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READING FOR HIGHSCHOOL

Lesson 26

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 26)

Author: Antoine de Saint-Exupéry

Source: BookRags Inc.

THE LITTLE PRINCE: CHAPTER 26

Welcome Learner! This is AHA! Learning Center. You are going to learn chapter 26 of our story **"The Little Prince"**.

In Chapter XXVI the pilot and little prince meet for the last time. The little prince is the wise one here, knowing that the pilot has fixed his plane and making the decision to return to the flower knowing now what love and true friendship is. The author is showing how children, if they are allowed to develop and are not repressed by adults who belittle "invisible things" such as love and friendship, can become great wise persons who make good choices. The objective of today's lesson is to learn what the little prince has become.

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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. *dangling*
2. *track*
3. *leap*
4. *abyss*
5. *naive*

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!*

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.*

returns to his planet ...

Beside the well there was the ruin of an old stone wall. When I came back from my work, the next evening, I saw from some distance away my little prince sitting on top of a wall, with his feet dangling. And I heard him say: "Then you don't remember. This is not the exact spot." Another voice must have answered him, for he replied to it: "Yes, yes! It is the right day, but this is not the place." I continued my walk toward the wall. At no time did I see or hear anyone. The little prince, however, replied once again: "--Exactly. You will see where my track begins, in the sand. You have nothing to do but wait for me there. I shall be there tonight." I was only twenty metres from the wall, and I still saw nothing. After a silence the little prince spoke again: "You have good poison? You are sure that it will not make me suffer too long?" I stopped in my tracks, my heart torn asunder; but still I did not understand. "Now go away," said the little prince. "I want to get down from the wall." I dropped my eyes, then, to the foot of the wall-- and I leaped into the air. There before me, facing the little prince, was one of those yellow snakes that take just thirty seconds to bring your life to an end. Even as I was digging into my pocket to get out my revolver I made a running step back. But, at the noise I made, the snake let himself flow easily across the sand like the dying spray of a fountain, and, in no apparent hurry, disappeared, with a light metallic sound, among the stones. I reached the wall just in time to catch my little man in my arms; his face was white as snow. "What does this mean?" I demanded. "Why are you talking with snakes?" I had loosened the golden muffler that he always wore. I had moistened his temples, and had given him some water to drink. And now I did not dare ask him any more questions. He looked at me very gravely, and put his arms around my neck. I felt his heart beating like the heart of a dying bird, shot with someone's rifle... "I am glad that you have found what was the matter with your engine," he said. "Now you can go back home--" "How do you know about that?" I was just coming to tell him that my work had been successful, beyond anything that I had dared to hope. He made no answer to my question, but he added: "I, too, am going back home today..." Then, sadly-- "It is much

farther... it is much more difficult..." I realised clearly that something extraordinary was happening. I was holding him close in my arms as if he were a little child; and yet it seemed to me that he was rushing headlong toward an abyss from which I could do nothing to restrain him... His look was very serious, like some one lost far away. "I have your sheep. And I have the sheep's box. And I have the muzzle..." And he gave me a sad smile. I waited a long time. I could see that he was reviving little by little. "Dear little man," I said to him, "you are afraid..." He was afraid, there was no doubt about that. But he laughed lightly. "I shall be much more afraid this evening..." Once again I felt myself frozen by the sense of something irreparable. And I knew that I could not bear the thought of never hearing that laughter any more. For me, it was like a spring of fresh water in the desert. "Little man," I said, "I want to hear you laugh again." But he said to me: "Tonight, it will be a year... my star, then, can be found right above the place where I came to the Earth, a year ago..." "Little man," I said, "tell me that it is only a bad dream-- this affair of the snake, and the meeting-place, and the star..." But he did not answer my plea. He said to me, instead: "The thing that is important is the thing that is not seen..." "Yes, I know..." "It is just as it is with the flower. If you love a flower that lives on a star, it is sweet to look at the sky at night. All the stars are a-bloom with flowers..." "Yes, I know..." "It is just as it is with the water. Because of the pulley, and the rope, what you gave me to drink was like music. You remember-- how good it was." "Yes, I know..." "And at night you will look up at the stars. Where I live everything is so small that I cannot show you where my star is to be found. It is better, like that. My star will just be one of the stars, for you. And so you will love to watch all the stars in the heavens... they will all be your friends. And, besides, I am going to make you a present..." He laughed again. "Ah, little prince, dear little prince! I love to hear that laughter!" "That is my present. Just that. It will be as it was when we drank the water..." "What are you trying to say?" "All men have the stars," he answered, "but they are not the same things for different people. For some, who are travelers, the stars are guides. For others they are no more than little lights in the sky. For others, who are scholars, they are problems. For my businessman they were wealth. But all these stars are silent. You-- you alone-- will have the stars as no one else has them--" "What are you trying to say?" "In one of the stars I shall be living. In one of them I shall be laughing. And so it will be as if all the stars were laughing, when you look at the sky at night... you-- only you-- will have stars that can laugh!" And he laughed again. "And when your sorrow is comforted (time soothes all sorrows) you will be content that you have known me. You will always be my friend. You will want to laugh with me. And you will sometimes open your window, so, for that pleasure... and your friends will be properly astonished to see you laughing as you look up at the sky! Then you will say to them, 'Yes, the stars always make me laugh!' And they will think you are crazy. It will be a very shabby trick that I shall have played on you..." And he laughed again. "It will be as if, in place of the stars, I had given you a great number of little bells that knew how to laugh..." And he laughed again. Then he quickly became serious: "Tonight-- you know... do not come," said the little prince. "I shall not leave you," I said. "I shall look as if I were suffering. I shall look a little as if I were dying. It is like that. Do not come to see that. It is not worth the trouble..." "I shall not leave you." But he was worried. "I tell you-- it is also because of the snake. He must not bite you. Snakes-- they are malicious creatures. This one might bite you just for fun..." "I shall not leave you." But a thought came to reassure him: "It is true that they have no more poison for a second bite." That night I did not see him set out on his way. He got away from me without

making a sound. When I succeeded in catching up with him he was walking along with a quick and resolute step. He said to me merely: "Ah! You are there..." And he took me by the hand. But he was still worrying. "It was wrong of you to come. You will suffer. I shall look as if I were dead; and that will not be true..." I said nothing. "You understand... it is too far. I cannot carry this body with me. It is too heavy." I said nothing. "But it will be like an old abandoned shell. There is nothing sad about old shells..." I said nothing. He was a little discouraged. But he made one more effort: "You know, it will be very nice. I, too, shall look at the stars. All the stars will be wells with a rusty pulley. All the stars will pour out fresh water for me to drink..." I said nothing. "That will be so amusing! You will have five hundred million little bells, and I shall have five hundred million springs of fresh water..." And he too said nothing more, because he was crying... "Here it is. Let me go on by myself." And he sat down, because he was afraid. Then he said, again: "You know-- my flower... I am responsible for her. And she is so weak! She is so naïve! She has four thorns, of no use at all, to protect herself against all the world..." I too sat down, because I was not able to stand up any longer. "There now-- that is all..." He still hesitated a little; then he got up. He took one step. I could not move. There was nothing but a flash of yellow close to his ankle. He remained motionless for an instant. He did not cry out. He fell as gently as a tree falls. There was not even any sound, because of the sand.

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LEVEL 3: LET'S REVIEW

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

- The next evening the pilot comes back to the well after fixing his plane.
- He sees the little prince sitting on a wall having a conversation with someone.
- The pilot hears the prince ask "You have good poison? You are sure it will not make me suffer long?"
- The pilot sees the highly dangerous snake and tries to get his revolver out to shoot it.
- The little prince falls off the wall.
- The pilot has fixed his engine and now can go home.
- The little prince is also going home, but the distance is much farther.
- The little prince speaks of friendship, and how there will always be a star which the pilot will know is laughing.
- This star will help him through hard times.
- The pilot says the little prince must not let the snake bite him.

- That night the little prince walks out to the place where he arrived on earth. He must let go of the shell of his body in order to return.
- The snake bites him on the ankle and he falls, every so lightly.

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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.*

169. What structure is near the well?

- (a) A ladder which reaches up into the clouds.
- (b) A plane, new and ready to be flown.
- (c) The ruin of an old stone wall.
- (d) An amphitheatre, long out of use.

170. Where must the snake bite the little prince?

- (a) In the new plane.
- (b) The exact spot where the little prince arrived on the earth.
- (c) In the rose garden.
- (d) At the well.

171. What does the little prince ask about the poison which the snake has within it?

- (a) You have good poison? You are sure it will not make me suffer long?
- (b) Do you promise not to poison the pilot?
- (c) How many times will you have to bite me before your poison works?
- (d) Is your poison powerful enough to make me fly?

172. When the pilot sees the snake in Chapter XXVI, what does he do?

- (a) Runs for the hills.
- (b) Throws stones at it until it slithers away.
- (c) Laughs it off.
- (d) Goes for his revolver.

173. What color is the muffler which the little prince wears around his neck?

- (a) The color of his flower.
- (b) White as snow.
- (c) Golden.
- (d) Black as night.

174. What does the little prince know about the pilot's engine in Chapter XXVI?

- (a) That the snake has stolen the crucial parts.
- (b) That it will never run.
- (c) That it is going to be a long time before it gets mended.
- (d) That the pilot has fixed it.

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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.*

- Write a brief character description of the little prince in Chapter XXVI. What is he like? How would you describe him to a friend? What is wonderful about him? What do you admire about him?

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CONGRATULATIONS! YOU ARE DONE WITH CHAPTER 26 SEE YOU TOMORROW FOR OUR CHAPTER 27!

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