

The Little Prince

Whole-Novel Discussion & Activities

BURNING ISSUES

1. The author presents children as having an intuitive understanding of the important things in life, an intuition that he believes adults lack. Do you agree or disagree with his point of view? Explain.
2. *The Little Prince* was written and published during World War II. What influence, if any, do you think the war had on this story? Would it be a different story if it had been written during peacetime? Explain.
3. What do you think the phrase “see with the heart” means? Can someone accurately “see” with his or her heart? Why or why not? Should people rely on their hearts to guide them, or should they base their decisions on something else (such as logic or faith)? Explain.
4. Drawing as an art form is very important in this story. What is the role of art—visual arts, literature, music, dance, and so on—in helping people “see with the heart”? Is creating art a reliable way to recognize and learn universal truths? Explain.
5. *The Little Prince* is described as a children’s story. Would you read this story to the children you know? Would they understand it? Why or why not? Why might an author choose to write a children’s story that has as much relevance for adults?

CHOICES ACTIVITIES

1. **Setting Making a Postcard.** The little prince visits several planets and meets a different character on each one. Imagine that you are a traveler visiting those same planets. Choose one planet and send a postcard from it. Draw a picture of the place on one side and write your message on the other. In your message, identify the character you meet, what he is like, what he represents, and your opinion of the person and place.
2. **Symbolic Meaning Composing a Poetic Lesson.** Choose an object or creature from the story, such as the rose, train, stars, water, fox, or snake. Then, compose a poem about it. Give the object or creature a symbolic meaning that conveys an idea about life.