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### The Negative and Positive Change of the Narrator

“The grown-ups advised me to put away my drawings... That is why I abandoned, at the age of six, a magnificent career as an artist.”(pg. 2). *The Little Prince*, by Antoine de Saint-Exupéry, is a fictional novel about a pilot who meets a little prince while he is stranded in the desert and tells how the little prince traversed from planet to planet searching for his rose. Along the way the little prince notices how “grown-ups are strange” and realizes that his rose is important because of the time he spent with it. After reading a fictional novel, *The Little Prince*, by Antoine de Saint-Exupéry and an article, *The Creativity Crisis*, by Po Bronson and Ashley Merryman, and “Children and Adults See The World in Fundamentally Different Ways”, by Alasdair Wilkins I have decided that the universal theme of chapter one is “change” can either be positive or negative. The universal theme that change can either be positive or negative is explored in chapter one through juxtaposition, the irony of the passage, and the conflict of creativity.

First of all, the universal theme “change” that can be positive or negative is explored in chapter one through the juxtaposition of adults and children. Adults have a more mature mind than most children, so they have different point of views on some things. An example of juxtaposition from *The Little Prince*, explains that, “I showed the grown ups my masterpiece , and I asked them if my drawing scared them. They answered,”Why 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 an explanation.”(Saint-Exupéry, p. 2). This quote explains the juxtaposition between children and adults by saying that children have a more creative mind than the adults. This piece shows the adults thinking and a child’s thinking together and we can analyze it from there. We can see that a child can think of an object more creatively than an adult can. Based on an article called *Are Children More Creative Than Adults*, it says, ”Young children have some amazing qualities about them that perhaps make them more creative: open mind, make connections, playful, curious, expressive, forgetful and forgiving, hands on, direct without reservations, fun to be around, enjoy things, cry out for small things, sleep well, and have a great sense of humor. But perhaps the most important quality of a child as he or she is growing up is asking questions!” This means that as a child, we ask simple questions to be answer and for adults, they answer those questions, and don’t have the time for messing around like children do. As children grow, their learning doesn’t keep them in tact with creativity, and when they’re adults, they only focus on working, instead of doing what most children do. Because of juxtaposition, the universal theme for chapter one is change that can either be negative or positive

Secondly, the universal theme “change” can either be positive or negative is explored in chapter one through the irony of the passage. Irony is when you witness the opposite of what you were expecting to see. He uses irony to refer to how adults lack creativity and how they see everything following tradition and authority while children see everything with their heart and imagination. According to the narrator in chapter one of *The Little Prince*, “Grown-ups never understand anything by themselves, and it is exhausting for children to have to provide

explanations over and over again.”(Saint-Exupéry, pg. 2). We can see irony through this piece of evidence because we expect the adults to be very creative and children to not know anything. The adults ,who are supposed to be “superior”, are having a hard time figuring out a child’s drawing. However, . Alasdair Wilkins goes on to say in his article, “Children and Adults See The World in Fundamentally Different Ways”, “...adults perceive certain events far more accurately than children can...”(paragraph 1). If adults can “perceive events far more accurately than children”, why do they lack creativity skills. If they can see things more accurately, they would have more detail and would have a more creative mindset. It is quite ironic where the child is more creative than the adult. A child’s creativity will fade, sadly, most of the time as the child grows into an adult, showing negative change. To sum, the universal theme of change can be either positive or negative can be explored in chapter one through the irony of the passage.

Finally, the universal theme of change that can be either positive or negative is explored in chapter 1 because of the conflict of creativity. When the adults saw the narrator’s drawing of a boa constrictor digesting an elephant from the inside, they told him to put his drawings to focus on history, arithmetic, grammar, and geography. Page two of *The Little Prince* shows, “That is why I abandoned , at the age of six, a magnificent career as an artist. I had been discouraged by the failure of my drawing Number One and of my drawing Number Two... So then I had to choose another career, and I learned to pilot airplanes.”(Saint-Exupéry, pg. 2). A person’s career usually comes from their passions, and being an artist was something that the narrator wanted to explore. No one is perfect, especially children. Even though it was his first “masterpiece”, he felt like he failed because of what the adults told him. This shows change in a negative way because

he was pushed away from something he wanted to do. Not only was the narrator's future and possibly his self-esteem changed, but his creative mindset was also affected by the adult's responses. Po Bronson and Ashley Merryman explain through their article, "The Creativity Crisis", "When creative children have a supportive teacher—someone tolerant of unconventional answers, occasional disruptions, or detours of curiosity—they tend to excel. When they don't, they tend to underperform and drop out of high school or don't finish college at high rates." (Bronson/Merryman, paragraph 29). With this in mind, we know how the adults discouraged creativity in the narrator because they were not "...tolerant of unconventional answers, occasional disruptions, or detours of curiosity". They are making him follow tradition and stopping his development of creative thinking. Creativity is more than just being able to draw a perfect circle or knowing what colors go together. Creativity is the ability to use one's thoughts and facts to solve a problem, an innovation. Creative thinking would help the narrator solve problems effectively, like when he was lost in the desert. Knowing this, the universal theme of change can either be positive or negative is explored in chapter one because of the conflict of creativity.

To conclude, the universal theme that change can either be positive or negative is explored in chapter 1 through the juxtaposition of adults and children, the irony of the passage, and the conflict of creativity. The message that the narrator gives about adults being inferior to children would be hard to miss in the first chapter. An adult and a child are two different people. But as Antoine de Saint-Exupéry states, "All grown-ups were once children—although few of them remember it." Children have a sense of creativity in them, but that creativity slowly diminishes over time because authority makes them change to follow something that is specific and traditional. Creativity is something that is widely needed, not just in America, but in the

world to solve serious problems. We should encourage our children to follow their dreams, “look with their heart”, ask questions, and be curious.

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