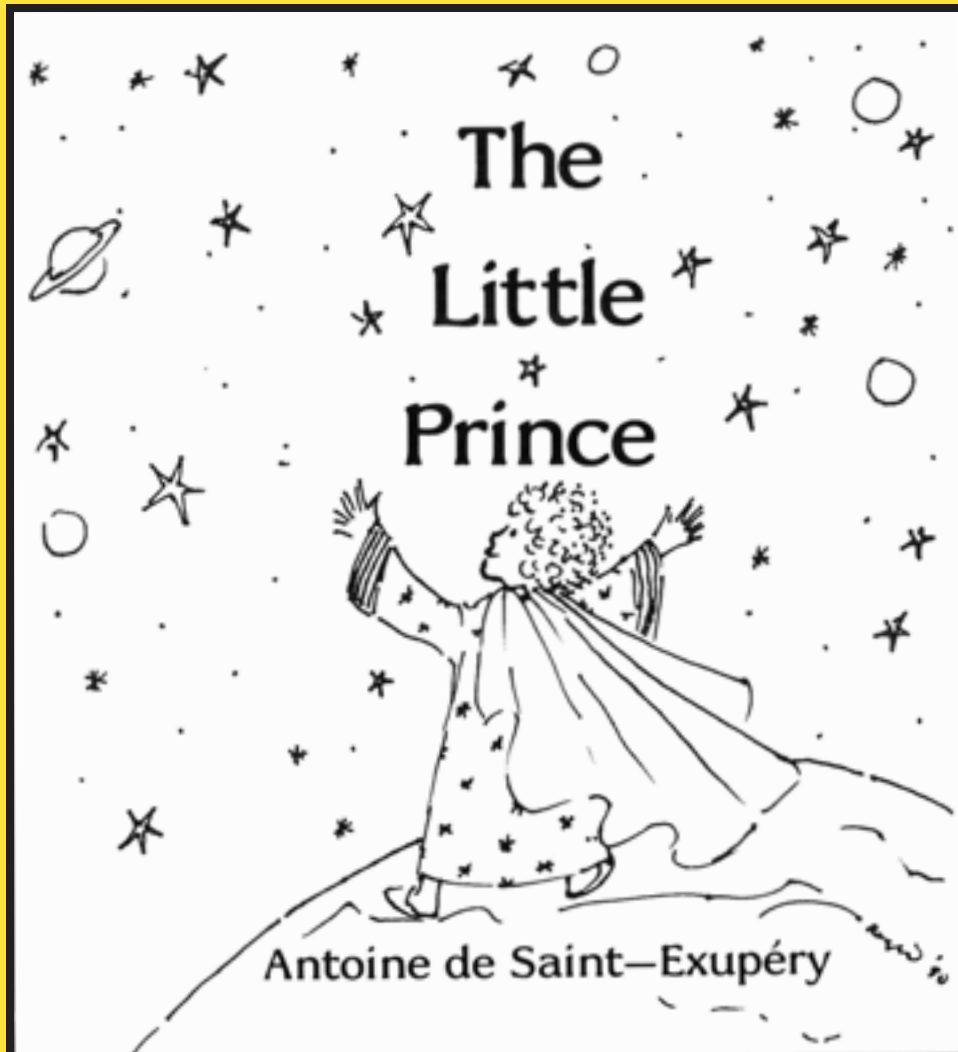


Novel•Ties



A Study Guide

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LEARNING LINKS

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Synopsis	1
Author Information	2
Pre-Reading Activities	3
Chapters 1 - 4	4 - 6
Chapters 5 - 9	7 - 9
Chapters 10 - 15	10 - 12
Chapters 16 - 23	13 - 14
Chapters 24 - 27	15 - 16
Cloze Activity	17
Post-Reading Activities	18 - 19
Suggestions For Further Reading	20
Answer Key	21 - 22

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For the Teacher

This reproducible study guide consists of lessons to use in conjunction with the book *The Little Prince*. Written in chapter-by-chapter format, the guide contains a synopsis, pre-reading activities, vocabulary and comprehension exercises, as well as extension activities to be used as follow-up to the novel.

In a homogeneous classroom, whole class instruction with one title is appropriate. In a heterogeneous classroom, reading groups should be formed: each group works on a different novel on its reading level. Depending upon the length of time devoted to reading in the classroom, each novel, with its guide and accompanying lessons, may be completed in three to six weeks.

Begin using NOVEL-TIES for guided reading by distributing the novel and a folder to each child. Distribute duplicated pages of the study guide for students to place in their folders. After examining the cover and glancing through the book, students can participate in several pre-reading activities. Vocabulary questions should be considered prior to reading a chapter or group of chapters; all other work should be done after the chapter has been read. Comprehension questions can be answered orally or in writing. The classroom teacher should determine the amount of work to be assigned, always keeping in mind that readers must be nurtured and that the ultimate goal is encouraging students' love of reading.

The benefits of using NOVEL-TIES are numerous. Students read good literature in the original, rather than in abridged or edited form. The good reading habits will be transferred to the books students read independently. Passive readers become active, avid readers.

PRE-READING ACTIVITIES AND DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. *The Little Prince* was written and illustrated by Antoine de Saint-Exupéry. Prior to reading, skim through the book to examine the illustrations. What general impression do these pictures convey? As you read the book, assess how well the illustrations are integrated into the story.
2. Pretend you are an extraterrestrial who is visiting your community on Earth for the first time. Describe local customs, politics, modes of entertainment, education, business, etc.
3. Read the dedication of this book, “To Leon Werth.” What does this dedication reveal about the author? What predictions about the story can you make based on the dedication?
4. **Cooperative Learning Activity:** The narrator of *The Little Prince* takes a dim view of the adult world. In a small group, create a list of your major criticisms of society. What remedies would you recommend to correct these faults?
5. A major theme of *The Little Prince* is that the most important things in life cannot be seen with the eye; they must be seen with the heart. Make a list of the most important things in your life. How many can be seen only with your heart?
6. Another major theme in *The Little Prince* is growing up and assuming responsibility. Have you ever taken responsibility, or avoided taking responsibility, for something or someone? Describe the circumstances.
7. **Social Studies Connection:** Locate photographs and a map of the Sahara Desert. What are the outstanding characteristics of this geographic region? Would you want to visit the Sahara? Explain.
8. An allegory is a story in which the characters and their actions represent ideas or generalizations about life. Have you read any books or seen films that were allegories? As you read *The Little Prince*, determine how it is an allegory.
9. Many readers believe that *The Little Prince* is a story with such sophisticated overtones that it is meant only for adults. Did you read *The Little Prince* as a child, or did someone read it to you? Did you enjoy the book then? What do you recall of the story? How do you expect your understanding of this story to differ now that you are older?

Chapters 1 - 4 (cont.)

Questions for Discussion:

1. The clothes worn by the astronomer may not have made the man, but they certainly made him famous. Can you think of situations in which clothing determined the outcome?
2. Do you agree with the author that children and adults perceive things in uniquely different ways? Who do you think perceives life in a better way — children or adults?

Literary Devices:

- I. *Hook* — In literature, a hook is a compelling opening sentence, paragraph, or chapter that entices a reader into the story. Reread Chapter One of *The Little Prince*. How does this chapter encourage you to keep reading?

- II. *Humor* — Understatement is a form of humor in which something is intentionally made to seem less significant than it really is. Explain the humorous understatement in the following passage:

I have flown a little over all parts of the world; and it is true that geography has been very useful to me. At a glance I can distinguish China from Arizona. If one gets lost in the night, such knowledge is valuable.

- III. *Point of View* — The person who tells a story determines the point of view. There are three possible points of view in a story:

- *Third-person omniscient narrator* who knows what all the characters are thinking and doing
- *Third-person limited narrator* who knows what one character is thinking and doing
- *First-person narrator* who, as a character, tells the story as he or she experienced it

Which point of view did Saint-Exupéry use? What are the advantages and limitations of this point of view?
