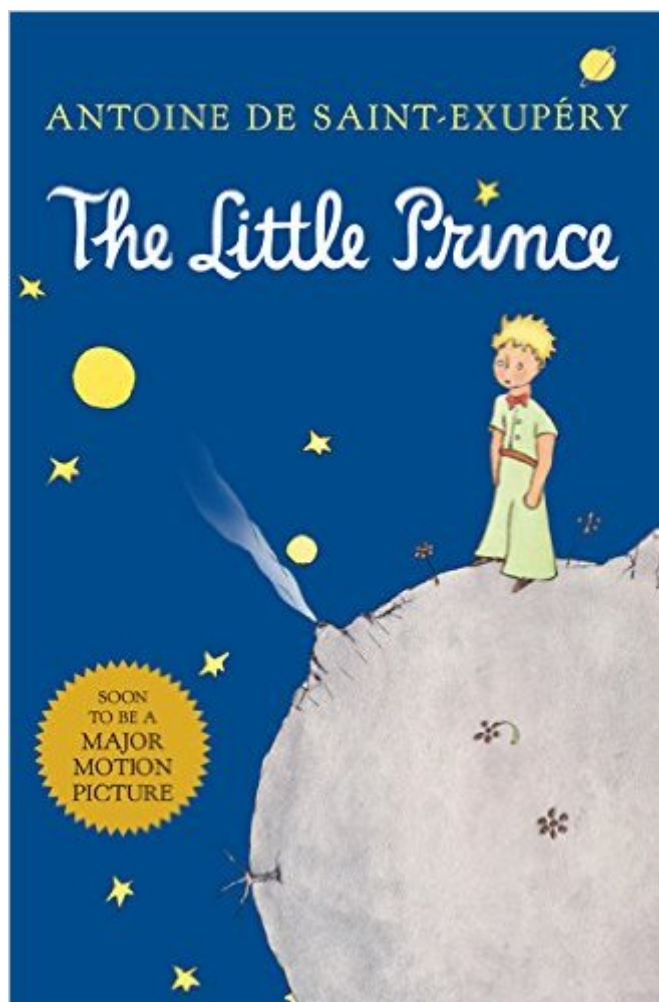


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# The Little Prince



## Synopsis

Few stories are as widely read and as universally cherished by children and adults alike as *The Little Prince*. Richard Howard's translation of the beloved classic beautifully reflects Saint-Exupéry's unique and gifted style. Howard, an acclaimed poet and one of the preeminent translators of our time, has excelled in bringing the English text as close as possible to the French, in language, style, and most important, spirit. The artwork in this edition has been restored to match in detail and in color Saint-Exupéry's original artwork. Combining Richard Howard's translation with restored original art, this definitive English-language edition of *The Little Prince* will capture the hearts of readers of all ages. This title has been selected as a Common Core Text Exemplar (Grades 4-5, Stories).

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 710 (What's this?)

Series: *The Little Prince*

Hardcover: 96 pages

Publisher: HMH Books for Young Readers; 1 edition (May 15, 2000)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0152023984

ISBN-13: 978-0152023980

Product Dimensions: 7 x 0.6 x 8.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 14.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (2,182 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #2,701 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #13 in [Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Friendship](#) #16 in [Books > Teens > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Fantasy > Fairy Tales & Folklore](#) #23 in [Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Classics](#)

Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 5 and up

## Customer Reviews

Katherine Woods' simple and beautiful translation is the only one that does justice to *The Little Prince*. Published by Harcourt in 1943 and 1971, her English translation is the essential --- the translation loved and quoted by English-speaking people around the world, even by members of English- and French-speaking Canadian Parliament! But hers is OUT OF PRINT by Harcourt (who copyrighted her translation in 1943), so snatch up used copies while you may, or be certain you are

getting hers in any new or used publication! Beware of the "new translation" out by Richard Howard, first published in 2000; I accidentally got one. Ouch! His "new" translation purges meaning and is not worth the money. It gives a falseness to one of the most sincere stories ever written. Howard's lacks beauty and is at times unintelligible: It simply does not make sense. Since Howard has no apparent understanding of the truths expressed in *The Little Prince*, this is not to be wondered at. Near the end (Chapter XXVI, the Woods translation), the little prince says, "You -- you alone will have the stars as no one else has them"... "In one of the stars I shall be living. In one of them I shall be laughing. And so it will be as if all the stars were laughing, when you look at the sky at night... You -- only you -- will have stars that can laugh!" (quoted by actor Robin Williams' daughter Zelda, age 25, in tribute at his passing). Howard's translation cannot match that for meaning, poignancy, or interpretation of de Saint Exupéry's words. Howard's lacks not only meaning but also heart, while Katherine Woods' translation captures both -- a matter of great consequence ("matters of consequence" being one theme that runs through the book) since *Le Petit Prince* is full of heart.

The Little Prince Nov./14A review of five translations  
In 2000, the Richard Howard translation of *The Little Prince* was released to supercede the original of Katherine Woods from 1943. When a publisher comes to one to translate such a classic how does one ever turn them down and say the last translation was good enough! I guess one doesn't. Money and ego prevail. But 'good enough' is the debating point. Is it good enough? Howard writes in his preface "...it must be acknowledged that all translations date." Do they? Would one clean up and modernise the language of A.A. Milne in *Winnie-the-Pooh*? or of Kenneth Grahame in *The Wind In The Willows*? Of course not. Then Howard modernises Katherine Woods' rendition, "cry" with his "weep" during the departure from the fox. And he thinks this is more 'modern'? What self-contradictory nonsense translators can write to justify themselves and their publishers. I grew up on Katherine Woods' translation and prefer it over the Howard, but I must admit, when I look at my French copy, the Woods too has some elisions in translation. During the farewell from the fox, she translates: "It is the time you have wasted for your rose that makes your rose so important." Howard translates: "It's the time you spent on your rose that makes your rose so important." The French actually states: "C'est le temps que tu as perdu pour ta rose qui fait ta rose si importante." Literally this translates far more meaningfully and philosophically than either of the Woods or the Howard as "It is the time which you have lost for your rose which makes your rose so important." So that leaves me thinking both translations have their flaws.

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