

Little Prince / Geographer

GEOGRAPHER. A geographer. (*Pronounced "geographuh."*)

LITTLE PRINCE. What is a geographuh?

GEOGRAPHER. A geographer is a scholar who knows the locations of all the seas, rivers, towns, mountains and deserts.

LITTLE PRINCE. That's very interesting. Your planet is beautiful. Does it have any oceans?

GEOGRAPHER. I couldn't tell you.

LITTLE PRINCE. Ah. Has it any mountains?

GEOGRAPHER. Don't know.

LITTLE PRINCE. What about towns, rivers and deserts?
(*The GEOGRAPHER shakes his head.*) But you're a geographer!

THE LITTLE PRINCE – the play

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GEOGRAPHER. Exactly. But I am *not* an explorer. Explorers count the towns, rivers, mountains, seas, oceans and deserts. Geographers are much too important to do that. We stay at our desks and record what the explorers recall of their travels. (*Music ends.*) Why, I recognize you now—you're an explorer! You can describe my planet to me. No. Wait. You come from far away. Describe *your* planet to me.

LITTLE PRINCE. Well... I have a flower. She's the most beautiful thing on my planet.

GEOGRAPHER. We don't record flowers.

LITTLE PRINCE. Why not?

GEOGRAPHER. Because they are ephemeral.

LITTLE PRINCE. What does that mean—ephemeral?

GEOGRAPHER. It means "in danger of speedy disappearance."

AVIATOR (*reflectively*). In danger of speedy disappearance...

LITTLE PRINCE. My flower is in danger of speedy disappearance?

GEOGRAPHER. Certainly it is.

LITTLE PRINCE. My flower is ephemeral, and she has only four thorns to defend herself against the world and I have left her on my planet all alone! What do I do?

GEOGRAPHER. Why don't you visit the planet Earth? I hear it has a good reputation.