

The Pilot and the Little Prince

THE LIFE OF ANTOINE DE SAINT-EXUPÉRY

A RIF GUIDE FOR EDUCATORS

Themes: Aviation, Perseverance, World Wars

Book Brief: This book tells the story of Antoine de Saint-Exupéry, author of the classic children's book *The Little Prince*. Look inside to learn about Antoine's incredible passion for flying, which lasted from the young age of twelve through the end of his days.

Author and Illustrator:

Peter Sís

Content Connections:

Social Studies



TIME TO READ!



BEFORE WE READ, LET'S LOOK AT...

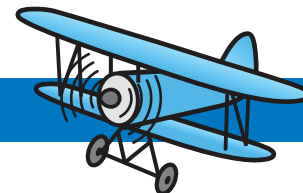
The Cover: What can you tell about the time period the story is set in based on the cover illustration? Explain.

The Pictures: Flip briefly through the pages. How do the pictures help you create a *visual timeline* of this period in history and the life of Antoine de Saint-Exupéry? What details in the pictures stand out to you?

Prior Knowledge: Find out what your students already know about flight. Do they know the term “aviator”? Have they ever been to an air show or seen planes flying overhead? Have any of them ever been on an airplane? On a map or globe, point out some of the locations mentioned in the text—France, Spain, Africa, and South America.

Vocabulary: aviation, pioneer, nomads, expeditions

Purpose for Reading: As we read, think about what the overall theme of this story might be. Be prepared to share your answer with the class.



WHILE WE READ

MONITORING COMPREHENSION

- ◆ What type of childhood did Antoine have?
- ◆ What motivates a person to try something?
- ◆ Do you think he could have talked someone into letting him fly?
- ◆ What did he have to learn about before he could fly?

- ◆ How was his adult life different from his childhood?
- ◆ What *inferences* can you make about the type of person he was and how he treated others? Why?
- ◆ What would you do if you crashed? Would you continue to fly?

LET'S THINK ABOUT

Our Purpose: What do you think is the overall theme of this story? What evidence from the book supports your answer? Ask students to share their answers and make a list of the themes they suggest.

Extending Our Thinking: How has technology changed air travel since the early 1900s? If you had lived back then, would you have wanted to fly or would you have been too scared? Explain your answer. Many people have never heard of Antoine although he wrote a very famous book. Why do you think some people become more famous than others? Does being less famous make your achievements less important? Discuss your answer with a partner.

NOTE TO EDUCATORS

- ◆ Extension Activities for Educators also available.
- ◆ Vocabulary Scaffolding Sheet also available.



Reading Is
Fundamental