

JR.

STUDY GUIDE

The Little Prince

By Rick Cummings and John Scoullar

Based on the book

by Antoine de Saint-Exupery

Synopsis

During their two weeks together in the desert, the mysterious and regal Little Prince tells a world-weary Aviator about his adventures through the galaxy, including how he met the Lamplighter, the Businessman, and the Geographer; and about his strained relationship with a very special flower on his own tiny planet. From each experience the Little Prince gained a unique insight, which he in turn shares with the Aviator: “It is only with the heart that one can see rightly. What is essential is invisible to the eye.” Ultimately, the Little Prince and the Aviator return home—each with a new understanding of how to laugh, cry, and love again.

Children and Grown-ups

Discussion: The Little prince says that the aviator at first “talks just like the grown-ups.” What are the differences between grown-ups and children? Why might the aviator miss being a boy?

Other Worlds

Objective: Students use imagination to create other worlds.

Discussion: The Little Prince has come from another planet. What do you think his planet is like? If you could create a planet, how would people there live? What would they eat? How is it different from Earth? What would they travel in? How long would it take to get here?

Activity: Have students think of a name for their planet. Have them explain why they gave it that name. Using paper mache and paints, have students make a model of their planet or make a model of the spaceship they would use to travel to Earth.

Meet The Main Characters

THE AVIATOR

We don't know the man's name, but the aviator narrates our story. he is a solo airmail pilot with the nickname "Solitaire." however, his somewhat reckless and careless attitude gets him into trouble. the flight that strands him in the desert is "the third unauthorized flight" that month, getting him "grounded" as punishment. a loner, as his nickname suggests, the aviator's only friend is his airplane, and he wants little to do with the Little prince. yet he shows an odd talent for drawing sheep just as the strange little boy likes.

THE LITTLE PRINCE

the Little prince is the only inhabitant of tiny asteroid b-612. every morning there he cleans out its three volcanoes and weeds the baobabs. he has also grown very fond of a beautiful rose that grows there. however, he left to explore other planets when the rose's demands became too great. after meeting men on other planets, the Little prince feels very strongly about the problems with grown-ups. he believes, as the Fox does, that truly important things are invisible. this leads him to very much miss his rose.

ROSE

the rose grew on the Little prince's asteroid as the first and only rose there. he nurtured and protected her. however, when the prince leaves her side to do other tasks, the rose becomes jealous. She tries many tricks to regain his attention, but they only drive him away. While the prince is away on his journey, she misses him terribly and remains anxious over expressing her love.

SNAKE

a mysterious creature, the snake claims to be "more powerful than the finger of a king" and to be able to "carry you further than any ship." She is the first being on earth to greet the Little prince and pities his innocence and long journey. though the aviator believes her to be dangerous, the Snake is the only one with the power to send the prince back to his planet.

FOX

the Fox lives in the woods in a foxhole and is chased all day by hunters. running from them and chasing chickens with no companions, the Fox gets bored. he dreams of meeting a friend who will "tame" him. upon seeing that the Little prince is small and has no gun, he believes that the boy may be just that friend.

Theatre Etiquette

Discussion: How should you act when you see a play? Is it the same way you should act when watching a movie or playing at recess? Is it okay to laugh during a play if you think it is funny? Is it okay to talk? What if the characters talk to you?

Activity and Discussion: Have the class make a list of good behaviors and a list of bad behaviors or have students act out behaviors. Discuss the behaviors and why they are good or bad. How would you react if other audience members around you did this?

Be An Artist

In the play, the Aviator enjoys drawing on his pad. One of the things he draws is a sheep. In the space below, draw your version of a sheep.

Contact us!

We love to get feedback from students.

Letters may be written and artwork depicting the play may be sent to:

Oak Ridge Junior Playhouse

(or cast of The Adventures of Nate the Great)

P.O. Box 5705

Oak Ridge, TN 37831-5705

Emails may be sent to:

playhouse@orplayhouse.com