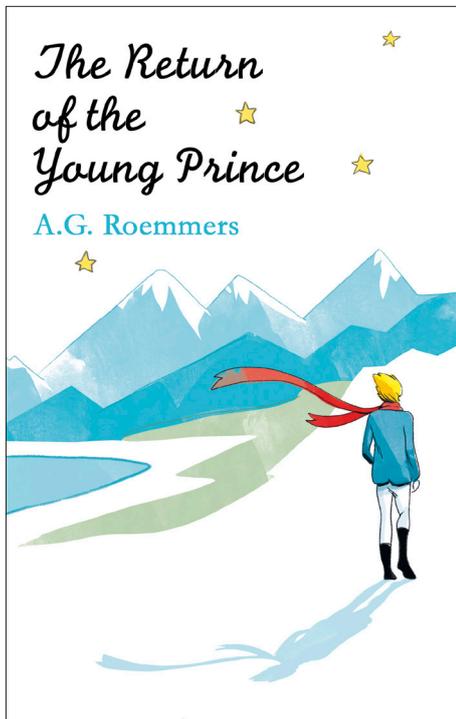


Oneworld Readers' Guide

The Return of the Young Prince



The Return of the Young Prince

A.G. Roemmers

“This book reminds us of the values we should never have abandoned: the importance of friendship, family, community and compassion – the pillars of every civilized society.” Bruno d’Agay, a member of the Saint Exupéry family

A beautiful tribute to the international bestseller *The Little Prince*, with specially commissioned illustrations by the award-winning artist Pietari Posti.

Few stories are as widely read and as universally cherished by children and adults alike as *The Little Prince*. But even princes from faraway planets eventually grow up. No longer content with his tiny planet, the young prince sets off once again to explore the universe.

And so begins another remarkable journey into the secrets and joys of living a meaningful life. A charming fable for all ages, this wonderful sequel to the beloved classic overflows with love and wisdom, a true celebration of life as it should be

lived in all its beauty and joy.

Questions for Discussion

1. In Saint-Exupéry’s *The Little Prince*, the Little Prince suddenly appears, like an angel, when the air pilot is stranded in the desert with his broken-down airplane. In *The Return of the Young Prince*, the narrator finds the Young Prince passed-out from exhaustion by the side of a long, deserted road, and rescues him. Do you think this sets the novel in a darker tone than the original book? Do you think this alters this “spirit” of *The Little Prince*?
2. What do you make of the presence of the previous characters/symbols in the book (e.g. the aviator, the rose, the sheep), and the introduction of the grass as a new character in the Prince’s world? What do you think the grass could symbolise?
3. At the end of the book, the Young Prince does not return to his planet but goes to live among humans. How did you interpret this? Did it come as a disappointment to you, or does it appear as a simple fact of life – that we all inevitably grow up and have to live in the adult world?

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4. Saint-Exupery's text has always been praised for its simply presented, yet profound philosophical questions, particularly through the Little Prince's character, who "never lets go of a question", and which the pilot frequently struggles to answer. In this tale, the narrator has long, elaborate answers for the Young Prince's questions. What do you make of this balance of dialogue between the narrator and the Prince?
5. At one occasion in the story, the Young Prince thanks the narrator for "saving him from unhappiness", but at the end of the book, the narrator says: "My friend had limited himself in order to let me discover the best of him so that I could find the best in myself." Who do you think teaches each other the most in this story?
6. Did you find any helpful answers or values in this tale that you think could be applied to your own life?
7. Whilst the tale of *The Return of the Young Prince* asks many important questions about the human condition and the fate of mankind, the Young Prince also appears, at times, to have the same preoccupations as any other young person of his age, like the fear of being judged or the desire to fit in, and more generally, about how to behave in his adult life. Could this attempt by the author to make the Young Prince more "human" intend to make the character more relatable for young people facing the same difficulties?
8. As a young person, did you ever experience the same doubts and preoccupations the Young Prince does?
9. Generally, how loyal do you think A.G Roemmer's Young Prince is to Saint-Exupery's Little Prince? Do you think it is correct to qualify it as a sequel? Does it remind you of any other books you have read?
10. What do you think about the illustrations commissioned from Pietari Posti for the sequel? Do you think these illustrations fit the tale, or do they have more of a nostalgic value for those who read *The Little Prince*?