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Imagine instead of the sun, there are lamplighters who light up the sky waking up grown ups to continue their jobs all around the world. *The Little Prince* by Antoine de Saint-Exupéry is a work of fiction. There is an aviator who thinks that grown ups are very strange because they don't have a creative imagination like his. He meets the Little Prince and the Little Prince tells the aviator his adventures starting from his home planet B-612 to asteroids and distant planets. In chapter 16, the universal theme that a community has members who share a common environment is explained through the statistical details about Earth's people, the contribution of various roles, and the cyclic nature of the working environment.

First of all, in chapter 16 community is explored through details. There is a surplus of details in this chapter of the people living on Earth. Examples are how many grown ups there are, how many jobs or occupations they have, where they are, and the order in which they wake up. In chapter 16 it states, "It contains one hundred and eleven kings (including, of course, the African kings), seven thousand geographers, nine-hundred thousand businessmen, seven-and-a-half million drunkards, three-hundred-eleven-million vain men; in other words, about two billion grown-ups." (Saint-Exupéry 47). It explains in exact numbers the grown-ups categorized in the order of the previous planet's the Little Prince visited containing one grown-up. The numbers are given to form an idea of how many grown ups are on Earth. It indicates in chapter 16, "First came the turn of the lamplighters of New Zealand and Australia;

then these, having lit their street lamps, would go home to sleep.”(Saint-Exupéry 48). Turning the lamps on or off, then going to sleep shows the order in an analytical manner of the lamplighters job. The small details such as functioning a lamp is a big part for the community, producing times and hours for example. Although details are explored throughout chapter 16 contribution also helps explain members sharing a common environment.

Second of all, community is explored all through chapter 16 because of contribution. People who lived on the planet Earth each had a job. As they all went to work they contributed to making the planet seem like our planet and how things work. In an article by Descartes is states, “I considered myself as having a face, hands, arms, and all that systems of members composed on bones and flesh as seen in a corpse which I designated by the name of body.” All the adults have the same components like a body and brain and mind but it is what they contribute on Earth that helps form their community. To name a few the geographers inform, and the kings lead. It also states in chapter 16, “Only the lamplighter of the single street lamp at the North Pole and his colleague of the single street lamp at the South Pole led carefree, idle lives: They worked twice a year.” (Saint-Exupéry 48). Even if they only work twice a year they are still contributing to keep the placement of night and day in order. In a community everybody counts even if your occupation seems of a lesser value. The contributions to Earth from the lamplighters and all the other jobs help explore a community containing members who share a common environment in chapter 16 likewise to metaphors.

Third of all, metaphors helps explain community throughout chapter 16, due to the order of which the lamplighters either turn on or off their light is metaphorical to the sun and how it generates night or day for each part of the world. The chapter with the sun says in the novel,

“First came the turn of the lamplighters of New Zealand and Australia; then these, having lit their street lamps, would go home to sleep. Next it would be the turn of the lamplighters of China and Siberia to perform their steps in the lamplighters’ ballet, and then they too would vanish into the wings.”(Saint-Exupéry 48). The sun can be metaphorically replaced by the lamplighters in their common cyclic nature to provide night and day In China when they wake up it is said that they are on time for a performance. What it refers to is that China and Siberia would be next to perform the steps in ballet. The ballet shows the timely cycle in which the lamplighters and other grown-ups oblige to go to work. In an article about creativity it states, “In middle childhood, kids sometimes create paracosms--fantasies of entire alternative worlds. Kids revisit their paracosms repeatedly, sometimes for months, and even create languages spoken there.” Just as the ballet show lamplighters perform, kids create their own shows in their mind. They create a whole different community demonstrating not all symbolized things have to be living or real. Metaphors are explored throughout chapter 16, which helps explain community by showing how something was represented or thought as.

In conclusion, this chapter’s universal theme is a community has members who share a common environment through details, contribution, and metaphors. On the planet they have businessmen, geographers, vain man, etc. just like Earth. This matters because people need to work to be a community because that is how life is like in the real-world. It is significant because the Little Prince visiting Earth, a community with members working together, differs from all the different planets he visited due to the fact that most only contained one resident living on the planet. But even so, different types of people from businessmen to vain men working together all have a common thing which is their environment.

Works cited

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