

*The Little Prince - Antoine de Saint-Exupéry*

**Lesson 1**

**Before reading...**

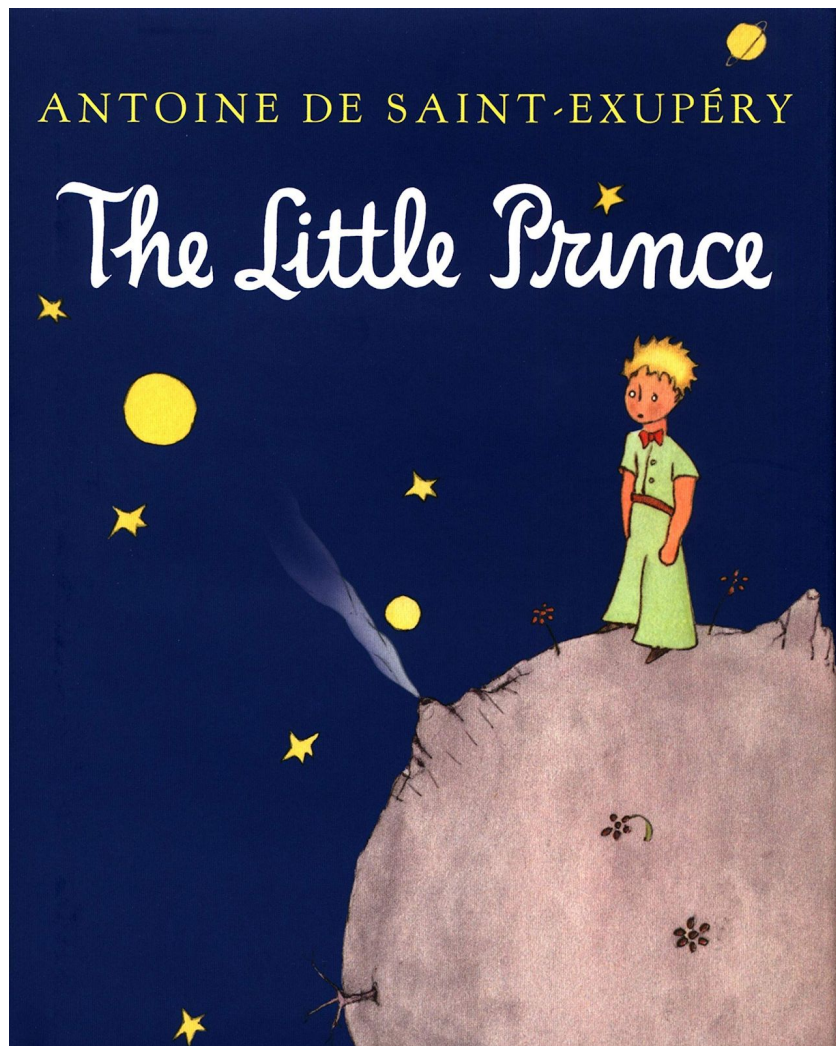
Look at the front cover.

- What do you think the book will be about?
- What things can you see on the front cover?
- What sort of story will it be?
- Who might enjoy it?

**Now read the blurb...**

- Were any of your predictions correct?

**Front Cover**



## The Opening Lines

*Once when I was six years old I saw a magnificent picture in a book, called True Stories from Nature, about the primeval forest. It was a picture of a boa constrictor in the act of swallowing an animal. Here is a copy of the drawing.*



*In the book it said: "Boa constrictors swallow their prey whole, without chewing it. After that they are not able to move, and they sleep through the six months that they need for digestion."*

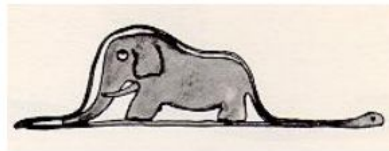
*I pondered deeply, then, over the adventures of the jungle. And after some work with a colored pencil I succeeded in making my first drawing. My Drawing Number One. It looked something like this:*



*I showed my masterpiece to the grown-ups, and asked them whether the drawing frightened them.*

*But they answered: "Frighten? Why should anyone be frightened by a hat?" My drawing was not a picture of a hat. It was a picture of a boa constrictor digesting an elephant. But since the grown-ups were not able to understand it, I made another drawing: I drew the inside of a boa constrictor, so that the grown-ups could see it clearly. They always need to have things explained.*

*My Drawing Number Two looked like this:*



*The grown-ups' response, this time, was to advise me to lay aside my drawings of boa constrictors, whether from the inside or the outside, and devote myself instead to geography, history, arithmetic, and grammar. That is why, at the age of six, I gave up what might have been a magnificent career as a painter. I had been disheartened by the failure of my Drawing Number One and my Drawing Number Two. Grown-ups never understand anything by themselves, and it is tiresome for children to be always and forever explaining things to them.*

## **Comprehension**

**Use the extract above to help you answer these questions:**

1. How old was the narrator when they read *True Stories from Nature*?
2. What inspired the boy from this book?
3. What did the boy draw?
4. What did the grown-ups think the narrator drew?
5. How do the grown-ups feel towards the narrator?
6. How does the narrator feel towards the grown-ups?
7. Why does the boy call his artwork a 'masterpiece'?
8. What impression do we get of the boy?
9. What do the grown-ups think the narrator should devote themselves to?
10. Do you think the drawings are good? Why?

## **Vocabulary**

1. Ponder
2. Primeval
3. Constrict
4. Digest
5. Prey
6. Magnificent
7. Dishearten
8. Masterpiece
9. Valuable
10. Consequence
11. Isolated
12. Habitation
13. Charming
14. Arithmetic
15. Cumbersome
16. Indulgent
17. Acquaintance
18. Modest
19. Impenetrable
20. Presence

## HOMEWORK

How do you **feel towards the narrator** at the **start** of the novella?

**OR**

Write a **short story** using **at least 5 new words** (above) that we learned from these chapters.