

Let's Enjoy Masterpieces!

GRADE

4

The Little Prince

小王子



Original Author Antoine de Saint-Exupery
Illustrator Antoine de Saint-Exupery

WORDS

800



Let's Enjoy Masterpieces!

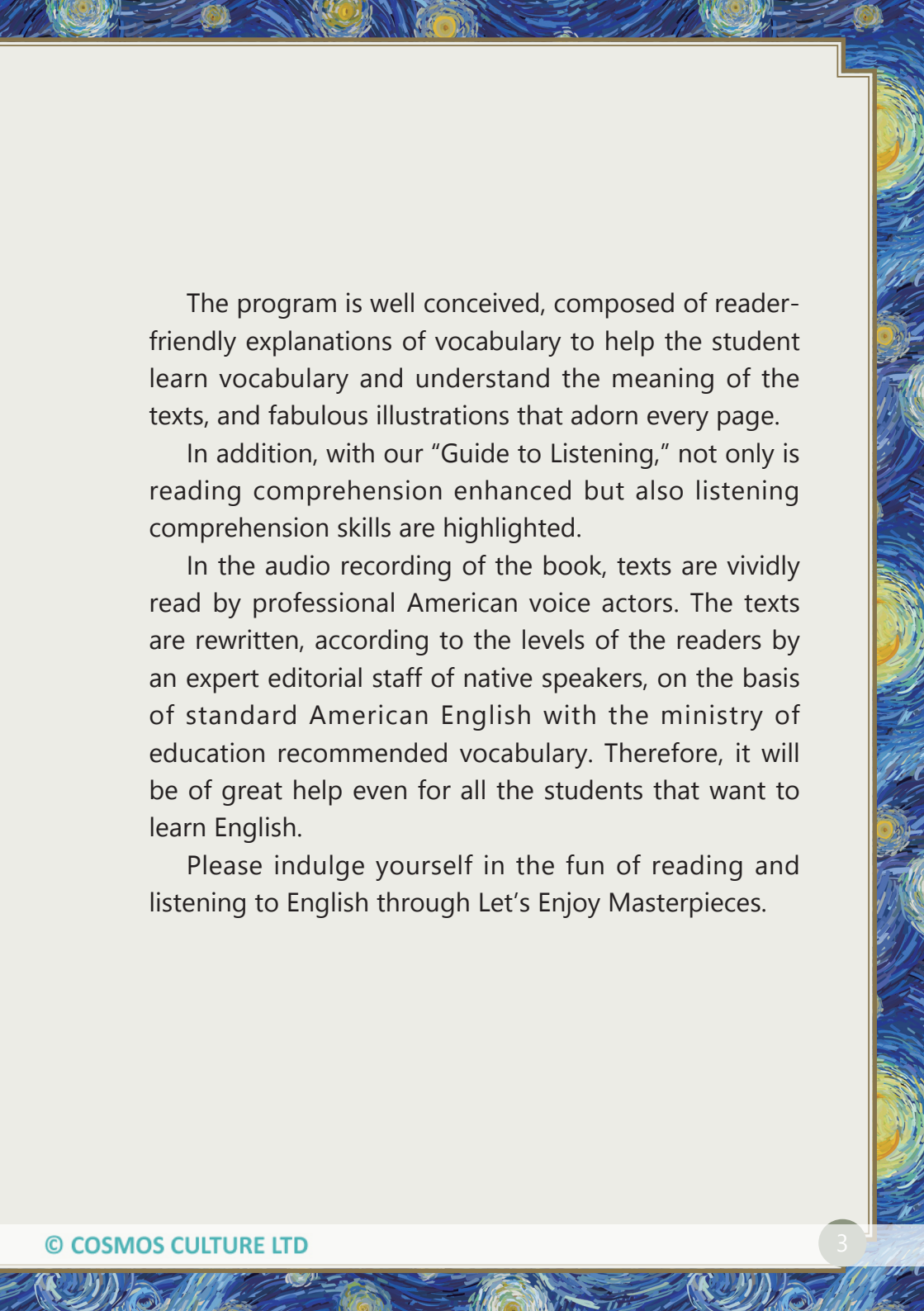


All the beautiful fairy tales and masterpieces that you have encountered during your childhood remain as warm memories in your adulthood. This time, let's indulge in the world of masterpieces through English. You can enjoy the depth and beauty of original works, which you can't enjoy through Chinese translations.

The stories are easy for you to understand because of your familiarity with them. When you enjoy reading, your ability to understand English will also rapidly improve.

This series of ***Let's Enjoy Masterpieces*** is a special reading comprehension booster program, devised to improve reading comprehension for beginners whose command of English is not satisfactory, or who are elementary, middle, and high school students. With this program, you can enjoy reading masterpieces in English with fun and efficiency.

This carefully planned program is composed of 5 levels, from the beginner level of 350 words to the intermediate and advanced levels of 1,000 words. With this program's level-by-level system, you are able to read famous texts in English and to savor the true pleasure of the world's language.

The page is framed by a border of the 'Starry Night' painting by J.M.W. Turner, featuring swirling blue and yellow patterns. The main content area is a light cream color with a thin brown border on the right side.

The program is well conceived, composed of reader-friendly explanations of vocabulary to help the student learn vocabulary and understand the meaning of the texts, and fabulous illustrations that adorn every page.

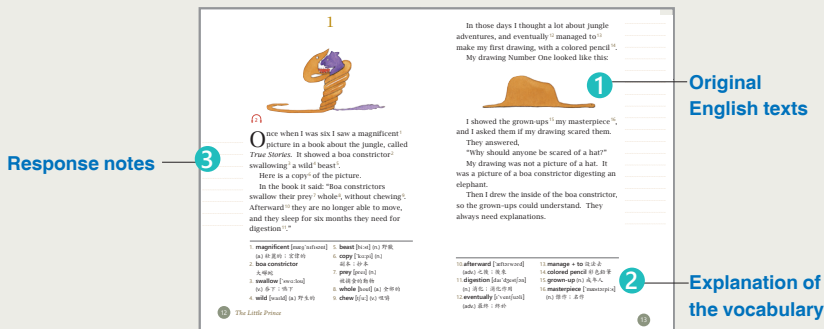
In addition, with our "Guide to Listening," not only is reading comprehension enhanced but also listening comprehension skills are highlighted.

In the audio recording of the book, texts are vividly read by professional American voice actors. The texts are rewritten, according to the levels of the readers by an expert editorial staff of native speakers, on the basis of standard American English with the ministry of education recommended vocabulary. Therefore, it will be of great help even for all the students that want to learn English.

Please indulge yourself in the fun of reading and listening to English through Let's Enjoy Masterpieces.

HOW TO USE THIS BOOK

本書使用說明



1 Original English texts

It is easy to understand the meaning of the text, because the text is rewritten according to the levels of the readers.

2 Explanation of the vocabulary

The words and expressions that include vocabulary above the elementary level are clearly defined.

3 Response notes

Spaces are included in the book so you can take notes about what you don't understand or what you want to remember.

The page is framed by a border of J.M.W. Turner's 'Starry Night' painting, featuring swirling blue and yellow celestial patterns.

Audio Recording

In the audio recording, native speakers narrate the texts in standard American English. By combining the written words and the audio recording, you can listen to English with great ease.

Audio books have been popular in Britain and America for many decades. They allow the listener to experience the proper word pronunciation and sentence intonation that add important meaning and drama to spoken English. Students will benefit from listening to the recording twenty or more times.

After you are familiar with the text and recording, listen once more with your eyes closed to check your listening comprehension. Finally, after you can listen with your eyes closed and understand every word and every sentence, you are then ready to mimic the native speaker.

Then you should make a recording by reading the text yourself. Then play both recordings to compare your oral skills with those of a native speaker.





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Introduction

安托萬·德·聖艾修伯里

Antoine de Saint-Exupery
(1900–1944)



Born into a family with an aristocratic lineage, Antoine de Saint-Exupery enjoyed a happy childhood. In 1921, Saint-Exupery joined the French air force and became a pilot. After his military service, while looking around for a job, he wrote for magazines. Then, in an attempt to escape from an ordinary life in 1926, Saint-Exupery began to fly for the first airline mail service. These flying experiences provided the basis for *Southern Mail* and *Night Flight*. *Night Flight* won the Prix Femina, and met with acclaim from contemporary writers.

Saint-Exupery's works reflect the process of discovering the meaning of life we are born to live, in the fight against all odds and hardships. When World War II broke out, he flew surveillance missions, and after the German occupation of France, he was exiled to the United States, where he wrote *The Little Prince*.

In 1942, Saint-Exupery reenlisted in the military to fight for the Allies. He took off the night of July 31, 1944 to collect data on German troop movements in the Rhone River Valley, and was never seen again. *The Little Prince* and many of his other well-loved works have been translated into many languages and become classics.

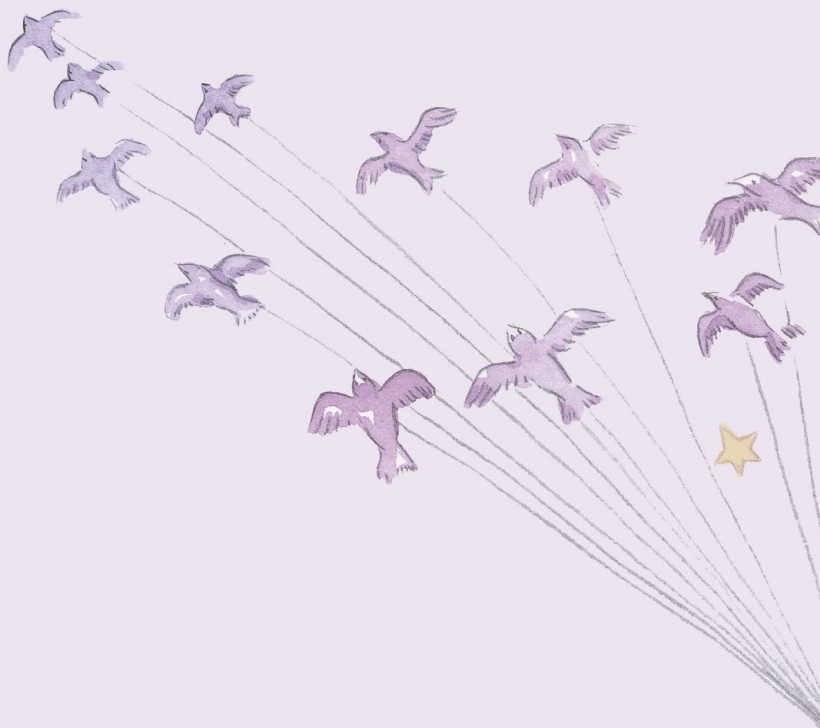
Written in 1943 by Antoine de Saint-Exupéry during his exile to the United States, *The Little Prince* is a fairy tale for adults, offering everyone a touch of fantasy and poetry. Saint-Exupéry took much from his own life experience as a pilot, including crash landings in the Sahara Desert.



The narrator of the story, a pilot like the author, finds himself stranded in the middle of a desert and meets a little prince from an asteroid. Frustrated with a beautiful but grumpy rose, the prince sets off on a journey. After a long journey, he arrives on Earth and meets a fox. Then, the fox teaches him that it is only with the heart that one can see properly what is essential. *The little prince* learns how important aspects of life are often invisible to the eye, and he has come to understand the true value of the rose.

In the portrayal of characters that the little Prince meets on his travels, the author describes the preciousness of life that adults can't see and tend to forget, as they get older. *The Little Prince* reflects Saint-Exupéry's thesis that the true meaning of life can be found in the links that we make with others. The author's beautiful illustrations give the story a poetic and warmly humanistic tone.







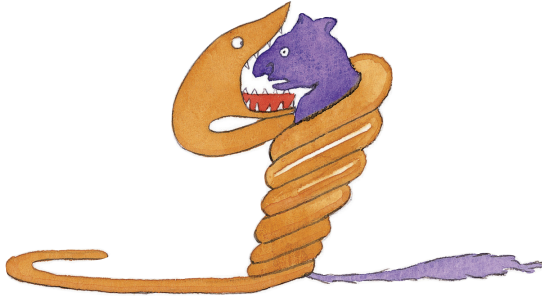
TO LEON WERTH

I ask the indulgence of the children who may read this book for dedicating it to a grown-up. I have a serious reason: he is the best friend I have in the world. I have another reason: this grown-up understands everything, even books about children. I have a third reason: he lives in France where he is hungry and cold. He needs cheering up. If all these reasons are not enough, I will dedicate the book to the child from whom this grown-up grew. All grown-ups were once children — although few of them remember it. And so I correct my dedication:

TO LEON WERTH
WHEN HE WAS A LITTLE BOY

In order to make his escape, I believe he took advantage of a migration of wild birds.

1



Once when I was six I saw a magnificent¹ picture in a book about the jungle, called *True Stories*. It showed a boa constrictor² swallowing³ a wild⁴ beast⁵.

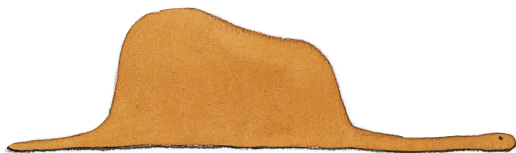
Here is a copy⁶ of the picture.

In the book it said: “Boa constrictors swallow their prey⁷ whole⁸, without chewing⁹. Afterward¹⁰ they are no longer able to move, and they sleep for six months they need for digestion¹¹.”

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- | | |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. magnificent [mæg`nɪfɪsənt] | 5. beast [bi:st] (n.) 野獸 |
| (a.) 壯麗的；宏偉的 | 6. copy [ˈkɑ:pi] (n.) |
| 2. boa constrictor | 副本；抄本 |
| 大蟒蛇 | 7. prey [preɪ] (n.) |
| 3. swallow [ˈswɑ:lou] | 被捕食的動物 |
| (v.) 吞下；嚥下 | 8. whole [houl] (a.) 全部的 |
| 4. wild [waɪld] (a.) 野生的 | 9. chew [tʃu:] (v.) 咀嚼 |

In those days I thought a lot about jungle adventures, and eventually¹² managed to¹³ make my first drawing, with a colored pencil¹⁴.

My drawing *Number One* looked like this:



I showed the grown-ups¹⁵ my masterpiece¹⁶, and I asked them if my drawing scared them.

They answered,

“Why should anyone be scared of a hat?”

My drawing was not a picture of a hat. It was a picture of a boa constrictor digesting an elephant.

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

10. **afterward** [ˈæftərwɜːd]
(adv.) 之後；後來

11. **digestion** [daɪˈdʒestʃən]
(n.) 消化；消化作用

12. **eventually** [ɪˈventʃuəli]
(adv.) 最終；終於

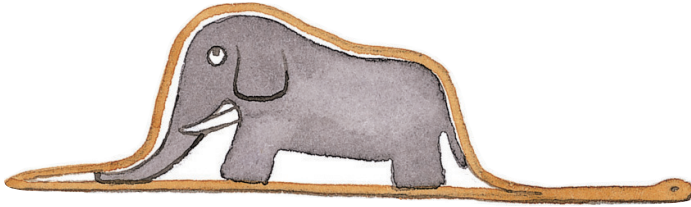
13. **manage + to** 設法去

14. **colored pencil** 彩色鉛筆

15. **grown-up** (n.) 成年人

16. **masterpiece** [ˈmæstərpiːs]
(n.) 傑作；名作

My drawing *Number Two* looked like this:



The grown-ups advised me to put away¹ my drawings of boa constrictors, outside or inside, and apply myself instead to² geography³, history, arithmetic⁴, and grammar. That is why I gave up⁵, at the age of six, a magnificent career as an artist. I had been discouraged⁶ by the failure of my drawing *Number One* and of my drawing *Number Two*.

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. put away 拋棄；收起來 | 6. discourage [dɪsˈkʊrɪdʒ] |
| 2. apply oneself to
請求自己去 | (v.) 使洩氣；使沮喪 |
| 3. geography [dʒiˈɑːɡrəfi] | 7. by oneself 單獨地 |
| (n.) 地理學 | 8. exhausting [ɪɡˈzɔːstɪŋ] |
| 4. arithmetic [əˈrɪθmətɪk] | (a.) 使人精疲力竭的 |
| (n.) 算術 | 9. career [kəˈrɪr] |
| 5. give up 放棄 | (n.) (終身) 職業 |

Grown-ups never understand anything by themselves⁷, and it is exhausting⁸ for children to have to explain over and over again.

So then I had to choose another career⁹.

I learned to pilot¹⁰ airplanes. I have flown¹¹ almost everywhere in the world. And, as a matter of fact¹², geography has been a big help to me. I could tell China from Arizona at first glance¹³, which is very useful if you get lost¹⁴ during the night.

So I have met, in the course¹⁵ of my life, lots of serious people. I have spent lots of time with grown-ups. I have seen them at close range¹⁶. . . which hasn't improved¹⁷ my opinion¹⁸ of them.

10. **pilot** [ˈpaɪlət] (v.)

駕駛

11. **fly** [flaɪ] (v.) 飛翔

(fly-flew-flown)

12. **as a matter of fact** 事實上

13. **at a glance** 一瞥

14. **get lost** 迷失方向

15. **course** [kɔ:rs] (n.)

路線；方向

16. **range** [reɪndʒ] (n.)

距離

17. **improve** [ɪmˈpru:v]

(v.) 改進；改善

18. **opinion** [əˈpɪnjən]

(n.) 意見；見解