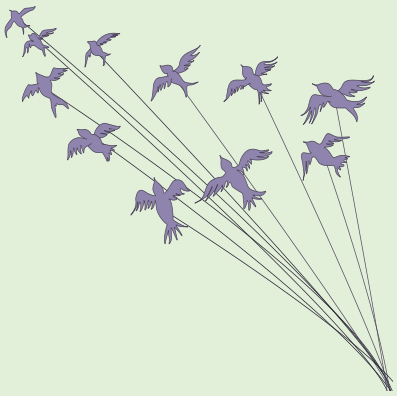
The Little Prince – extract



So I lived my life alone, without anyone that I could really talk to, until I had an accident with my plane in the Desert of Sahara, six years ago. Something was broken in my engine. And as I had with me neither a mechanic nor any passengers, I set myself to attempt the difficult repairs all alone. It was a question of life or death for me: I had scarcely enough drinking water to last a week.

The first night, then, I went to sleep on the sand, a thousand miles from any human habitation. I was more isolated than a shipwrecked sailor on a raft in the middle of the ocean. Thus you can imagine my amazement, at sunrise, when I was awakened by an odd little voice.
It said: "If you please – draw me a sheep!"

"What!"

"Draw me a sheep!"

I jumped to my feet, completely thunderstruck. I blinked my eyes hard. I looked carefully all around me. And I saw a most extraordinary small person, who stood there examining me with great seriousness. Here you may see the best portrait that, later, I was able to make of him. But my drawing is certainly very much less charming than its model.

That, however, is not my fault. The grown-ups discouraged me in my painter's career when I was six years old, and I never learned to draw anything, except boas from the outside and boas from the inside.

Now I stared at this sudden apparition with my eyes fairly starting out of my head in astonishment. Remember, I had crashed in the desert a thousand miles from any inhabited region. And yet my little man seemed neither to be straying uncertainly among the sands, nor to be fainting from fatigue or hunger or thirst or fear. Nothing about him gave any suggestion of a child lost in the middle of the desert, a thousand miles from any human habitation. When at last I was able to speak, I said to him:

"But – what are you doing here?"

And in answer he repeated, very slowly, as if he were speaking of a matter of great consequence:

"If you please – draw me a sheep…"

Comprehension questions

Name: ..... Date: .....

1. Where in the world did the narrator's accident take place?

   .....

2. What job does the narrator of the story have?

   ☐ **Sailor** ☐ **Artist** ☐ **Pilot** ☐ **Shepherd**

3. Repairing the plane was a question of life and death for the narrator because:

   ☐ **He only had enough water to last a week** ☐ **The plane engine was broken**

   ☐ **He hadn't got anybody to talk to** ☐ **He hadn't got a mechanic**

4. *'I was more isolated than a shipwrecked sailor on a raft in the middle of the ocean.'*

   Circle the word closest in meaning to the word **isolated**.

   island **cold** **exhausted** **alone**

5. At what time of day was the narrator woken up by a voice?

   .....

6. *'I jumped to my feet, completely thunderstruck.'*

   What does the word **thunderstruck** tell you?

   .....

   .....

7. Look at the paragraph which begins: *'Now I stared …'*

Find and copy a word which means **wonder**.

.....

8. *"But – what are you doing here?"*

Why was the narrator surprised to find a child talking to him?

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