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READING FOR HIGH SCHOOL

Lesson 14

Pambungad

*Magandang araw sa iyo, munting mambabasa! Handa ka na bang galugarin ang ating kwento ngayong araw? Sabay-sabay nating basahin ang librong **"The Little Prince"** isinulat ni **Antoine de Saint-Exupéry**. Huwag mag-alala; gagabayan kita, kaibigan!*

Reading for High School

Book Title: The Little Prince (CHAPTER 14)

Author: Antoine de Saint-Exupéry

Source: BookRags Inc.

THE LITTLE PRINCE: CHAPTER 14

Welcome Learner! This is AHA! Learning Center. You are going to learn chapter 14 of our story **"The Little Prince"**.

The lamplighter in Chapter XIV is the one person (out of the five solo inhabitants) that the little prince believes he could be friends with. The lamplighter thinks of others, not just himself. The other solo inhabitants all thought of themselves only. The lamplighter believes in duty, but he is blind to the reality that his "duty" has trapped him in. The objective of this lesson is to explore the concept of (blind) duty as shown by the allegorical character of the lamplighter.

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LEVEL 1 VOCAB HUNT

TEACHER: Before we start our journey to learn what chapter 5 is all about, let's try to hunt some vocabulary words that can help us understand the story much better, and this means that we have to find out the meaning of the following words below.

1. *absurd*
2. *saluted*
3. *tragedy*
4. *scorned*
5. *sigh*

Do you find it hard? Go ahead and ask help from your friends!

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LEVEL 2: LET'S READ!

TEACHER: *I know it seems so long, but I know that you can do it!*

The fifth planet was very strange. It was the smallest of all. There was just enough room on it for a street lamp and a lamplighter. The little prince was not able to reach any explanation of the use of a street lamp and a lamplighter, somewhere in the heavens, on a planet which had no people, and not one house. But he said to himself, nevertheless: "It may well be that this man is **absurd**. But he is not so absurd as the king, the conceited man, the businessman, and the tippler. For at least his work has some meaning. When he lights his street lamp, it is as if he brought one more star to life, or one flower. When he puts out his lamp, he sends the flower, or the star, to sleep. That is a beautiful occupation. And since it is beautiful, it is truly useful." When he arrived on the planet he respectfully **saluted** the lamplighter. "Good morning. Why have you just put out your lamp?" "Those are the orders," replied the lamplighter. "Good morning." "What are the orders?" "The orders are that I put out my lamp. Good evening." And he lighted his lamp again. "But why have you just lighted it again?" "Those are the orders," replied the lamplighter. "I do not understand," said the little prince. "There is nothing to understand," said the lamplighter. "Orders are orders. Good morning." And he put out his lamp. Then he mopped his forehead with a handkerchief decorated with red squares. "I follow a terrible profession. In the old days it was reasonable. I put the lamp out in the morning, and in the evening I lighted it again. I had the rest of the day for relaxation and the rest of the night for sleep." "And the orders have been changed since that time?" "The orders have not been changed," said the lamplighter. "That is the **tragedy**! From year to year the planet has turned more rapidly and the orders have not been changed!" "Then what?" asked the little prince. "Then-- the planet now makes a complete turn every minute, and I no longer have a single second for repose. Once every minute I have to light my lamp and put it out!" "That is very funny! A day lasts only one minute, here where you live!" "It is not funny at all!" said the lamplighter. "While we have been talking together a month has gone by." "A month?" "Yes, a month. Thirty minutes. Thirty days. Good evening." And he lighted his lamp again. As the little prince watched him, he felt that he loved this lamplighter who was so faithful to his orders. He remembered the sunsets which he himself had gone to seek, in other days, merely by pulling up his chair; and he wanted to help his friend. "You know," he said, "I can tell you a way you can rest whenever you

want to..." "I always want to rest," said the lamplighter. For it is possible for a man to be faithful and lazy at the same time. The little prince went on with his explanation: "Your planet is so small that three strides will take you all the way around it. To be always in the sunshine, you need only walk along rather slowly. When you want to rest, you will walk-- and the day will last as long as you like." "That doesn't do me much good," said the lamplighter. "The one thing I love in life is to sleep." "Then you're unlucky," said the little prince. "I am unlucky," said the lamplighter. "Good morning." And he put out his lamp. "That man," said the little prince to himself, as he continued farther on his journey, "that man would be **scorned** by all the others: by the king, by the conceited man, by the tippler, by the businessman. Nevertheless he is the only one of them all who does not seem to me ridiculous. Perhaps that is because he is thinking of something else besides himself." He breathed a **sigh** of regret, and said to himself, again: "That man is the only one of them all whom I could have made my friend. But his planet is indeed too small. There is no room on it for two people..." What the little prince did not dare confess was that he was sorry most of all to leave this planet, because it was blest every day with 1440 sunsets!

TEACHER: *Oh no! Before skipping, you might want to consider reading Level 2. You'll understand the story much better if you don't skip the level.*

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LEVEL 3: LET'S REVIEW

TEACHER: *This might help you understand the story!*

- The little prince arrives on the fifth planet.
- It is very very small and on it is a man and a lamp.
- The man lights the lamp and then puts it out and then lights it again and on and on.
- He is following orders which make no sense. The little prince tries to show him how he could rest.
- The lamplighter won't change, he has to follow his orders.
- The little prince likes this man best of all that he has met, but the planet is too small for two, so the prince leaves.

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LEVEL 4: LET'S TRY

TEACHER: *You have gone so far as a learner! Let's do the level 4 to see your ability to understand and remember. If you have your notebook and pen write the letter of the correct answer.*

97. What is unique about the fifth planet, the lamplighter's planet?

- (a) It is spinning at an incredible rate.
- (b) It is made of soft rubber.
- (c) It is the smallest.
- (d) There are so many people running around and singing.

98. What is on the lamplighter's planet?

- (a) A snake who provides light.
- (b) A street lamp and a lamp lighter.
- (c) A lion and his pride and a lamplighter.
- (d) A businessman and his dog who lights lamps.

99. The lamplighter says a day on his planet is how long?

- (a) One day.
- (b) One minute.
- (c) One year.
- (d) A hundred years.

100. On the lamplighter's planet, how many strides does it take to circle the planet?

- (a) Forty four strides.
- (b) One long stride and one short stride.
- (c) Three strides.
- (d) None. It is a one-dimensional flat planet.

101. Of all the people the little prince meets on the asteroids, he only likes one. Which one does he think he could be friends with?

- (a) The lamplighter.
- (b) None of them. He hates them all.
- (c) The businessman.
- (d) The king.

102. What does the lamplighter love to do most, which he is never able to do?

- (a) Invent electricity.
- (b) Travel to far away places.
- (c) Rest.
- (d) Have a big party for all the people on his planet.

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LEVEL 5: LET'S WRITE

TEACHER: *Getting tired? You are still awesome! you are done with level 4, let's try level*

five and have some fun.

TEACHER: *Last wave na to! Wag kang susuko.*

- Do you respect the lamplighter? Do you have the same admiration that the little prince has for him? What is your feeling towards the lamplighter? Could he ever change or is he in a hopeless situation?

CONGRATULATIONS! YOU ARE DONE WITH CHAPTER 14. SEE YOU TOMORROW FOR OUR CHAPTER 15!

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