A pilot recalls his childhood drawing of a boa constrictor digesting an elephant, which adults mistook for a hat. This misunderstanding leads him to abandon his artistic dreams, as adults fail to grasp the imagination and depth of a child's perspective. The pilot grows up, becomes a pilot, and remains skeptical of adults who lack understanding and imagination. This sets the stage for his encounter with the Little Prince, who will challenge his views and rekindle his sense of wonder.

The pilot crashes in the Sahara Desert and meets the Little Prince, a mysterious boy who asks him to draw a sheep. Despite the pilot's initial reluctance, he complies, and the Little Prince is delighted with a drawing of a box, claiming the sheep is inside. This encounter marks the beginning of their friendship and the pilot's journey into the Little Prince's world, where imagination and simplicity hold profound truths.

The Little Prince reveals he comes from a tiny asteroid, B-612, where he tends to his planet and a unique rose. His journey to Earth is driven by curiosity and a desire to understand the complexities of life. Through their conversations, the pilot learns about the Little Prince's adventures and the lessons he has gathered from various planets, each inhabited by peculiar adults representing different human flaws.

The Little Prince explains the danger of baobabs, which can overrun his small planet if not carefully managed. This metaphor highlights the importance of responsibility and discipline in life. The Little Prince's dedication to his planet's upkeep reflects his understanding of the need to address problems before they grow out of control, a lesson he imparts to the pilot and, by extension, to the reader.

The Little Prince shares his experiences with a vain and demanding rose on his planet. Despite her thorns and vanity, he loves her deeply. This relationship teaches him about love, vulnerability, and the importance of looking beyond superficial flaws to appreciate the essence of someone. The rose's complexity mirrors the intricacies of human relationships, emphasizing the need for understanding and patience.

The Little Prince visits several planets, each inhabited by a single adult embodying a particular vice or folly, such as a king, a conceited man, a tippler, a businessman, and a lamplighter. These encounters serve as a critique of adult behavior, highlighting the absurdity of their obsessions and the loss of childlike wonder. Through these visits, the Little Prince gains insights into human nature and the importance of maintaining a sense of curiosity and imagination.

On Earth, the Little Prince meets a fox who teaches him about taming and forming meaningful connections. The fox explains that true understanding comes from investing time and effort into relationships, making them unique and valuable. This lesson resonates with the Little Prince, reinforcing the significance of his bond with his rose and the pilot. The fox's wisdom underscores the theme of love and responsibility in the story.

The Little Prince explores Earth, encountering various creatures and landscapes, each offering new perspectives. He learns about the transient nature of life and the beauty found in simple things. These experiences deepen his understanding of his own feelings and the importance of cherishing what is truly valuable. The Earth's diversity and complexity provide a backdrop for the Little Prince's introspection and growth.

The Little Prince prepares to return to his asteroid, leaving the pilot with a profound sense of loss and newfound appreciation for life's intangible treasures. Their farewell is bittersweet, as the Little Prince's departure symbolizes the end of innocence and the acceptance of life's inevitable changes. The pilot is left with the memory of their friendship and the lessons learned, which continue to resonate long after the Little Prince is gone.