thedallasopera

THE LITTLE PRINCE

MUSIC: The Characters

Students will

- Read "The Story of the Opera" and "Our Composer, Rachel Portman"
- Read the information sheet "The Characters" included with the lesson.
- Discuss and answer questions on the appropriate portion(s) of the Activity Worksheet.

Copies for the Student

- "The Story of the Opera"
- "Our Composer, Rachel Portman"
- "The Characters"
- Activity Worksheet

Copies for the Teacher

- "The Story of the Opera"
- " Our Composer, Rachel Portman"
- "The Characters"
- Activity Worksheet

Getting Ready

Print copies of the information sheet "The Characters" and the Activity Worksheet for each student**.** Decide which section(s) of the worksheet you wish your group to complete. Gather pens, pencils, and additional writing paper as needed for your group.

Introduction

Have your students read "The Story of the Opera" and " Our Composer, Rachel Portman." Give each student a copy of the information sheet "The Characters" or display it on a screen. Read through the information, discussing each character and listening to the online selections as you go.

Guided/Independent Practice

Depending on the grade level, the ability of your students, and time constraints, you may choose to have students work as a whole class, in small groups, with a partner, or individually. Read the directions on the Activity Worksheet. Have students complete the portion(s) of the Activity Worksheet you have chosen with opportunity for questions. If students are working with a partner or

in small groups, give them time to discuss their answers before writing them down. Have students share their answers individually, or by groups, and explain why they gave their answers.

Evaluation
Have students discuss and evaluate the answers of others. After individual or small group responses have been shared and/or turned in, the class can then formulate comprehensive answers with the teacher asking leading questions to guide the discussion.

For Further Study
The teacher may want to have students further research *The Little Prince*. The teacher can also have students look into Rachel Portman and her other works. Their findings can be shared with the class at the beginning of a later lesson.

TEKS

Music

Grade 3
(5) Historical/cultural heritage. The student relates music to history, to society, and to culture. The student is expected to identify aurally-presented excerpts of music representing diverse genres, styles, periods, and cultures. (A)

Grade 4
(5) Historical/cultural heritage. The student relates music to history, to society, and to culture. The student is expected to identify aurally-presented excerpts of music representing diverse genres, styles, periods, and cultures. (A)

Grade 5
(5) Historical/cultural heritage. The student relates music to history, to society, and to culture. The student is expected to identify aurally-presented excerpts of music representing diverse genres, styles, periods, and cultures. (A)

Grade 6
(5) Historical/cultural heritage. The student relates music to history, to society, and to culture. The student is expected to describe aurally-presented music representing diverse styles, periods, and cultures. (A)

Grade 7
(5) Historical/cultural heritage. The student relates music to history, to society, and to culture. The student is expected to classify aurally-presented music representing diverse styles, periods, and culture. (A)

Grade 8
(5) Historical/cultural heritage. The student relates music to history, to society, and to culture. The student is expected to classify aurally-presented music representing diverse styles, periods, and cultures. (A)

Language Arts

Grade 3
(8) Reading/Comprehension of Literary Text/Drama. Reading/Comprehension of Literary Text/Fiction. Students understand, make inferences and draw conclusions about the structure and elements of fiction and provide evidence from text to support their understanding. Students are expected to describe the interaction of characters including their relationships and the changes they undergo. (B)

Grade 4
(6) Reading/Comprehension of Literary Text/Fiction. Students understand, make inferences and draw conclusions about the structure and elements of fiction and provide evidence from text to support their understanding. Students are expected to describe the interaction of characters including their relationships and the changes they undergo. (B)

Grade 5
(6) Reading/Comprehension of Literary Text/Fiction. Students understand, make inferences and draw conclusions about the structure and elements of fiction and provide evidence from text to support their understanding. Students are expected to explain the roles and functions of characters in various plots, including their relationships and conflicts.(B)

Grade 6
(6) Reading/Comprehension of Literary Text/Fiction. Students understand, make inferences and draw conclusions about the structure and elements of fiction and provide evidence from text to support their understanding. Students are expected to summarize the elements of plot development (e.g., rising action, turning point, climax, falling action, denouement) in various works of fiction. (B)

Grade 7
(6) Reading/Comprehension of Literary Text/Fiction. Students understand, make inferences and draw conclusions about the structure and elements of fiction and provide evidence from text to support their understanding. Students are expected to analyze the development of the plot through the internal and external responses of the characters, including their motivations and conflicts. (B)

Grade 8
(6) Comprehension of Literary Text/Fiction. Students understand, make inferences and draw conclusions about the structure and elements of fiction and provide evidence from text to support

their understanding. Students are expected to analyze how the central characters' qualities influence the theme of a fictional work and resolution of the central conflict. (B)

Correlates: Social Studies
Gardner's Intelligences: Verbal-Linguistic**,** Musical**,** Interpersonal
Bloom's Taxonomy: Knowledge, Comprehension**,** Application**,** Analysis**,** Evaluation**,** and Synthesis

Online Resources:
www.oxfordmusiconline.com
https://rachelportman.co.uk/
The Little Prince Score

The Story of the Opera

A young pilot introduces himself to the audience. He explains how grown-ups never really understood him and that now, as an adult, he earns a living soaring through the sky. The stars sing to him as he glides through the air, but, despite the pleasant atmosphere, he suddenly loses control of his plane and crashes into the Sahara Desert.

The pilot looks over the damage and begins to try and fix the plane. But just as he grabs his tools, he's interrupted by a small boy who curiously asks the pilot to draw a sheep. Though confused at first, the pilot comes to know the boy as "the Little Prince," and, slowly, the prince reveals his unusual story.

We learn the prince was once the proud owner of a tiny asteroid, where he cared for a lovely rose whom he adored but who was also very difficult to please. She challenged him to leave his home and gain more wisdom in order to be able to take care of her better, and so… he set out to visit some neighboring planets. During his travels he met several strange adults, including a king, a vain man, a drunkard, a businessman, and a lamplighter. After meeting these men, the Little Prince—not quite satisfied with what he'd discovered so far—decided to journey to planet Earth.

The prince continues his story while the pilot listens. On Earth, the prince says, he met a slithering snake who claimed that his deadly poison could "ease" all the prince's worries. The Little Prince then encountered a garden full of roses and cried at the thought that his own rose might merely be one out of a million other common flowers.

The prince resumes his tale. Soon after meeting the roses, he adds, he was comforted by a friendly fox. The fox, who begged the prince to tame her and make her his own, gently explained that everything worthwhile is invisible and that such things cannot be touched, but can only be felt with the heart. She also told him that the bonds of love are what make all things—including ordinary flowers—uniquely special.

The pilot then cuts off the prince's story, saying that the two of them will need water if they are to continue to survive in the desert. Exhausted, they travel to a spot directly beneath the prince's planet (which sits high in the night sky) and discover a well. As they collect cool water from the crystal-clear well, the pilot realizes his friendly affection for the prince and begins to understand the fox's message.

Still, the prince longs to return to his rose as he has promised. Will the tired and weary Little Prince make it home? Will the pilot be able to keep the prince's lessons in his heart if the Little Prince disappears?

Synopsis Courtesy of Washington National Opera

The Characters

The Little Prince (Asteroid 612): A little boy who leaves his home planet and his beloved rose, to journey around the universe, ending up on Earth. There, he meets a pilot and tells him of his journey to several planets and the characters he has encountered along the way.

Audio with Score: https://youtu.be/qAQyZ_3fpKc

Audio only: https://youtu.be/dCUhha8PN08?list=OLAK5uy_m08L5l7IYqQYHu7VG0T2IHxRu2tBRLFSE&t=1

The Pilot: A young pilot who suddenly loses control of his plane and crashes into the Sahara Desert. While stranded in there trying to fix his plane, he is approached by the Little Prince.

Audio with Score: https://youtu.be/zUcRT3q-27s

Audio only: https://youtu.be/9WXiMNB0uT0?list=OLAK5uy_m08L5l7IYqQYHu7VG0T2IHxRu2tBRLFSE&t=57

The Rose: A single rose who is the object of the Little Prince's affection on his planet. She challenges him to leave his home and gain more wisdom to be able to take care of her better. Throughout his travels, she is always in his thoughts and heart.

Audio with Score: https://youtu.be/pPPEeJpS0oU

Audio only: https://youtu.be/PdydNTR92_Q?list=OLAK5uy_m08L5l7IYqQYHu7VG0T2IHxRu2tBRLFSE&t=101

The Fox: The Little Prince meets the fox in the desert on Earth. She is a wise creature, who teaches the Little Prince about the essence of life. After they become friends, the fox asks the Little Prince to tame her, which he does.

Audio with Score: https://youtu.be/36exQ1nyPjA

Audio only: https://youtu.be/Wo4HMsiCFVk?list=OLAK5uy_m08L5l7IYqQYHu7VG0T2IHxRu2tBRLFSE&t=106

The Snake: The first living creature that the Little Prince encounters on the planet Earth is a snake, who speaks in riddles. The snake claims that his deadly poison could "ease" all the Little Prince's worries.

Audio with Score: https://youtu.be/7dOeJtFw-hU

Audio only: https://youtu.be/OxkVROBT7ts?list=OLAK5uy_m08L5l7IYqQYHu7VG0T2IHxRu2tBRLFSE&t=202

The Water *(off-stage singing)*: When the Little Prince and Pilot travel through the desert, they hear singing coming from water in a well they discover.

Audio only: https://youtu.be/oq__HMQaFz4?list=OLAK5uy_m08L5l7IYqQYHu7VG0T2IHxRu2tBRLFSE&t=71

**Planet names found in the book that will not be named in the opera*

The Characters *cont.*

The King: *(Asteroid 325*)*: A resident of the first planet that the Little Prince visits after leaving his own planet. The king demands that his authority be respected and does not tolerate disobedience.

Audio with Score: https://youtu.be/2aiWWRyJEN0

Audio only: https://youtu.be/4MVLnFFVjAE?list=OLAK5uy_m08L5l7IYqQYHu7VG0T2IHxRu2tBRLFSE&t=32

The Vain Man *(Asteroid 326*)*: A conceited man living on the second planet the Little Prince visits. The vain man insists that everyone else admire him. He does not listen to anything but compliments and expects the Little Prince to shower him with praise.

Audio with Score: https://youtu.be/DABIqHHHc-8

Audio only: https://youtu.be/OqlJ_7HkETA?list=OLAK5uy_m08L5l7IYqQYHu7VG0T2IHxRu2tBRLFSE

The Drunkard *(Asteroid 327*)*: Inhabitant of the third planet the little Prince visits. When the Little Prince asks the drunkard what he is doing, the drunkard tells the Little Prince that he is drinking to forget that he is ashamed of drinking.

Audio with Score: https://youtu.be/g3nmHQ0PA8o

Audio only: https://youtu.be/3LU9pWR1i4A?list=OLAK5uy_m08L5l7IYqQYHu7VG0T2IHxRu2tBRLFSE

The Businessman *(Asteroid 328*)*:
The businessman lives on the fourth planet the Little Prince visits. The businessman always sits and counts stars on his planet. He thinks that he owns the stars, making him rich. The Little Prince explains to the businessman that he is of no use at all to the stars that he owns.

Audio with Score: https://youtu.be/mcWdYdXtfg4

Audio only: https://youtu.be/j1sHG_DlOxo?list=OLAK5uy_m08L5l7IYqQYHu7VG0T2IHxRu2tBRLFSE

The Lamplighter *(Asteroid 329*)*: A resident of the planet the Little Prince visits after leaving the businessman. On this planet, the lamplighter's job is to light and put out a lamp. He thinks that he has a terrible job because he must light the lamp once every minute so that his planet can make a complete turn every sixty seconds. The Little Prince, however, admires his dedication.

Audio with Score: https://youtu.be/KQlScLMqzIM

Audio only: https://youtu.be/8nTuEjQAK8o?list=OLAK5uy_m08L5l7IYqQYHu7VG0T2IHxRu2tBRLFSE&t=37

**Planet names found in the book that will not be named in the opera*

Our Composer, Rachel Portman

Born in West Sussex, Rachel began composing at the age of 14 and read music at the University of Oxford, where she became interested in writing music for student films and theatre productions. She gained experience writing music for drama in BBC and Channel 4 films, including ORANGES ARE NOT THE ONLY FRUIT, Mike Leigh's FOUR DAYS IN JULY, and Jim Henson's STORYTELLER series.

Rachel recently completed THE RETURN and also, WE WERE THE LUCKY ONES for Hulu which she co-composed with Jon Ehrlich.

Rachel became the first female composer to win an Academy Award, which she received for the score of EMMA. She was also the first female composer to win an Emmy Award, which she received for the film BESSIE. In 2023 she received her second Emmy for JULIA. She has received two further Academy Nominations for THE CIDER HOUSE RULES and CHOCOLAT, which also earned her a Golden Globe Nomination.

She has scored over a hundred films including THE DUCHESS, CHOCOLAT, OLIVER TWIST, ONE DAY, BELOVED, MANCHURIAN CANDIDATE, EMMA, A DOG'S PURPOSE, THE VOW, RACE, DOLPHIN TALE 2, DESPITE THE FALLING SNOW, GODMOTHERED, BELLE, THE RETURN, LIFE IS SWEET, HART'S WAR, ONLY YOU, THEIR FINEST, THE LEGEND OF BAGGER VANCE, BENNY AND JOON, NEVER LET ME GO, BEL AMI, RATCATCHER, GREY GARDENS, SNOW FLOWER AND THE SECRET FAN, THE LAKE HOUSE, BESSIE SMOKE, INFAMOUS, MONA LISA SMILE, PALOOKAVILLE, WAR OF THE BUTTONS, THE HUMAN STAIN and THE CIDER HOUSE RULES.

Rachel has also written an opera by Saint Exupery's, THE LITTLE PRINCE for Houston Grand Opera as well as several concert and stage commissions including a musical of LITTLE HOUSE ON THE PRAIRIE.

For the BBC PROMS she wrote THE WATER DIVINER, a dramatic choral symphony. She also wrote ENDANGERED performed at the National Centre for the Performing Arts, Beijing, EARTH SONG for the BBC Singers, and for Joyce Di Donato, THE FIRST MORNING OF THE WORLD as part of her EDEN programme. Other recent works include TIPPING POINTS, a violin concerto performed by Niklas Leipe with WDR Orchestra Germany/Noorlands Operan, Sweden.

Rachel has released two piano albums - ASK THE RIVER (2020) and BEYOND THE SCREEN (2023) the latter which features some of her most cherished film music for solo piano and cello. Given an OBE in 2010, Rachel is an honorary fellow of Worcester College, Oxford, and a Fellow of the Royal College of Music.

Name_____ Date_____

Part I

Activity Worksheet

1. Who are the protagonist and antagonist of the story? Give examples from the plot to support your answers. *(There may be more than one of each.)*

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2. If you could set this story in any time period, which would you choose and why?

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3. What do you like about The Little Prince's character? What do you dislike?

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4. Do any of the characters remind you of someone in your life? Which character and why?

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5. Create your own character and their home planet. Some questions to consider:
   - What are they wearing?
   - What do they spend their time doing or what do they care about?
   - What is unique about their planet?
   - What would their music sound like? (spooky, funny, loud, etc.)

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Part II

For Deeper Exploration

What are some of the lessons you think the Little Prince learns from the characters he meets?