Summer Reading Assignment - Juniors

The Little Prince by Antoine de Saint-Exupéry

All work must be handwritten in a notebook or on looseleaf paper. Assignments will be collected on the first day of school by your Religion teacher. This assignment may be used in both your Religion and English classes. You will be graded on the following:

*Understanding of the text
*Depth of analysis
*Ability to think critically
*Personal and honest reflection

Part 1: Reading Notes

Include the following:

- important quotations
- moments that seem meaningful or symbolic
- questions you have while reading
- reactions or personal reflections
- important ideas about characters or themes
- repeated images or patterns
- moments that connect to real life or human experience
- anything confusing, surprising, beautiful, or important

Example:

Instead of only writing: “The Little Prince visits another planet.”, try writing: “The businessman seems obsessed with owning things that do not truly belong to him. This makes me think about…..”
Strong reading notes show that you are:

- paying attention
- asking questions
- noticing deeper meanings
- thinking critically and personally about the story

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Part 2: Themes

Write one TRACEA paragraph for EACH of the four themes listed below. Use the questions as a guide to construct your paragraph.

Remember the format for the TRACEA:
Transition/Claim/Evidence/Application/Evidence/Application/Final Application). The ONLY part that may be more than one sentence is your evidence. Be sure to include in-text citations.

Theme 1: Love, Taming, and Friendship

1. What does it mean to "tame" someone in the story?
2. How is friendship formed and strengthened?
3. How does love grow over time in the relationship with the rose and the fox?
4. What is the difference between "feeling love" and "building love"?

Theme 2: Freedom, Responsibility, and Obstacles

1. What choices does the Little Prince make during his journey?
2. What obstacles or challenges does he face, and how do they affect him?
3. How are freedom and responsibility connected in the story?
4. Which characters avoid responsibility, and what happens when they do?

Theme 3: Meaning of Life

1. What do the adult characters value most?
2. Do they seem fulfilled or empty? Why?
3. What does the book suggest gives life meaning?

Theme 4: Faith and the Invisible

1. What does it mean to "see with the heart"?
2. Why are invisible things so important in the story?
3. How does the book challenge what we think is "real"?

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Part 3: Character Analysis

(Deep Reflection + Personal Insight)

Choose **ONE of the following adult characters** the Little Prince meets and write a **one-two page** reflection about this character. This section should be personal, thoughtful, and honest.

- The King
- The Businessman
- The Drunkard
- The Vain Man
- The Geographer

- The Lamplighter
- The Railway Switchman
- The Pilot / Narrator

Your reflection should clearly address the following:

A. Understanding the Character

Explain:

- who this character is and what they care about most
- how they see the world
- what the Little Prince learns from them
- any positive and/or negative qualities the character may have
- Describe **3 human needs or desires** revealed by this character, and support your explanation with evidence from the book.

Examples of human needs or desires::

- recognition
- control
- success
- purpose
- comfort
- security
- admiration
- belonging

B. Areas for Growth

Explain:

- what seems limited, missing, or distorted in this character's way of living?
- what the character fails to understand or see clearly?

C. Reflection on Value

Discuss:

- What could the Little Prince teach this adult ?
- What makes this character different from the others?
- What does this character contribute?
- What does this character lack?

D. Personal Connection

Reflect honestly:

- Do you see similar attitudes in real life? (society, school, social media, adults, or yourself)
- What does this character make you reflect on in your own life?
- Explain why/how this story is not actually for kids - not written for kids.

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Part 4: QUOTATION ANALYSIS

(Interpretation + Human Meaning)

Choose THREE quotes from the list below and complete the following for EACH:

- write one thoughtful analytical paragraph
- explain what the statement means for the character and why it is important in the story
- explain what the same idea could mean in real life, beyond the book, and how it connects to human experience in general.
- use specific examples/textual evidence to support your analysis

Quotations

"Then I drew the inside of the boa constrictor, so the grown-ups could understand. They always need explanations."

"Grown-ups never understand anything by themselves, and it is exhausting for children to have to provide explanations over and over again."

"In the face of an overpowering mystery, you don't dare disobey."

"But no one had believed him on account of the way he was dressed. Grown-ups are like that."

"Children should be very understanding of grown-ups."

“In those days I didn’t understand anything. I should have judged her according to her actions, not her words… But I was too young to know how to love her.”

“So he began by visiting them [other asteroids], to keep himself busy and to learn something.”

“If I were to command a general to turn into a seagull, and if the general did not obey, that would not be the general’s fault. It would be mine.”

“Then you shall pass judgment on yourself… That is the hardest thing of all. It is much harder to judge yourself than to judge others.”

“‘I admire you,’ said the little prince… ‘but what is there about my admiration that interests you so much?’”

“So it’s of some use to my volcanoes, and it’s useful to my flower, that I own them. But you’re not useful to the stars.”

“Yes, he’s the only one who doesn’t strike me as ridiculous. Perhaps it’s because he’s thinking of something besides himself.”

“Trying to be witty leads to lying, more or less.”

“People haven’t time to learn anything… But since there are no stores where you can buy friends, people no longer have friends. If you want a friend, tame me.”

“It’s quite simple: One sees clearly only with the heart. Anything essential is invisible to the eyes.”

“‘No one is ever satisfied where he is,’ the switchman said.”

“What makes the desert beautiful is that it hides a well somewhere…”

“‘People where you live… grow five thousand roses in one garden… yet they don’t find what they’re looking for…’”

“And when you’re consoled… you’ll be glad you’ve known me.”

“And no grown-up will ever understand how such a thing could be so important