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READING FOR HIGH SCHOOL

Lesson 5

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 5)

Author: Antoine de Saint-Exupéry

Source: BookRags Inc.

THE LITTLE PRINCE: CHAPTER FIVE

Welcome Learner! This is AHA! Learning Center. You are going to learn chapter 5 of our story **"The Little Prince"**.

In Chapter V the author introduces the problem of baobab trees and how small seeds can grow into life threatening problems. The author is using the baobab seed as a metaphor for problems which seem insignificant but grow quickly and become quite dangerous. A fable can be read on many levels and this chapter is a good example of how a metaphor which an author uses can have layers of meaning. The baobab seed represents the Nazi party in Germany, the start of bad habits in personal life for children and adults and it is a concept that can be applied to many problems in any time period. Today's objective will be to explore how a metaphor, such as the baobab seed in Chapter V, can have many layers and meanings.

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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. *catastrophe*
2. *consequence*
3. *seized*
4. *sprig*
5. *distinguished*

Are you finding 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!*

As each day passed I would learn, in our talk, something about the little prince's planet, his departure from it, his journey. The information would come very slowly, as it might chance to fall from his thoughts. It was in this way that I heard, on the third day, about the **catastrophe** of the baobabs. This time, once more, I had the sheep to thank for it. For the little prince asked me abruptly-- as if seized by a grave doubt-- "It is true, isn't it, that sheep eat little bushes?" "Yes, that is true." "Ah! I am glad!" I did not understand why it was so important that sheep should eat little bushes. But the little prince added: "Then it follows that they also eat baobabs?" I pointed out to the little prince that baobabs were not little bushes, but, on the contrary, trees as big as castles; and that even if he took a whole herd of elephants away with him, the herd would not eat up one single baobab. The idea of the herd of elephants made the little prince laugh. "We would have to put them one on top of the other," he said. But he made a wise comment: "Before they grow so big, the baobabs start out by being little." "That is strictly correct," I said. "But why do you want the sheep to eat the little baobabs?" He answered me at once, "Oh, come, come!", as if he were speaking of something that was self-evident. And I was obliged to make a great mental effort to solve this problem, without any assistance. Indeed, as I learned, there were on the planet where the little prince lived-- as on all planets-- good plants and bad plants. In **consequence**, there were good seeds from good plants, and bad seeds from bad plants. But seeds are invisible. They sleep deep in the heart of the earth's darkness, until some one among them is **seized** with the desire to awaken. Then this little seed will stretch itself and begin-- timidly at first-- to push a charming little **sprig** inoffensively upward toward the sun. If it is only a sprout of radish or the sprig of a rose-bush, one would let it grow wherever it might wish. But when it is a bad plant, one must destroy it as soon as possible, the very first instant that one recognizes it. Now there were some terrible seeds on the planet that was the home of the little prince; and these were the seeds of the baobab. The soil of that planet was infested with them. A baobab is something you will never, never be able to get rid of if you attend to it too late. It spreads over the entire planet. It bores clear through it with its roots. And if the planet is too small, and the baobabs are too many, they split it in pieces... "It is a

question of discipline," the little prince said to me later on. "When you've finished your own toilet in the morning, then it is time to attend to the toilet of your planet, just so, with the greatest care. You must see to it that you pull up regularly all the baobabs, at the very first moment when they can be **distinguished** from the rosebushes which they resemble so closely in their earliest youth. It is very tedious work," the little prince added, "but very easy." And one day he said to me: "You ought to make a beautiful drawing, so that the children where you live can see exactly how all this is. That would be very useful to them if they were to travel some day. Sometimes," he added, "there is no harm in putting off a piece of work until another day. But when it is a matter of baobabs, that always means a catastrophe. I knew a planet that was inhabited by a lazy man. He neglected three little bushes..." So, as the little prince described it to me, I have made a drawing of that planet. I do not much like to take the tone of a moralist. But the danger of the baobabs is so little understood, and such considerable risks would be run by anyone who might get lost on an asteroid, that for once I am breaking through my reserve. "Children," I say plainly, "watch out for the baobabs!" My friends, like myself, have been skirting this danger for a long time, without ever knowing it; and so it is for them that I have worked so hard over this drawing. The lesson which I pass on by this means is worth all the trouble it has cost me. Perhaps you will ask me, "Why are there no other drawing in this book as magnificent and impressive as this drawing of the baobabs?" The reply is simple. I have tried. But with the others I have not been successful. When I made the drawing of the baobabs I was carried beyond myself by the inspiring force of urgent necessity.

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 prince reveals that he wants a sheep so that it can eat the baobab bushes which threaten the life of his planet.
- Baobabs can grow into powerful trees whose roots can tear a planet apart.
- The prince has to weed his planet every morning to guard against this.
- The pilot is inspired by the danger of small things growing large and destructive and draws a beautiful picture of The Baobabs.

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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.

43. What is a Baobab?

- (a) A creature that chases sheep and goats all day long.
- (b) A very dangerous plant that can tear a tiny planet apart.
- (c) A happy king who treats his subjects well.
- (d) A big jelly-like monster that moves like a slug.

44. What is the little prince's plan to safeguard his planet from baobabs?

- (a) To lasso his planet and bring it closer to earth.
- (b) To clone himself and colonize other planets across the galaxy.
- (c) To plant a great garden which would feed all his people.
- (d) To bring sheep to his planet, so they can eat young baobab bushes.

45. There is one drawing in Chapter V that the pilot is very proud of. Which one is it?

- (a) A landscape of the desert.
- (b) A great canyon with a river snaking through it.
- (c) A family eating dinner on a boat.
- (d) A planet with three baobabs on it.

46. Why does the little prince weed his planet every morning?

- (a) He is a workaholic.
- (b) To keep the dangerous plants from taking root.
- (c) He likes playing in the dirt.
- (d) It is the law on his world that everyone weed each morning.

47. There are good and bad plants in the little prince's planet. What seeds are mentioned as good ones?

- (a) Roses and Radishes.
- (b) Sweet Peas and Violets.
- (c) Squash and potatoes.
- (d) Beans and Corn.

48. What was the soil of the little prince's planet infested with?

- (a) Fire ants.
- (b) Toxic waste.
- (c) Twisting, writhing snakes.
- (d) Terrible invisible seeds.

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LEVEL 5: LET'S DRAW

TEACHER: Getting tired? You are still awesome! you are done with level 4, let's try level 5 and have some fun.

- Try to draw the Baobab tree based from the descriptions given in the story

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LEVEL 6: LET'S WRITE

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

- Use the present day situation of the environment and apply the metaphor of the baobab trees to "global climate change."

CONGRATULATIONS! YOU ARE DONE WITH CHAPTER 5. SEE YOU TOMORROW FOR OUR CHAPTER 6!

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