

APPENDICES

Synopsis of The Little Prince

The Little Prince tells about a boy's journey from a planet to another. The boy is called the Prince. He actually lives in an asteroid. His curiosity triggers his decision to make a journey to other worlds to understand more about life. The Prince then hangs with a group of birds and flies from planet to planet. During his journey, the Prince meets with a lot of different people with different characteristics. One of them is King, who believes that he has ultimate power to rule the universe. Another one is a businessman that always counts the stars, because he believes that they belong to him. Next is a drunker who keeps drinking to forget that he is a drunker. The Prince also meets a geographer and a lamplighter. After meeting with those people, the Prince thinks that adults are annoying, egoist and silly, and they will never act without being told what to do.

Eventually, the Prince arrives at the earth. In a desert, he meets a traveler who becomes a castaway because his plane was broken. The Prince has a lot of conversation with the traveler. The dialogue helps him understand more about life. After staying on the earth for a couple of days, the Prince feels that he wants to go home. He cannot endure living among the adults. The Prince then decides to commit suicide by letting a poisonous snake bite him. The Prince does this because he is sure that taking suicide is the only way to go back to his asteroid.

Now, the Prince has left the traveler forever, but the memory about the gorgeous boy stays in the heart of the traveler.

Synopsis of The Solitaire Mystery

The Solitaire Mystery tells about the life of some society in a strange island. Actually, the society is a deck of cards that comes alive because of Frode. There are 52 cards and the Joker that become physically human. The 52 card people always do the same things from time to time. They never ask where they come from or why they live in the island; hence, they only follow the flow. The Joker is different as he is tinier than the others and very smart. He always asks about many things. The Joker also manages to know that Frode is his creator. The Joker does not like this fact and then tries to kill Frode. He thinks that if he kills Frode, he can finally be free and becomes an absolute individual being. The Joker also dislikes the 52 card people, who do not dare to face the truth that they are made from imagination. When Frode dies, the 52 people turn into cards, the island disappears, but the Joker remains alive. He travels from place to place to continue the story about the card society and Frode. He manages to exist in the real world and keeps reminding people whom he meets to keep curious about truth in their lives.

Biography of Antoine De Saint-Exupery

Antoine de Saint-Exupery was a French novelist and essayist, who was born in Lyons, on June 29, 1900. Besides writing, he had a deep interest in the science of flight. He then became a pilot in 1921 to serve the military. Three years later, he became a commercial pilot. He flew from France to Morocco and West Africa. His experiences during flying inspired Exupery to write a novel. His first novel is Courrier Sud (Southern Mail), which was published in 1929. This book portrays a pilot's struggle against situation, condition, nature, and order. Exupery rejoined the French airforce in 1939, and was granted a brave pilot in 1940. Later, when the French was defeated in wars, Exupery went to the United States. There he wrote Pilote de Guerre (Flight to Arras), which was published in 1942. In 1943, he rejoined his unit in North Africa and came back to combat with the Free French. On July 31, 1944, Exupery's aircraft disappeared near Corsica and was never discovered.

The Little Prince or Le Petit Prince in its original language is Exupery's only children tale. Although it seems dedicated for children, beyond the surface the book contains a complicated philosophy and deep meaning. Somehow, the book reveals Exupery's life, which was full of depression from his family, his love life, and the condition of war. The mysterious way to die decided by the Prince as a character in the book may relate to the mysterious end of Exupery's life. The Little Prince has been published widely in many different languages. It has become one of most favorite French children books because it contains high

morality. Exupery also wrote volumes of correspondences and notebook jottings. He is regarded as a very talented writer and a pilot who loved to fly.

(Adopted and adapted from Exupery, Antoine the Saint. 1943. The Little Prince. <<http://www.spiritual.com.au/articles/prince/PrinceCh15.htm>>; accessed 10th April 2006)

Biography of Jostein Gaarder

Jostein Gaarder was born in Oslo, Norway, 1952. His parents deeply influenced his interest in writing because his father was a headmaster and his mother a teacher and author of children books. Gaarder studied in Oslo Katerdralskole and the University of Oslo to learn Scandinavian languages and theology. Gaarder got married in 1974. Afterward, he began to write and contributed several textbooks on philosophy and theology. In 1981, he moved to Bergen and taught philosophy in a high school.

His first fiction is Diagnosen og andre noveller (The Diagnosis and Other Stories), which was published in 1986. Following the book, there were two children books, Barna fra Sukhavati (The Children from Sukhavati, 1987) and Froskeslottet (The Frog Castle, 1988). Another book, Kabalmysteriet (The Solitaire Mystery), was published in 1990, and won the Norwegian Literary Critics' Award and the Ministry of Cultural and Scientific Affairs Literary Prize. The Solitaire Mystery has a very complicated story and deep philosophical meaning within. In 1991, another philosophical book of Gaarder's was published.

Its title is Sofies verden (Sophie's World). It has gained a big success all around the world. It has been published in 45 languages, and used in many schools and universities, including the English Department of the Faculty of Letters, Maranatha Christian University, as a handbook for philosophy subject. Many books of Gaarder's, for example Through a Glass Darkly (1993), Maya (1999), The Ringmaster Daughter (2001), and The Orange Girl (2003), still become favorable all around the world.

(Adopted and adapted from Gaarder, Jostein. 1997, Sophie's World. New York: Faarar, Straus and Giroux)