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The Little Prince Essay: Chapter 22

Finding what you truly desire is so hard to come by. So many people are searching for the things they feel are indispensable to living a happy life, sometimes forgetting what they really need. *The Little Prince* by Antoine de Saint-Exupéry is a novel that further addresses the topics that today's society does not take notice of. The little prince explores worlds through the universe and encounters many people who represent many different things in the real world. He later leaves Earth and returns home to take care of his planet. The universal theme that exploration is confronting the unknown is explored in chapter 22 through the symbolism of the trains, the characterization of the prince and switchman, and the multiple perspectives of the little prince and the railroad switchman.

Initially, confronting the unknown is explored in chapter 22 through the symbolism of the trains. An example of this is when it states, "And the brightly lit express train, roaring like thunder, shook the switchman's cabin." The trains may be a representation of the pointless efforts we make to improve things we might think we can make better. Also in chapter 22, the switchman explains, "No one is ever satisfied where he is." This may mean the train rides are rushed voyages that never result in happiness. The narrator states, "And another brightly lit express train thunders by in the opposite direction," this suggest that since the trains rush at each other from opposite directions, that the efforts grown-ups make are contradictory and

purposeless. With this being said, the prince confronts the unknown through the symbolism of the train but also within himself, we can see that he and the switchman explore their characteristics that helps them express themselves.

Furthermore, confronting the unknown is explored in chapter 22 also through the characterization of the prince and switchman. An example that helps us understand the characterization of the railway switchman is how he explains, "They're lucky." This gives us an example of how the railway switchman thinks of the children which is as he said "lucky." Usually, people think of a switch man as the person who sorts people into a train but there's more to this like, him observing people specifically the children and how they use their imagination unlike the adults that are with them. Also in chapter 22, the little prince states, "They spend their time on a rag doll and it becomes very important, and if it's taken away from them, they cry..." With this, we can tell that the little prince had been observing the children and how they act when it gets taken away. This shows characterization in a way because it shows how the little prince pays attention to little things like so. With this information about the characterizations of both the prince and switchman, confronting the unknown is explored in chapter 22.

Adding on, another way confronting the unknown is explored in chapter 22 is by the multiple perspectives of the little prince and the railroad switchman. An example of this is when the little prince states, "What a hurry they're in...what are they looking for?" This shows how the little prince is confused about the people and where their going. The switchman replies by saying, "Not even the engineer on the locomotives know," this implies that the travelers themselves don't know where they're going. This connects to confronting the unknown through

exploration because in the real life world, this is true the adults/travelers don't know where they are going they just go. Also in chapter 22, the little prince also states, "Only the children know what they're looking for...they spend their time on a rag doll and it becomes very important, and if it's taken away from them, they cry." This shows how this explanation of the rag doll has multiple meanings and perspectives. Through this confronting the unknown is explored in chapter 22

To conclude, confronting the unknown is explored in chapter 22 through the symbolism of the trains, the characterization of the prince and switchman, and the multiple perspectives of the little prince and railroad switchman. The little prince meets new ethical and unethical people along his journey. This matters because it relates to the real world and how different they are if seen with both perspectives. This relates to us because everyday we meet new people who have different ways of thinking and we can talk to them which will help us understand their way of thinking.