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READING FOR HIGH SCHOOL

Lesson 15

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 15)

Author: Antoine de Saint-Exupéry

Source: BookRags Inc.

THE LITTLE PRINCE: CHAPTER 15

Welcome Learner! This is AHA! Learning Center. You are going to learn chapter 15 of our story **"The Little Prince"**.

The geographer in Chapter XV represents academia. He is a man who lives in an ivory tower and gathers knowledge but has no real experience of his own. All the allegorical characters are "disconnected" from reality. The geographer has real information but he is not personally connected to it. He knows nothing of his own beautiful world. Today's objective will be to explore the theme of illusion in academia.

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LEVEL 1 VOCAB HUNT

TEACHER: Before we start our journey to learn what chapter 6 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. voluminous
2. geographer
3. profession
4. ephemeral
5. courage

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 sixth planet was ten times larger than the last one. It was inhabited by an old gentleman who wrote **voluminous** books. "Oh, look! Here is an explorer!" he exclaimed to himself when he saw the little prince coming. The little prince sat down on the table and panted a little. He had already traveled so much and so far! "Where do you come from?" the old gentleman said to him. "What is that big book?" said the little prince. "What are you doing?" "I am a **geographer**," the old gentleman said to him. "What is a geographer?" asked the little prince. "A geographer is a scholar who knows the location of all the seas, rivers, towns, mountains, and deserts." "That is very interesting," said the little prince. "Here at last is a man who has a real profession!" And he cast a look around him at the planet of the geographer. It was the most magnificent and stately planet that he had ever seen. "Your planet is very beautiful," he said. "Has it any oceans?" "I couldn't tell you," said the geographer. "Ah!" The little prince was disappointed. "Has it any mountains?" "I couldn't tell you," said the geographer. "And towns, and rivers, and deserts?" "I couldn't tell you that, either." "But you are a geographer!" "Exactly," the geographer said. "But I am not an explorer. I haven't a single explorer on my planet. It is not the geographer who goes out to count the towns, the rivers, the mountains, the seas, the oceans, and the deserts. The geographer is much too important to go loafing about. He does not leave his desk. But he receives the explorers in his study. He asks them questions, and he notes down what they recall of their travels. And if the **recollections** of any one among them seem interesting to him, the geographer orders an inquiry into that explorer's moral character." "Why is that?" "Because an explorer who told lies would bring disaster on the books of the geographer. So would an explorer who drank too much." "Why is that?" asked the little prince. "Because intoxicated men see double. Then the geographer would note down two mountains in a place where there was only one." "I know some one," said the little prince, "who would make a bad explorer." "That is possible. Then, when the moral character of the explorer is shown to be good, an inquiry is ordered into his discovery." "One goes to see it?" "No. That would be too complicated. But one requires the explorer to furnish proofs. For example, if the discovery in question is that of a large mountain, one requires that large stones be

brought back from it." The geographer was suddenly stirred to excitement. "But you-- you come from far away! You are an explorer! You shall describe your planet to me!" And, having opened his big register, the geographer sharpened his pencil. The recitals of explorers are put down first in pencil. One waits until the explorer has furnished proofs, before putting them down in ink. "Well?" said the geographer expectantly. "Oh, where I live," said the little prince, "it is not very interesting. It is all so small. I have three volcanoes. Two volcanoes are active and the other is extinct. But one never knows." "One never knows," said the geographer. "I have also a flower." "We do not record flowers," said the geographer. "Why is that? The flower is the most beautiful thing on my planet!" "We do not record them," said the geographer, "because they are **ephemeral**." "What does that mean-- 'ephemeral'?" "Geographies," said the geographer, "are the books which, of all books, are most concerned with matters of consequence. They never become old-fashioned. It is very rarely that a mountain changes its position. It is very rarely that an ocean empties itself of its waters. We write of eternal things." "But extinct volcanoes may come to life again," the little prince interrupted. "What does that mean-- 'ephemeral'?" "Whether volcanoes are extinct or alive, it comes to the same thing for us," said the geographer. "The thing that matters to us is the mountain. It does not change." "But what does that mean-- 'ephemeral'?" repeated the little prince, who never in his life had let go of a question, once he had asked it. "It means, 'which is in danger of speedy disappearance.'" "Is my flower in danger of speedy disappearance?" "Certainly it is." "My flower is ephemeral," the little prince said to himself, "and she has only four thorns to defend herself against the world. And I have left her on my planet, all alone!" That was his first moment of regret. But he took **courage** once more. "What place would you advise me to visit now?" he asked. "The planet Earth," replied the geographer. "It has a good reputation." And the little prince went away, thinking of his flower.

TEACHER: *Oh no! Before reading this, 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 next planet is quite large and beautiful.
- A geographer who writes big books lives on it.
- The little prince asks if the planet has any oceans on it.
- The geographer admits that he has never explored his world at all.
- He only gathers reports from explorers when they come to his study.

- He is interested in the little prince's planet and asks him to describe it.
- The little prince speaks of his beautiful flower.
- The geographer is not interested in flowers. They are ephemeral, temporary.
- This upsets the little prince. He asks the geographer where he should go next.
- The geographer advises him to visit Earth because it has a good reputation.

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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.*

103. How would the geographer be best described?

- (a) A scholar who knows the location of all the seas, rivers, towns, mountains, and deserts.
- (b) A brave man who has battled his way through jungles and deserts.
- (c) A man who has explored the whole galaxy.
- (d) An intelligent man who knows how to write books.

104. What does the little prince think is so odd about the geographer?

- (a) That he is so wise and forgiving.
- (b) That he knows nothing of his own planet.
- (c) That he eats only paper.
- (d) That he is blind.

105. Why does the geographer think someone who drinks too much is not a reliable source?

- (a) Because he would spend all his times in bars and none making maps and observations.
- (b) Because he would get lost too often.
- (c) Because he would forget to come back and give a report to the geographer.
- (d) Because he would see double and report two mountains where there was only one.

106. Why does the geographer refuse to record the little prince's flower?

- (a) The geographer doesn't like flowers.
- (b) The geographer doesn't know how to spell flower.
- (c) The geographer is allergic to flowers.
- (d) The geographer says that a flower is ephemeral.

107. How does the geographer define ephemeral?

- (a) "Inside eternal beings."
- (b) "Hard to quantify."
- (c) "In the area of fumeral springs."
- (d) "In danger of speedy disappearance."

108. Where does the geographer advise the little prince to visit next?

- (a) Go to the rings of Saturn and visit the third moon.
- (b) Go back to the lamplighter and learn from him.
- (c) Earth, because it has a good reputation.
- (d) Go home and take care of the flower.

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LEVEL 5: LET'S WRITE

TEACHER: Last wave na to! Wag kang susuko. Write a paragraph making the case for one side of the statement:

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

- Each of the solo inhabitants lives in an illusion. The king has the illusion of ruling over nobody, the businessman has the illusion of owning something that cannot be owned, and the conceited man has the illusion of praise which is based on nothing. What is the illusion that the geographer has? Write a paragraph describing the illusion that the geographer is living under.

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CONGRATULATIONS! YOU ARE DONE WITH CHAPTER 15 SEE YOU FOR OUR CHAPTER 16!

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