

The Little Prince

Antoine de Saint-Exupery

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A pilot marooned in the middle of a desert encounters a young lad with wheat-yellow hair and strange garb. Upon seeing the older man, the boy requests the pilot to draw him a sheep. After several failed attempts at satisfying the strange boy's wish, the pilot finally drew a box with holes, insisting therein lived a sheep. The boy smiled and accepted the drawing happily, stating that the sheep would be perfect size for his planet. The unlikely duo end up trekking across the desert together; the elder is looking for civilization and the younger is looking for a place in the desert where he can return to his home planet. The pilot doubts the boy's tales of fantastic travels across the sky to a number of different planets, each with its unique inhabitants, but eventually brings the boy to the place he has been seeking and watches the boy disappear as he returns to his home in the sky.

At first glance, *The Little Prince* appears to be a quick read. The chapters are short, the syntax easy to follow, and the diction easily comprehensible. Incidentally, it was only after my second read of this book – in French and when I was significantly older – that I realized why this book was so acclaimed. Within the simplicity of the novel lies many lessons that many young readers may not realize they are being taught. Each new place the little prince visits teaches him something new that he would not have learned at home, much like his entire journey as a whole allows him to stumble upon another realization he would not have discovered at home. This is a book that I would suggest to all readers of all ages. And to the younger readers who wish to discard this book from lack of interest, I will not stop them; I just hope they will pick the book up again in the future to truly discover the magic of *The Little Prince*.