

Ricardo Canales, Michael Martinez, and Jesse Munoz

Ms. Park

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The Little Prince (Chapter 8)

Chapter 8 of *The Little Prince* written by the French author Antoine de Saint-Exupéry, has several references to the idea that power can take many forms. *The Little Prince* is a story about an aviator who discovers a small boy from another planet, who tells his story of his intergalactic travels to the aviator. The date that *The Little Prince* was written and published was on 6 April 1943. The universal theme that power may take many forms is explored in chapter 8 through the impact of love, the symbolism of the rose, and the irony of her power.

To begin with, one of the three ways that Antoine de Saint-Exupéry demonstrates the idea that power may take many forms is by showing love within the chapter. In this chapter, the little prince discovers a seed which to his belief was going to grow and become a beautiful baobab, a short tree with a thick trunk, however it soon turns out to be a very vain rose. According to the novel states, “ ‘I believe it is breakfast time,’ she had soon added. ‘Would you be so kind to tend to me?’ And the little prince, utterly abashed, having gone to look for a watering can serve the flower.” (Saint-Exupéry 23). This shows how the rose is in love with the “powerful” prince and simply wants attention from the little prince, so she acts vain and commands the prince to do anything she wishes as if he were her servant. This also shows how love takes some power over the vain rose of which she uses to take control over the little prince. Also in the article titled “11 Ways, *The Little Prince* Prepared Us for Adulthood”, the author

states “Sometimes you have to let people go because to keep them would be to trap them. But letting them go can be the truest demonstration of love there is” (Ospina). This shows how love could also have the power to make anyone not want to let anybody leave their presence because if they let them go, they would constantly have to be worrying and-and only thinking about their loved ones. In chapter eight, the prince claims that he should have never run away from the rose, which symbolizes that his loved one was the rose and he realizes that his actions were wrong and unfair to her.

Secondly, another way that the author shows power in the chapter, is by demonstrating the symbolism of the vain rose. The rose in the story proclaims herself to be this very brave and fearless figure. She wants to fight fierce tigers to demonstrate her power to the little prince. An article states that “She brandishes them and proclaims, “Let the tigers come with their claws!” (8.13). Now, of course, her little thorns would not be a good defense against tigers, and we know they can’t possibly protect her from the cold, or drafts, or caterpillars. In fact, the flower seems defenseless and susceptible—and yet, she shows off her thorns and puts on a superior attitude” (Shmoop, The Flower). Power is symbolized with the rose because she claims to have power, however, in reality, she is defenseless and her strong and large amount of physical power that she claims to have is definitely false. It is the way the way that the rose uses her words that make her so powerful amongst the little prince. Her vanity also contributes to this trait, since it makes her a bit naive and braver to claim that she is powerful. This shows that power can be demonstrated by the symbolism of the rose. Also in the novel *The Little Prince*, the author states “On the little prince’s planet, there had always been very simple flowers... They would appear one morning in the grass and would fade by nightfall. But this one had grown from a seed brought from who

knows where, and the little prince had kept a close watch over a sprout that was not like any of the others” (Saint-Exupéry, 22). To the little prince, every rose that he has seen is the same and this new rose that he meets is very different and unique which could have possibly had an impact on why the little prince submits to her. Since she is different, of course, the prince wants to take care of her and make sure nothing happens to her. The rose in *The Little Prince* symbolizes power and shows how power can take many forms. The power of the rose’s beauty and uniqueness causes the prince to treat it with care. The one ironic thing is that the rose in the novel is a fragile and weak character but she her actions and words is what make her powerful.

Finally, the final way that the idea that power can take many forms is explored is through irony. The rose claims that she is powerful, that she is more powerful than a tiger and that she could take one down with the simplicity of her thorns, as stated in chapter 8. “One day, for instance, alluding to her four thorns, she remarked to the little prince, ‘I’m ready for tigers, with all their claws!’” (Saint-Exupéry, *The Little Prince*, 23). Of course, it is impossible for something as weak as a rose to take down a tiger, no matter how pointy her thorns are, or how many she has. She herself claims that “I am not at all afraid of tigers, but I have a horror of drafts. You wouldn’t happen to have a screen?” (Saint-Exupéry, *The Little Prince*, 23). The prince then goes to get the rose a screen to protect her from something as simple and harmless as a simple breeze. The rose herself is demonstrating her power over the prince and is ordering him to get her a screen of some sort to protect her from the “dangerous” wind. She rules over the prince, she is not afraid of even the wildest tiger and believes that she could take one down with her “strong” thorns, however, she is afraid of the wind. The irony is one of an author’s most powerful tools, it helps demonstrate the main point, while at the same time allowing for some quick humor.

In conclusion, power is shown throughout various points in the eighth chapter of *The Little Prince* by Antoine Saint-Exupéry. The author explores how power can take many forms through the influence of love, the symbolism of the vain flower, and the ironic action of the rose's strength. *The Little Prince* is a very significant story for children as well as adults, because of the comparison between them. It shows the differences in power, such as how the adults rule in authority, but the children rule in creativity and imagination. Today, there are many forms of power in society, such as leaders and governments. Those are only some of the ways power can be in the form of. Therefore, power can take many forms, whether it's a little fragile object such as the vain rose in *The Little Prince* to the largest figure of leadership.