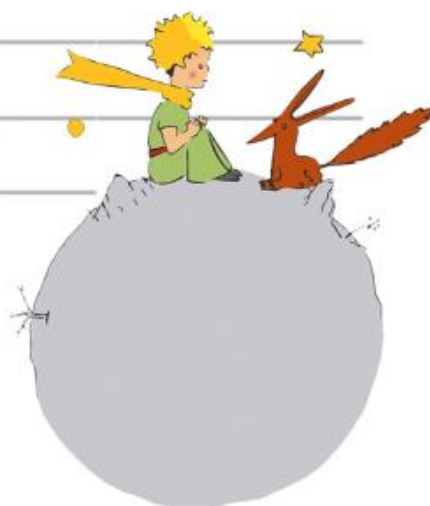


The Value of Quotes

What do quotes offer us? In *The Little Prince*, the dialogue and description are not merely descriptive words – they are life lessons, they are metaphors, they are parables (a parable is a metaphorical analogy), but above that, they are succinct commentaries on life that deliver wisdom, motivation, and perspective. The value of a good quote, is that a lot is said (or commented on), in a very short amount of time. A life lesson can be communicated with efficiency and subtly.

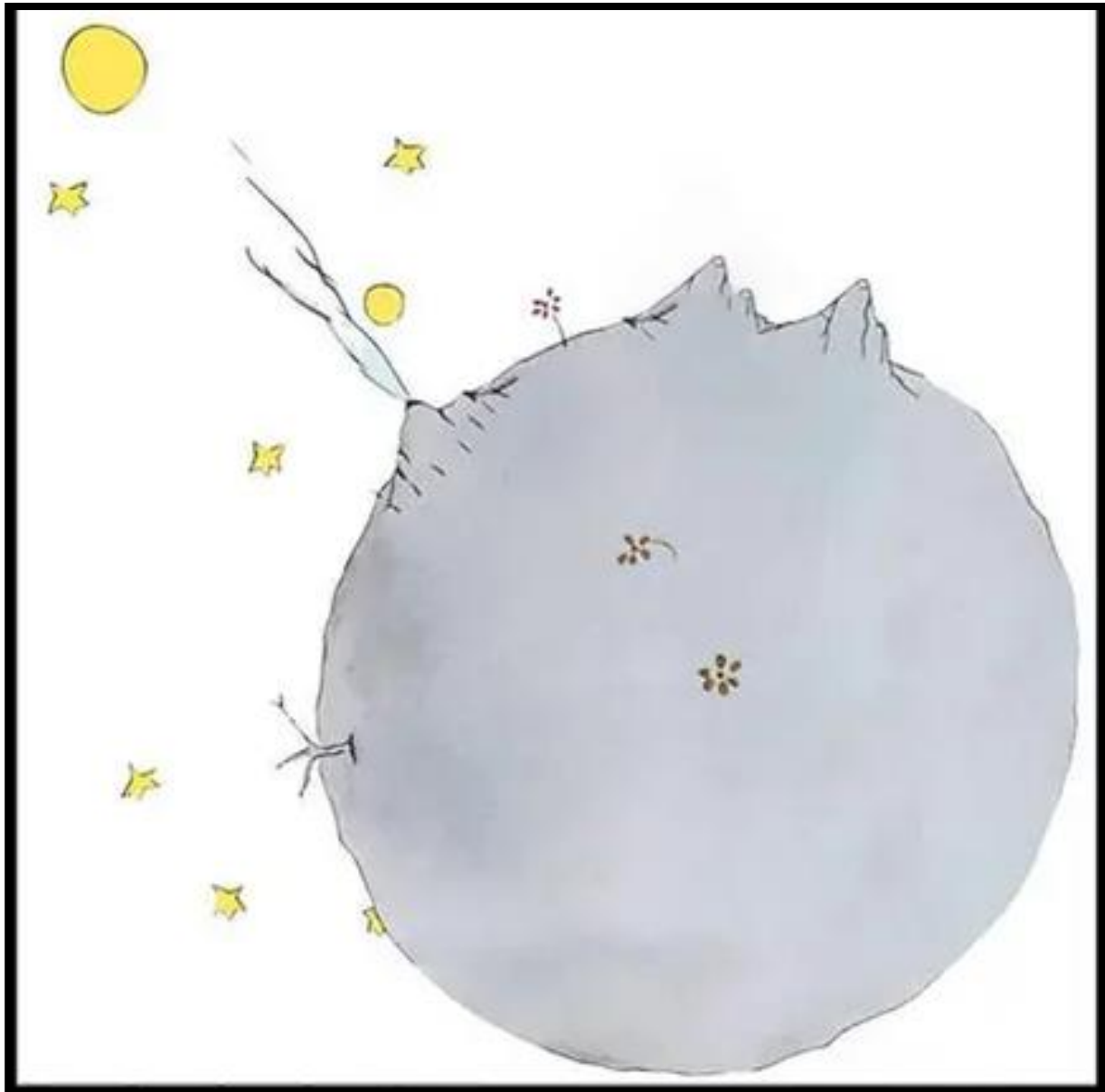


Discuss the value of one of the quotes that you chose on the preceding page. What does it add to the story? How is it important and insightful?








Choose Your Own Planet

The Little Prince has left his asteroid and his beloved rose in a quest for knowledge. He has visited six different planets, each inhabited by a single, absurd adult: a king, a vain man, a drunkard, a businessman, a lamplighter, and a geographer. Each of these characters symbolizes different aspects of adult folly or narrow-mindedness. The prince's experiences on these planets are meant to critique the strangeness and irrationality of adult behaviors from the innocent perspective of a child. Collectively, the idea of the planets themselves may symbolise isolation and separation from others. The planets were a thought-provoking way to add character development in the story, as the little prince is confused about why the adults are very strange in the way they act. In some ways, the 6 planets in *The Little Prince* can represent most of the seven deadly sins (in Christianity), which are the first seven sins in the religion that are the most important to avoid; Pride, Envy, Gluttony, Lust, Anger, Sloth, and Greed. The prince leaves his planet because of the rose; the rose permeates the prince's discussions with the narrator; and eventually, the rose becomes the reason the prince wants to return to his planet. If each of the planets represents a part of adulthood or humanity that is problematic or destructive, then your task is to imagine a 7th planet that the Little Prince can visit, before he visits Earth. On the next page, using Saint-Exupéry's style, write what happens. Draw it here:



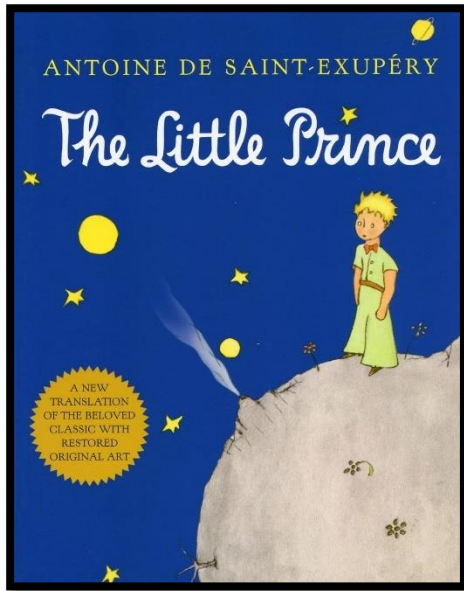
Choose Your Own Planet

Write the story of your own planet here. What happens when the Little Prince visits this planet?

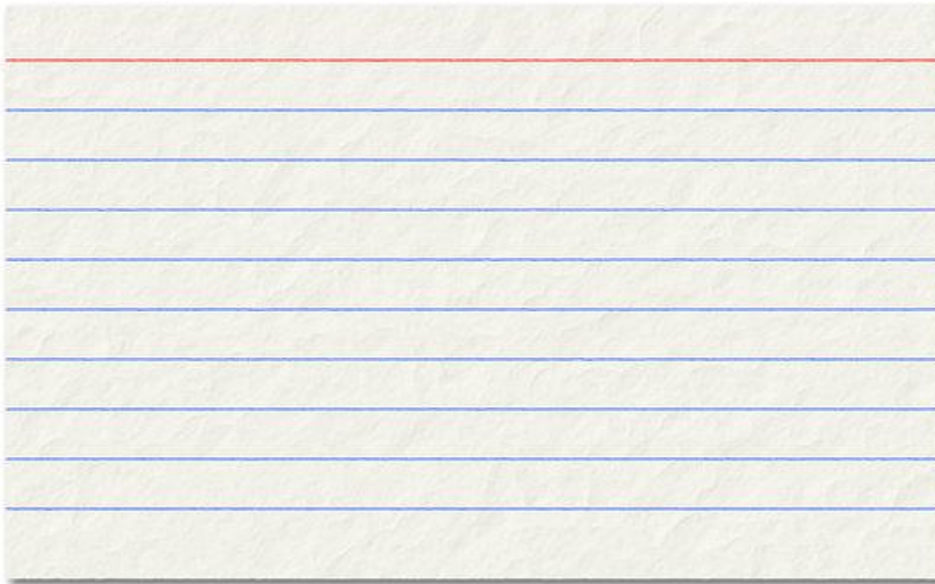
	
	
	
	

What's in a name?

The title of the book is very telling, symbolic, and important. What are your thoughts on the title of the book? What worked? What didn't? Be specific, and explain.



It is your turn to come up with a new title. What would you call this book, if you had to choose another title? Why is that? Discuss.



Conflict

All good stories feature conflict, otherwise they wouldn't hold our interest. Conflict is tension between characters, or between characters and forces. Conflict is the struggle that the protagonist goes through in a story. All protagonists have something to overcome, whether it's a battle against another character or an attempt to escape the unfairness of their situation in life. This conflict is a key component of what keeps us interested in a story.

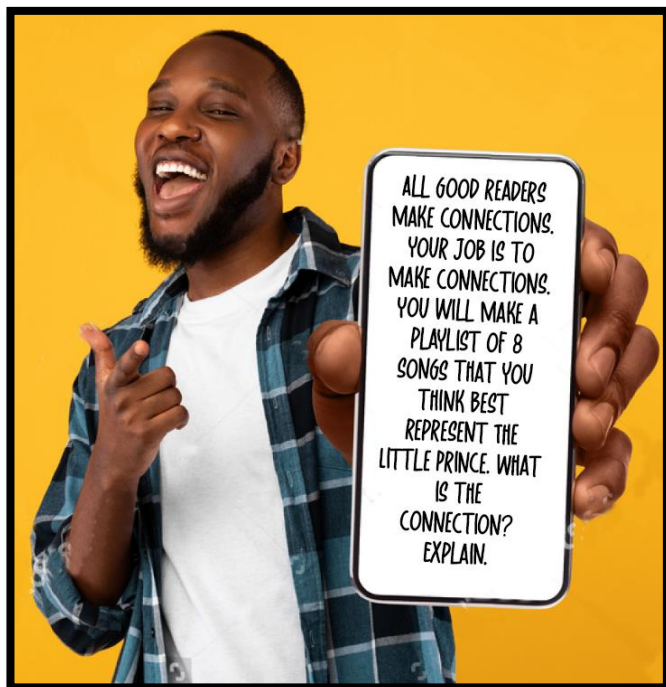
There are seven different types of conflict in English literature:

- Character vs character
- Character vs society
- Character vs nature
- Character vs technology
- Character vs fate
- Character vs supernatural
- Character vs self

Your task is to think of a struggle that you have read about in *The Little Prince*, and decide which type of conflict you think you see, and then explain why it is that you think that.



Set List



Song Title	Artist	Reasons why it connects

Connections to yourself

All good readers make connections. Make a connection between yourself, and the story. Explain what that connection is. Decorate the coffee cup in a visual and symbolic way to represent that connection, and then explain what that connection is.

