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### Change in *The Little Prince*

Many individuals believe that *The Little Prince* is an innocent book with a happy ending, but in reality it is not. Throughout the book, the different kinds of people in society in an abstract manner are explored. *The Little Prince*, however, represents innocence and the creative ability of children. The prince is a pure, caring little fellow who does not have a clue about the variety of people that live their lives according to their planets. *The Little Prince* is a work of fiction by Antoine de Saint-Exupéry. An article by Stephen Holden, titled, "Review: Fanciful Classic, 'The Little Prince' Is Turned Into a Modernist Fable" and an article by Adam Gopnik named, "The Strange Triumph of The Little Prince", both portray the universal theme, as well as the book. The universal theme that change is both positive and negative is exhibited through chapter 9 with the separation of the little prince and the rose, his separation with his home planet, and the growth of his intelligence.

To begin with, the separation between the little prince and the flower creates a huge change. The flower and the little prince are each other's company and without one or the other they would be alone on the planet. The prince loves his flower so dearly, but the flower was trying not to show any emotion of love towards the prince. In chapter 9 positive and negative change is advanced when the little prince decides to leave the flower. The author writes that, "And when he watered the flower one last time, and he out the glass he felt like crying" (Saint-Exupéry 25). The quote presents the pain that is being put onto the prince because he

knows that he is never going to see the love of his life (the flower) again. However, it is a positive thing that he is leaving because the flower made him miserable, but it is also negative because he loves her so deeply it hurts to leave her -- bittersweet. According to Gopnik, he states, "The rose has made him so miserable that in torment, he has taken advantage of a flock of birds to convey him to other planets" (The Strange Triumph). The role of the rose in the novel, carried misery to the little prince. She was created to be a manipulative, selfish, essentially mean flower that the prince fell for. A show called Vampire Diaries is parallel to this because one of the characters, Stefan falls for Elena, but then Elena falls for his brother which drives Stefan out of town because he couldn't stand not to be with Elena. When the prince leaves, it completely changes his fate and the flower's fate. Without the protection of the little prince, the flower is not going to be able to defend herself with 4 small thorns, like she claimed she would. Exactly what happened to the flower? Did an animal eat her? Did the wind blow her away? We won't know for sure. One thing we do know is that the universal theme is explored throughout the chapter not only with the separation with the rose and the prince, but also with his separation with his home planet.

In addition to change being progressed with the separation of the flower and the little prince, the prince is also separated from his planet. The little prince grew up in his planet, he was born there and he does not know much about the world, the people, and the animals outside his planet. He is absolutely clueless as to what the world and the organisms in it have to offer. The novel states, "He believed he would never be coming back" (Saint-Exupéry 25). The little prince is leaving the place he has known his entire life because of one thing : the rose. It's very striking to see how one thing or one person can create your entire future. In the little prince's case it was the rose and the rose

made the little prince leave her and the planet, changing his future. In the novel, it informs that, “ But all these familiar tasks seemed very sweet to him on this last morning” (Saint-Exupéry 25). It was the little prince’s last morning on his home planet because if he wanted to leave he needed to keep a look out for the flock of birds that will take him out of there. He is leaving those tasks because they no longer bring him happiness(they probably serve as a reminder of the rose since she is in his planet and he does these tasks in his planet), only on the last morning in his planet. He wants to seek things that make him happy. Other than separating from his planet the universal theme is shown by the growth of the little prince’s intelligence.

Furthermore, the little prince leaving his planet permanently creates a change that impacted him greatly. The leave of his planet was necessary for growth because the little prince did not now anything about people since he was alone with the flower on his planet. He learned about the, “ Businessman who boasts of owning all the stars in the heavens” (Stephen Holden NY Times). Holden points out the businessman and his goal of owning as many stars as possible, a character in the book, which was one of the variety of people that the little prince learned about on his adventure. He learned that the businessman thinks about the stars are a metaphor for money and that he goes along with the senseless reasoning of acquiring wealth to acquire more wealth (with the stars). The businessman represents the serious workaholics that are seen as grumpy in society. Adam Gopnik states that, “... an aviator, downed in the desert and facing long odds of survival, encounters a strange young person, neither man nor really boy [the little prince], who, it emerges over time, has travelled from his solitary home...”( The Strange Triumph). When the little prince visits the final planet, Earth, he encounters the pilot whose plane crashed in the Sahara Desert. The little prince makes conversation with him and tells him about the many planets he visited. The prince realizes that a lot of the creativity in the pilot is almost completely gone. The pilot represents ignorant adults who have their creativity set by authority, culture, and tradition. In the end, the little prince learns about the many kinds of people that live their lives in a way that balances with

their planet. Thus expanding his knowledge on society. The change in his knowledge was definitely a positive thing because before he did not know anything about people and now he truly understands.

To conclude, change can be either a dreadful or an excellent thing. In chapter 9, however, it was both. The little prince became permanently absent from his planet which was a good thing because he would be happier someplace else, but it is also negative because he could have been happy with the rose and they could have had a future together. In the real world change happens all the time. Whether the change is as small as the change on how , or as huge as a change in president. The change in your diet can be positive because your doctor warned you that your health is at risk, but it can also be negative because you are giving up the comfort food that you love. The change in president can be negative because maybe a group of people don't agree with the beliefs of the president, or it can be positive because the group of people does believe the same things as him/her. It is the multiple perspectives that determine whether it is an change is welcome, unwanted, or a complex mixture of both.

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