

Sebastian Lopez, Diego Grajeda, Christopher Wallace

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ELA

The Snakes Power

Imagine being alone in the desert with a mysterious snake. Imagine it starts speaking to you. In *The Little Prince*, a work of fiction by Antoine de Saint-Exupéry, this is the exact scenario that occurs during Chapter seventeen. A pilot crash lands in the desert, and meets the Little Prince. With the help of the little prince, the pilot realize that all adults share the same bland personality, all while the author maintains a philosophical view. The philosophical views of Rene Descartes and Jean Paul Sartre are shown throughout the whole book. The author illustrates the theme that power has the ability to influence in chapter seventeen through unanswered questions about the snake, the prince's internal conflict, and the snake's condescending tone.

Starting off, *The Little Prince* becomes a very bewildering book due to the fact that in chapter seventeen, it's story events lead to a lot of unanswered questions. Chapter seventeen is a chapter that introduces one of many other characters, that character being the snake. The snake has an interesting attribute that only allows it to speaks in riddles. This can lead to many questions during the snakes dialogue. One way the story leaves us with unanswerable questions is toward the end of the chapter the snake and the prince have a talk that leaves readers in confusion. The conversation went as, "But why do you always speak in riddles? I solve them all, said the snake. And they were both silent". During the book, the little prince is built up as a

character that when questioned or thinks up of something, he will not let go of that idea, and will keep persisting while also asking lots and lots of questions. But due to the snake's form of speech, the little prince becomes confused and becomes mute. This single interaction shows just how the snake's words have the ability to influence power on the little prince. To dive deeper into the words the snake says, the transcript for "The Little Prince: The Snake," by Vanessa Kaitlin, it states that, "[The snake]...is a constant enigma, who speaks in riddles. The snake is wise and doesn't need to learn as much as the other characters in the book. He believes he has mastered life's mysteries." This further supports the fact that the snake is able to influence the prince as he thinks he is better than the rest. He doesn't need to give explanation, as he can simply go and say large, powerful statements thinking they know his side of saying. The snake can be very powerful with his ability to influence.

Furthermore, chapter seventeen shows how the snake has the ability to influence through the prince's internal conflict. The prince travels to Earth because he was having arguments and issues with his own rose. As the story progresses, the prince and the snake have a conversation together. The snake states, "It's lovely. What have you come here for?(snake) I'm having difficulties with a flower (Prince). And they were both silent." The prince's conflict with his flower is caused because they don't have a stable relationship with each other. Because of this emotional disconnect, it leaves the prince in a vulnerable state. He's sad and upset over his flower. Due to this state, the snake is more easily able to influence him. And the snake does, as he states that "However, on page 63, the prince ends up feeling bad for the flower, where he states, "But I am more powerful than the finger of a king." The snake is able to show off to the prince as being an "all powerful giant." He gives himself this image that

gives the prince the impression of power. While the snake may seem weak, he really does make himself out to be a very powerful creature.

Thirdly, the snake shows his ability to influence through the chapter's tone. Chapter 17's tone is given by the way the snake speaks. Due to the snake only really speaking in riddles, there is a sort of mysterious tone. The way the snake builds up his character, and the way he builds up the tone for the chapter, puts him in a good spot to be able to influence the prince, which he does. However, during the later parts of the chapter, the snake says, "This is the desert. There are no people in the desert. The Earth is large," as well as, "I can carry you farther than any ship could take you." The snake is giving this sort of blunt and instantaneous response. He gives off a sort of vibe that can only be described as mysterious. This gives him the ability to dumbfound the prince over what he is saying. To build on this, Jeffrey Pinyan states, "The snake speaks in riddles because it solves them all. [There is] a certain cleverness to the snake, but he is also impressing that death has the power to resolve any riddle." While this tone is built up, the snake has his own meaning to his words. He thinks he is shown to be a deadly, dangerous, or mysterious snake. However, this is not true, until the snake is able to show off his power and skills. While this normally would have been hard for the snake, he builds on this mystery. It's meant to draw in the prince and influence him.

In conclusion, the snake helps explain the universal theme a lot by showing that power is the ability to influence. This is shown through the unanswered questions found throughout the chapter, the way the snake builds up the chapter's tone, and the internal conflict that occurs within the prince. The Little Prince shows that grown-ups are all the same. They are easily influenced, or they believe that they have more power over us because they are adults. They

believe and have trust in society by depending on the many other adults to verify something for them, or to gain feedback from them. This is true to life, because adults, really, only seek money. they believe that money is the only way to happiness. They have these same viewpoints. It can even be said the adults are self-centered as the only thing that might motivate them is when advantage is with them. In the end, *The Little Prince* ends up showing us how power can be very influential.

Work Cited

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