

Name: _____

Biographies: Antoine de Saint-Exupéry



One of the best-known works of 20th century fantasy literature, *The Little Prince*, was written by the illustrious French writer Antoine de Saint-Exupéry.

Antoine was born in Lyon, France on June 29, 1900. He lived happily with his parents and 4 siblings. He belonged to a wealthy, aristocratic family and so enjoyed many privileges. His father died when Antoine was only 4 years old.

Before becoming a famous writer, Antoine studied architecture at the University of Fine Arts in Paris. However, he never finished college. He didn't think he had much talent for drawing, but he drew the illustrations for his most recognized work, *The Little Prince*.

Antoine worked as a pilot transporting airmail, covering various postal routes including Toulouse - Dakar. At that time, flying a plane was a dangerous job, and few people wanted such risky work. He created many memories of all his flights which inspired many of his literary works. The French government awarded him the Legion of Honor medal for his negotiations with Moroccan forces to release fellow airmen who had been taken as prisoners.



During one of his flights in 1935, his plane crashed in the Sahara Desert. His partner and he survived the impact but soon they ran out of provisions to eat or drink. Fortunately, they were rescued by a Bedouin a few days later and saved from certain death.

His literary adventures as a writer began when he moved to Argentina. It was there that he wrote his first novel called *The Aviator* which was published in a literary magazine.





The Little Prince, his most recognized and famous work, tells the story of a little prince who finds an aviator in the middle of the desert. This little prince comes from asteroid B612 and is devoted to traveling to different places learning about different characters with different personalities.

In the story, the prince analyzes and discovers the vision that adults have of life, which is very different from that of little ones. As the story goes on, you can see the analysis of the different values human beings have, including that of love and friendship.

Some of the most notable phrases in this novel are:

-What is essential is invisible to the eyes.

-It is necessary only to ask each one what each one can give.

The Little Prince has been translated into more than 250 dialects and languages. It is found on many lists of most widely read and sold books in the history of literature with more than 100 million copies.

Antoine and his works became so famous that his face appears on the 50-franc bill. This currency was in circulation until the entry of the euro in France in 2002.

In 1975, an asteroid was named Saint-Exupéry in honor of his worldwide recognition.

Even though he is considered one of the best writers of children's literature of the twentieth century, his works are not exclusive to the younger audience, many adults read and enjoy them as well.



Name: _____

ANSWER THE QUESTIONS



1. **What does the word aristocratic mean in the text?**

- a. unstructured
- b. of the nobility
- c. hungry
- d. of the circus

2. **When Antoine de Saint-Exupéry was 4 years _____**

- a. he remained single.
- b. he was a widower.
- c. he was orphaned.
- d. he was distracted.



3. **Why was being an airplane pilot in Antoine's time risky?**

- a. Because the pilot's salary was very low, and nobody wanted to take that job.
- b. Because the planes were made of materials resistant to water and fire.
- c. Because the planes were made of glass and wood and could be break easily.
- d. Because airplanes weren't as safe then as they are today.

4. **You can say that Antoine was a talented person?**

- a. because he knew how to write, draw, and fly airplanes.
- b. because he knew how to drive race cars.
- c. because he knew how to play the piano and trumpet.
- d. because he survived when his plane crashed.

5. **What is a Beduin?**

- a. It is a desert animal.
- b. It is a plane.
- c. He is a person who lives in desert areas.
- d. It is a kind of desert food.

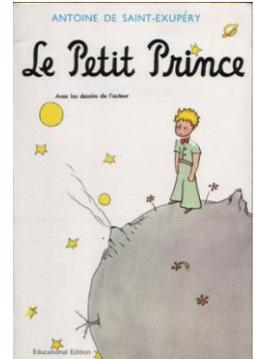


6. **Why did Antoine de Saint-Exupéry receive a medal?**

- a. He helped free his companions who were taken as prisoners.
- b. He wrote very famous works.
- c. He donated a large amount of money to help the poor.
- d. He was a scientist who discovered a very important new vaccine.

7. **The Little Prince...**

- a. is the most recognized and famous work of Antoine.
- b. tells the story of a little prince.
- c. analyzes the values that human beings have.
- d. All the answers are correct



8. **The quote "The essential is invisible to the eyes" means...**

- a. that if you can't see something with your eyes, it doesn't exist.
- b. that you have to see things with the eyes of the heart.
- c. that to see some things you need special glasses.
- d. that the little prince is blind and can't see

9. **Select the correct answers.**

- a. In 1957, an asteroid was called Saint-Exupéry.
- b. The Little Prince book has been translated into more than 250 dialects and languages.
- c. The main character of The Little Prince is a prince who does not want to leave asteroid B216.
- d. The Little Prince has sold 100 million copies in Germany.

10. **Antoine and his works became so famous that his face appears on the 500 franc bill.**

- a. True
- b. False

