

小王子

世界名著学习馆
哈佛双语导读本

The Little Prince

双语导读

作者] Saint Exupery

导读 Sparknotes

主译 张滨江

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致读者

亲爱的读者,在这个多元文化的世界里,渴望知识、钟情文学、热爱英语的你是否想过站在巨人的肩膀上摘星呢?

名著是经典传承的历史明珠,尽管岁月变迁,经典名著总是在各个时代给我们启迪和指引。哈佛双语名著导读丛书正是风行全美的经典名著导读笔记,是由哈佛学生们将名著阅读与文学学习融会贯通,编写而成的名著导读本,可谓“名著名导”。该系列精选了来自世界各国的杰出经典著作,以经典性和流行性并重的名著为素材,突出“导读”特色,以明晰的风格和地道的语言,解读名著精华和具有时代性的主题和思想。每一分册都包括著作的创作背景、人物分析、主题解析、篇章讲解、重要引文释义、作品档案,并且附有相关思考题及推荐阅读篇目。

这样的编排使你不仅仅停留在对名著内容上的了解,更可迅速、全面、深入地掌握经典名著的精华和内涵,同时也可对英语语言和文化做进一步的了解和研究。本丛书精辟、明晰的编写风格让“半天阅读一本名著”成为现实,帮你在有限的闲暇时间内享受文学,提高文学修养,同时在地道的语言环境中迅速提高英语水平,增强语言能力。

CONTEXT



《小王子》

1946年法文版

Born in Lyons, France, in 1900, Antoine de Saint-Exupéry considered himself a pilot above all else. For twenty years, he flew everything from cartography missions to commercial airlines, and flying occupied a significant place in his philosophical essays and fantasy writings. The theme of aviation was often Saint-Exupéry's launching point for more abstract discussions on issues like the search for wisdom and the meaning of life.

Saint-Exupéry began writing *The Little Prince* during World War II, after Germany's invasion of France had forced him to give up aviation and flee to New York. In addition to his torturous thoughts of the war in Europe, having to leave his homeland and no longer being able to fly planes affected Saint-Exupéry deeply. The novel's nostalgia for childhood indicates both Saint-Exupéry's homesick desire to return to France and his hope of returning to a time of peace. This war-time stress undoubtedly contributed

CONTENTS

目 录

• TO READERS 1

致读者

• CONTEXT 2

作品·溯源

• PLOT OVERVIEW 8

情节·概览

• CHARACTER LIST 14

角色·亮相

• ANALYSIS OF MAJOR CHARACTERS 26

主角·赏析

The Little Prince 小王子 26

The Narrator 叙事者 28

The Rose 玫瑰花 30

The Fox 狐狸 32

The Snake 蛇 34

• THEMES, MOTIFS & SYMBOLS 38

主题·主题成分·象征

The Dangers of Narrow-Mindedness 38

狭隘偏执的危害

The Enlightenment through Exploration 42

通过探险获得的启发

Relationships Teach Responsibility 42

建立联系意味着责任

Secrecy 秘密 44

The Narrator's Drawings 叙事者的画 44

Taming 驯服 46

Serious Matters 正经事 48

The Stars 星星 50

The Desert 沙漠 50

The Trains 火车 52

Water 水 52

• SUMMARY & ANALYSIS 54

断章·取义

Chapters 1 - 3 第 1~3 章 54

Chapters 4 - 6 第 4~6 章 64

Chapters 7 - 9 第 7~9 章 72

Chapters 10 - 12 第 10~12 章 80

Chapters 13 - 15 第 13~15 章 86

Chapters 16 - 20 第 16~20 章 98

Chapters 21 - 23 第 21~23 章 106

Chapters 24 - 25 第 24~25 章 114

Chapters 26 - 27 第 26~27 章 120

• IMPORTANT QUOTATIONS EXPLAINED 128

经典·常谈

• KEY FACTS 136

作品·档案

• STUDY QUESTIONS & ESSAY TOPICS 144

讨论·发散

Suggestions for Further Reading 相关链接 152

致 读 者

亲爱的读者,在这个多元文化的世界里,渴望知识、钟情文学、热爱英语的你是否想过站在巨人的肩膀上摘星呢?

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作品·溯源

安 东尼·德·圣埃克苏佩里 1900 年出生在法国里昂，他最喜欢称自己是一名飞行员。20 多年来，他驾驶飞机完成各种地图测绘任务和商业飞行，飞行在他的哲学随笔和奇幻作品中也占据着重要地位。圣埃克苏佩里对一些问题做更抽象的探讨时，如寻找智慧或生命的意义，飞行的主题往往是其出发点。

作者安东尼·德·圣埃克苏佩里一生喜爱冒险和自由，他一生出版了六部作品，都以飞机为工具，从宇宙的高度，观察世界，思索人生。1944 年他神秘驾机失踪一直是个谜。《小王子》至今全球发行量逾五亿册，被誉为阅读率仅次于《圣经》的最佳书籍。

圣埃克苏佩里在第二次世界大战期间开始创作《小王子》。当时德国入侵法国，他不得不放弃飞行事业，逃到纽约。爆发于欧洲的这场战争，以及他不得不背井离乡，放弃飞行员的职业所带给他的痛苦，都深深地影响了圣埃克苏佩里。小说中对童年的怀旧情绪不仅流露出圣埃克苏佩里希望回到法国的思乡之情，还有他希望回归和平时代的期盼。毫无疑问，这种战时的焦虑促使圣埃克苏佩里发出对爱和同情的迫切呼唤。

to the sense of urgency in Saint-Exupéry's message of love and compassion.

In its glorification of childlike innocence, *The Little Prince* is also an indictment of the spiritual decay Saint-Exupéry perceived in humanity. In 1943, he wrote, "For centuries, humanity has been descending an immense staircase whose top is hidden in the clouds and whose lowest steps are lost in a dark abyss. We could have ascended the staircase; instead we chose to descend it. Spiritual decay is terrible... There is one problem and only one in the world: to revive in people some sense of spiritual meaning." By celebrating a world-view unshackled by the drab restrictions of adulthood, the novel attempts to revive a sense of spirituality in the world.

Some of the story of *The Little Prince* uses events taken from Saint-Exupéry's own life. If the novel's surreal fairy tale feels strangely real and personal, this effect is achieved, at least in part, by the fact that Saint-Exupéry was drawing from his own experiences. In *Wind, Sand and Stars*, his 1939 account of his aviation adventures, he recounts a crash landing he was forced to make in the Sahara desert. In his wanderings across the desert, Saint-Exupéry had a number of hallucinations, including an encounter with a fennec, a type of desert sand fox that bears a striking resemblance to the fox depicted in *The Little Prince*.

Saint-Exupéry may have seen himself in his characters of both the narrator and the little prince. Like his narrator, Saint-Exupéry was a pilot, crashed in the Sahara, and experienced there a kind of mystical revelation. The prince, however, represents aspects of Saint-Exupéry as well, and he very definitely embodies Saint-Exupéry's philosophy

*spirituality n. 精神性, 灵性, 崇高

《小王子》一书中充满对天真无邪的赞美,同时也是圣埃克苏佩里对人性精神败坏的控诉。1943年,他写道:“几个世纪以来,人性已经从楼梯上下滑了一大截,其最高端隐藏在云中,其最低端消失在黑暗的深渊。我们本可以爬上这段楼梯,但是我们却选择了向下。精神上的沦丧如此可怕……世界上有一个问题,一个唯一的问题:复活人们内心的信仰……”通过赞美尚未被成人世界的单调局限而破坏的世界观,小说试图在全世界范围内复活人们内心的力量。

《小王子》中的一些故事情节来自于圣埃克苏佩里的亲身经历。如果这部小说的超现实童话让人感到出奇地真实并且富有人情味,那么这个效果至少在一定程度上是因为圣埃克苏佩里将自己的个人经历融入其中。1939年在描写自己航行历险经历的《风、沙、星星》一书中,他回忆了自己迫降撒哈拉沙漠的情景。漫步在沙漠中,圣埃克苏佩里产生了一系列的幻觉,包括和耳廓狐——一种生活在沙漠中的狐狸的奇遇,这和《小王子》一书中描写的狐狸出奇地相似。

圣埃克苏佩里也许是从叙事者和小王子这两个角色中看到自己。和书中的叙事者一样,圣埃克苏佩里是一名飞行员,因飞机故障迫降在撒哈拉沙漠,在那里他体验到一种似乎是来自神明的启示。当然,小王子也体现了圣埃克苏佩里的某些方面,他非常明显地反映了圣埃克苏佩里的人生哲学和抱负。小王子和玫瑰花的关系可能是圣埃克苏佩里和他妻子的关系的再现,而小王子是天空

and aspirations. The prince's relationship with the rose could be a reflection of Saint-Exupéry's relationship with his wife, and the prince is also an explorer and traveler of the skies—it is one of the first things that the prince and the narrator share in common. Seen in this light, *The Little Prince* can be read as a metaphor of the process of introspection itself, wherein two halves of the same person meet and learn from each other.

Although *The Little Prince* was undoubtedly influenced by the tenor of World War II, Saint-Exupéry aims for a general, apolitical analysis of human nature. The prevalence of symbols of death and evil in *The Little Prince* are often interpreted as references to Nazi Germany, but the book's universally applicable fairy-tale symbols and the emblems of World War II make an awkward match. *The Little Prince* builds on a long tradition of French parables and fantasy literature, most notably expressed in Voltaire's *Candide*. Like Voltaire, Saint-Exupéry urges his readers to participate actively in the reading process, using their imaginations to assign deeper meaning to deceptively simple prose and poetry. Saint-Exupéry and his novel were certainly affected by the historical events of the time, but *The Little Prince* aspires to be a universal and timeless allegory about the importance of innocence and love. Indeed, since it was first published, *The Little Prince* has become one of the most widely translated books in the history of French literature.

*introspection *n.* 内省, 反思; [词根] introspect *v.* 反省

*allegory *n.* 寓言

的探险者和游历者——这是小王子和叙事者的最大共同之处。从这个角度看,《小王子》可以看作是对自省过程的一个隐喻,它表现了同一个人的两个自我相互结识、相互学习。

虽然《小王子》毫无疑问受到第二次世界大战的战争主旨的影响,但是圣埃克苏佩里旨在对人性做出更普遍性的,而非政治性的分析。人们经常将《小王子》一书中关于死亡和邪恶的象征理解为纳粹德国,但是书中普遍适用的童话象征物和第二次世界大战的象征符号并不搭调。《小王子》是建立在有着悠久传统的法国寓言故事和幻想文学作品基础之上的,这一点在伏尔泰的作品《老实人》中表现得最为明显。和伏尔泰一样,圣埃克苏佩里迫切地要求他的读者积极参与到阅读过程中来,运用他们的想象将更深层次的含义从看似简单的散文和诗歌中发掘出来。圣埃克苏佩里和他的小说自然是受到当时历史事件的影响,但《小王子》是一篇无国界、无时间界限,讲述了天真无邪与爱的重要性的寓言故事。事实上,《小王子》一经出版,即成为法国文学史上被翻译成外文最多的作品之一。

PLOT OVERVIEW

The narrator, an airplane pilot, crashes in the Sahara desert. The crash badly damages his airplane and leaves the narrator with very little food or water. As he is worrying over his predicament, he is approached by the little prince, a very serious little blond boy who asks the narrator to draw him a sheep. The narrator obliges, and the two become friends. The pilot learns that the little prince comes from a small planet that the little prince calls Asteroid 325 but that people on Earth call Asteroid B-612. The little prince took great care of this planet, preventing any bad seeds from growing and making sure it was never overrun by baobab trees. One day, a mysterious rose sprouted on the planet and the little prince fell in love with it. But when he caught the rose in a lie one day, he decided that he could not trust her anymore. He grew lonely and decided to leave. Despite a last-minute reconciliation with the rose, the prince set out to explore other planets and cure his loneliness.

While journeying, the narrator tells us, the little prince passes by neighboring asteroids and encounters for the first time the strange,

* reconciliation *n.* 和解, 和谐, 调和

情节·概览

叙事者是一名飞行员，他驾驶的飞机在撒哈拉沙漠坠毁了。事故对飞机造成严重损坏，而且叙事者只剩下少量的食物和水。正当他为陷入困境忧心忡忡时，小王子出现了。小王子是一个严肃的金发小男孩，他请叙事者为他画一只羊。叙事者愿意效劳，于是两个人成了好朋友。飞行员了解到小王子来自一个非常小的星球，小王子将其称为小行星 325，而地球上的人将其称作小行星 B-612。小王子悉心看护自己的星球，不让任何坏种子生根发芽，并确保猴面包树不会占据星球。一天，小王子的星球上长出一朵神秘的玫瑰花，小王子爱上了她。但是有一天他发现玫瑰花撒谎了，他决定再也不相信她了。他变得孤独寂寞，决定离开。虽然最后一刻小王子和玫瑰花尽释前嫌，但是小王子还是动身去其他星球探险，以平复自己的孤独。

叙事者向我们讲述，小王子在旅行期间访问了邻近的许多星球，第一次遇到了奇奇怪怪、狭隘偏执的大人世界。在小王子访问的前六

narrow-minded world of grown-ups. On the first six planets the little prince visits, he meets a king, a vain man, a drunkard, a businessman, a lamplighter, and a geographer, all of whom live alone and are overly consumed by their chosen occupations. Such strange behavior both amuses and perturbs the little prince. He does not understand their need to order people around, to be admired, and to own everything. With the exception of the lamplighter, whose dogged faithfulness he admires, the little prince does not think much of the adults he visits, and he does not learn anything useful. However, he learns from the geographer that flowers do not last forever, and he begins to miss the rose he has left behind.

At the geographer's suggestion, the little prince visits Earth, but he lands in the middle of the desert and cannot find any humans. Instead, he meets a snake who speaks in riddles and hints darkly that its lethal poison can send the little prince back to the heavens if he so wishes. The little prince ignores the offer and continues his explorations, stopping to talk to a three-petaled flower and to climb the tallest mountain he can find, where he confuses the echo of his voice for conversation. Eventually, the little prince finds a rose garden, which surprises and depresses him—his rose had told him that she was the only one of her kind.

The prince befriends a fox, who teaches him that the important things in life are visible only to the heart, that his time away from the rose makes the rose more special to him, and that love makes a person responsible for the beings that one loves. The little prince realizes that, even though there are many roses, his love for his rose makes her unique and that he is therefore responsible for her. Despite this revelation, he still feels very lonely because he is so far away from his rose.