

SELF-DISCOVERIES IN THE LITTLE PRINCE BY ANTOINE DE EXUPÉRY: A JUNGIAN ANALYSIS

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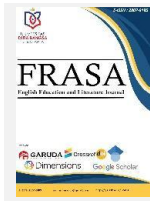
Abstract

Self-discovery or individuation is a lifelong process that leads one self into their true self by emerging different elements of their psyche as well as their conscious and unconscious state. Seen through Jungian archetypes, individuation leads to understanding of one self-based on self-exploration to aim for originality, inner harmony, and maturity. This understanding of the individuation process can be seen in The Little Prince by Antoine de Saint-Exupéry. To assist the young selves, this research focuses on the representation of self-discoveries through the journey of the little prince. Through his journey, the little prince also showed self-exploration and understanding by meeting other characters in the story. Using the descriptive qualitative method, this study will focus on the representation of the individuation process in the story of The Little Prince novel. The purpose of this research is to help the young selves to understand the importance of understanding the true meaning of their lives through the representation in The Little Prince novel. Through the lens of Jung's Individuation, The Little Prince could be seen as a symbolic narrative of a self-realization journey that is reflected through every encounter of the characters throughout the story.

Keywords: *Self-discoveries, Individuation process, Archetypes, Carl Jung, Little Prince*

INTRODUCTION

Self-discovery or also known as individuation is a lifelong process that leads one self into their true self by emerging different elements of their psyche as well as their conscious and unconscious state (Rahmansyah, 2025). Self-discovery is a process that also can be understood through Carl Jung's archetypes theory, through the lens of individuation. Introduced by Jung, the discussion starts by contextualising archetypes as universal symbols that mould psychological development and personal identity. Based on Jung, individuation is a process of becoming your true self, embracing uniqueness, discovering, and accepting personal self without being followed by ego (Jung, 1969). Jung considered the Self as the core of a human's personality, in conscious and unconscious



aspects as it represents the capacity of the human's mind to be related to the learning process within self-developments (Alcaro et al., 2017).

The individuation process itself could be seen through the use of the Jungian archetypes model. According to Jung, the archetypes are the interpretation of the human psyche which is contained in every human psyche within their life (Jung, 1959). Furthermore, the representation of character's development could be analysed through the archetypes and individuation process (Kılıç, V, 2023).

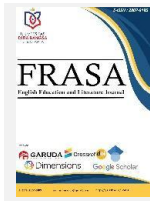
According to Jung the archetypes are symbols that formed into the collective unconscious, which are also formed by instincts, behaviour patterns, thinking and experiences that are physically inherited from our ancestors. According to Jung (1981), The theme of the archetypal images are also the same for all cultures from different ages, races, and cultures and the correlation to the phylogenetic conditioned part of human structure. In the Jungian concept, archetypes are deep, repetitive, meaningful actions within the human mind's system that form a core collective memory which can be understood through various fields (Erdenechuluun, 2025).

The study of individuation has been analysed before by Setayesh (2017), with the title "*A Jungian Interpretation of The Little Prince.*" In this study, Setayesh found that the individuation process begins with the four archetypes such as the Persona, the Shadow, the Anima, and the Self. In the study, Setayesh only used a few of the characters from *The Little Prince*, such as the Little Prince himself, the Narrator, and the Rose, while the other characters does not exist. The studies focus on the individuation process that can be found in *The Little Prince* novel. The writer stated that in this literary work, the individuation process could be found not only from the Little Prince character, but also from the Narrator himself. Yet, this paper didn't put the evidence from the book to prove their statement.

Furthermore, in the "*The Archetypal Types based on Jungian's Psychology in Madura Tales,*" by Diana, P. N., Harits, I. W., & Chudy, S. (2022), analysed several archetypes of Jungian's theory. In the study, the writers analysed the archetypes of the characters through their behaviour, attitude, and emotion. Even though the topic of individuation process had been mentioned in the introduction, the focus of the study is referring to the archetypes analysis of the chosen story. The writers had explained not only the base of the archetypes such as the self, the persona, and the shadows, but they also explained about the hero, the king, et cetera.

On the other hand, this study will focus on the importance of understanding the true self, specifically from the point of view of adolescents through the concept of Jungian individuation process through the lens of Jungian archetypes. According to Jung in Santoso (2017), the unconscious contains the archetypes and the collective unconscious which would lead to an individuation process. The archetypes throughout human revolution created nurtured and collective unconscious patterns that happened in the past (Santoso, 2017). The concept of archetypes itself is important to understand the symbols which could be implied to have a universal meaning that could be applied to everyone (Tumengga et al., 2023).

The journey of individuation according to the Jungian model is examined from the formation of the Ego that emerged into the Self. It emphasizes that the individuation



process is not only based on self-exploration, and understanding but also a way to obtain originality, inner harmony, and maturity (Chorna, 2025).

The individuation process of human behaviours that analysed based on archetypes method are usually focused on artistic products or literary works (AYDIN, 2023). Literary work itself is a public artifact that is also part of human cultures which makes it related to human mind and behaviour that could be interpreted as interaction through the literary aspects (Hanson-Park, 2023). According to Jung, collective unconscious which later referred to archetypes are at first manifested in folklore and mythology, that could take on various forms of meanings throughout human history (Nasir, 2025).

In this study, the focus would be on Antoine de Saint-Exupéry's *The Little Prince*. Antoine de Saint-Exupéry's *The Little Prince* is a children's book that tells the story of the little prince himself, wandering through the earth and galaxies to understand the meaning of life by the thoughts of adult figures and the creatures on earth. From the story, the writer will highlight the importance of The little prince's point of view, and how his understanding will change through the story. Not only through the character of The little prince, the researcher will also analyse the archetypes of the characters, such as the Narrator, the Rose, the Fox, the Snake, and their influence on The little prince individuation.

Examining through the protagonist's journey, this research uses Jungian theory which is central to the individuation process. The journey delves into themes of love, loss, and the search for meaning that can lead to gain insight into the paths toward self-understanding. This research offers deeper understanding and a process-oriented view of *The Little Prince* by Antoine de Saint-Exupéry by framing the narrative as a mapped pathway of individuation stages instead of symbolic episodes.

METHOD

In this research, the method used is a descriptive qualitative method. With this method, the researcher described the issues and understanding of the study. Through the descriptive qualitative method, the researcher is implementing in the description form, by explaining the individuation process and archetypal development through the protagonist's journey in the novel *The Little Prince* by Antoine de Saint-Exupéry. The researcher conducted the use of descriptive qualitative methods, because the research was conducted by data collection or words. As stated by Moleong (2005:4),

Moleong had stated that the qualitative descriptive method is an approach which uses words and pictures to be collected as the source data in a research. The data could be collected by doing the interviews, field observations, pictures, video tape, personal documentations, notes, or other kinds of documents (Moleong, 2005).

The methodology analyses the roles of each character that lead the protagonist in the individuation process through the story. The purpose of this research is to analyse the importance of understanding true self without being followed by ego with the self-becoming the center of one personality to reach the best version of one self. In this study, the primary data is from the book *"The Little Prince"* by Antoine de Saint-Exupéry, while the secondary data are from journals and articles.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The Archetypes and the Individuation Process of the Characters

In *The Little Prince*, the presence of the individuation process could be seen through every encounter of the characters that appears in the story. Each encounter and interaction would lead the main character, the little prince, to the journey of self-realization which he sought. There are some specific encounters with the characters that could be categorised through Jungian archetypes that lead into individuation. In this research, the evidences of the analysis were found in the narrations and dialogues that explained as follows:

Table 1. The Archetypes of the Characters

No	Archetypes	Character	Data
1	Hero	The Little Prince	3
2	Wise Old Man	The Fox	2
3	Caregiver	Narrator	3
4	Lover	The Rose	2
5	Anti-Hero	The Snake	2
Total			12

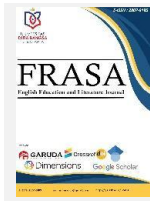
Table 2. The Individuation Process

No	Archetypes	Character	Data
1	Self	The Little Prince	2
2	Persona	Narrator	3
3	Shadow	The Snake	3
Total			8

Based on the analysis of *The Little Prince* by Antoine de Saint-Exupéry, the findings are categorized into two analytical dimensions those are the distribution of archetypal roles and the representation of the individuation process within a Jungian framework.

As shown in Table 1, five archetypes were identified those are Hero, Wise Old Man, Caregiver, Lover, and Anti-Hero with a total frequency of 12 occurrences. The Hero (the Little Prince) and the Caregiver (the Narrator) demonstrate the highest frequency (3 occurrences each), indicating their structural prominence in the narrative. This suggests that the protagonist's psychological development is primarily mediated through self-driven exploration and relational support. In contrast, the Wise Old Man (the Fox), the Lover (the Rose), and the Anti-Hero (the Snake), each with 2 occurrences, function as secondary yet essential archetypal agents that introduce knowledge, affective attachment, and existential conflict.

Furthermore, Table 2 illustrates the individuation process through three principal Jungian constructs: the Self, Persona, and Shadow, with a total of 8 occurrences. The Persona (Narrator) and Shadow (Snake) are the most dominant (3 occurrences each), reflecting the salience of external social identity and repressed unconscious elements in the narrative



structure. Meanwhile, the Self (Little Prince), with 2 occurrences, appears as an emergent construct, indicating that psychological integration is not immediately given but progressively achieved through experiential encounters.

Overall, the findings suggest that individuation is represented as a dynamic and dialectical process, shaped by the interaction between external archetypal roles and internal psychic structures. This distribution provides an empirical basis for interpreting how the protagonist's journey facilitates the gradual integration of consciousness and unconsciousness, as further elaborated in the discussion section.

DISCUSSION

The archetypes of the characters

Archetypes are natural, spontaneous psychological patterns, symbols, or images that exist in the collective unconscious part of the brain which are not affected by any external influences (Sun et al., 2024). Based on this understanding, it can be concluded that archetypes are a form of behaviour patterns that are shaped through human experiences, and mind.

From the story of *The Little Prince*, there are also several archetypes that can be recognised:

The Hero

The hero archetype represents the self who is on a journey to discover identity, purpose, and triumph over adversity that also embodies courage, sacrifice, and self-realization in one self (Muslim et al., 2025). Which makes the Little Prince become suitable for the character that represented the hero archetype of the story.

The Little Prince is a little boy who lives on the B612 planet, which is not much bigger than himself. He lives peacefully with his volcanoes and the baobabs, until one day, a rose grows in his land. Once they get to know each other, he gets into arguments with the rose and makes him feel disappointed in her. By this misunderstanding and hint of guilt, the little prince left his planet, and wandered from one planet to another with the hope of finding friends to fill his loneliness.

"He lived in the vicinity of Asteroids 325, 326, 327, 328, 329, and 330. So he began by paying them a visit, in search of knowledge, and something to do." (pg 32)

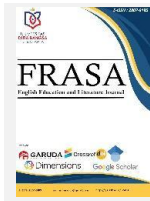
The quotation above showed that the little prince faced a journey by visiting the other planets around his own to seek knowledge. This characteristic shows the curiosity of the little prince that leads him to a journey of self-discovery and could be considered as the hero's characteristic of the archetype.

"What brings you here?"

"I have some troubles with a flower," said the little prince. (pg 56)

The journey of the little prince itself is fuelled by the arguments he had with the rose. Which later would fuel further into the little prince's inner guilt. In the quotation above, shown a line where the little prince explained his reason for leaving the planet he lived in and visited the earth to the snake.

"That man would be despised by all the others, by the king, the conceited man, the drinker, and the businessman. And yet, he's the only one who doesn't strike me as



ridiculous. Perhaps it's because he takes care of something other than himself."
(pg 49)

The quotations above are showing the meeting of the little prince with the lamplighter which also changed the little prince's way of seeing an adult that he used to feel confused with.

In the first quotation narrative in the result, it stated that the prince was visiting the other planets around him with the goal of seeking knowledge. This behaviour is a proof of the hero's behaviour in the little prince's character. As he does not hesitate to leave the comfort of his routines, just to find deeper understanding in life. Even with the inner turmoil that haunted him, the little prince continued his journey and met other characters that slowly opened his mind. One of the characters is the lamplighter, who changed his point of view of adults. The little prince used to think that every adult is too strict and selfish. But the lamplighter makes him understand that some adults are also understanding, and responsible for their surroundings.

From the analysis above, it could be concluded that the little prince met the other characters and gained new understanding from different perspectives through the journey. Which also proves the evidence of the little prince as the hero archetype. He slowly understands the mindsets of adults, even while still weighted by the guilt of leaving his rose.

The Wise Old Man

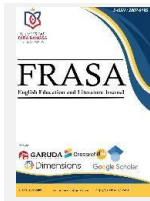
The wise old man is an archetype that represents knowledge, and wisdom which is usually shown as a helper or mentor figure to the hero (Dewi et al., 2024). In his journey, the Little Prince visited the earth as his last stop. There he met the fox who wanted to be tamed. To be tamed here could be interpreted as becoming friends. At last, the Little Prince successfully approached and tamed the fox, became friends and became important to each other. From this meeting with the fox, and his wise advice, the little prince now understands the importance of bond or connection.

"As far as I'm concerned, you are just another little boy, no different from a hundred thousand other little boys, I don't need you. And you don't need me either. As far as you are concerned, I'm just a fox like a hundred thousand foxes, but if you tame me, we'll need one another. You will be unique in the world for me. I will be unique in the world for you..." (pg. 64)

These lines show the fox's statement about the importance of bonding. The little prince previously stated that he wanted to find friends, and in this encounter the fox showed that to be friends, he needs to be patient, and understand each other better. To be tame is to be friends, to understand one another that makes them unique and one of a kind. The Little prince who wondered about the importance of relationships is now reaching into understanding that what makes someone special to the other is how they connected through stronger bonds.

"Here is my secret. It's very simple: you can only see clearly with your heart. What's essential is invisible to the eye." (pg. 70)

These lines showed one of the strong influences that the fox planted in the little prince's mind. The fox also told the little prince one of the most important pieces of advice



that later helped him to understand the bad intention of the snake. The line "What essential is invisible to eyes," helps the little prince realise that under the sweet mask of someone he encounters, there might be another intention behind it. An advice to be more vigilant of what was not visible to the eyes was the one that led the little prince into realization of the snake's bad intention.

"People have forgotten this truth," said the fox. "But you mustn't forget it. You become responsible forever for what you have tamed. You are responsible for your rose."

After leaving his planet, the little prince is haunted by the guilt of leaving the rose alone. But, at the same time he also did not realise the wrongness of his action yet. In this line, the fox was telling the little prince about the importance of responsibility, which also answers the little prince's inner turmoil. As it is stated in the beginning that he was haunted by guilt for leaving his rose on his planet. With this advice from the fox, he finally realised that he has to go back to planet B612 and take the responsibilities for the rose.

From the analysis above, it shows that the little prince always takes the advice of the fox, and how every advice brings great influence to the little prince. This action showed that the fox has the behaviour of the wise old man.

The Caregiver

The caregiver or also could be the mother archetype represents caring without condition, loving, and showing nurturing side, which could appear in female or male figures (Dewi et al., 2024). There is another character that the little prince had met on earth that is known as the narrator or the pilot. The narrator is the character that brought the story from the beginning. He is also the character that the little prince always leans on, and nurtures him through the story.

The narrator not only takes part of the storyteller, but he also cares about the little prince that he dedicates the whole story for him. The narrator is always by the little prince's side until the end of his time on earth.

"As the little prince was falling asleep, I took him in my arms, and set off again. I was moved. I felt I was carrying a fragile treasure" (pg 74)

In this line, the narrator was showing his care to the little prince. By cradling him in his arms and stating how precious the little prince was to him, the narrator showed the nurturing side to the main character.

"I didn't want him to strain himself. "Let me do it," I said to him. "It's too heavy for you." (pg 76)

This line above is another evidence of the narrator's nurturing and caring side, by saying that he didn't want the little prince to exhaust himself. This showed that the narrator deeply cares about the little prince's well-being by taking care of him genuinely.

"And I understood what he had been looking for! I lifted the bucket to his lips. He drank, with his eyes closed." (pg 76)

The lines above are showing the scene where the narrator found a well. By understanding the little prince's needs, the narrator never hesitates to prioritise the little prince's well-being, which is also the characteristic of the caregiver.



Even as a male, the narrator never hesitates to prioritise the little prince and always grants his wishes. He even instantly understands what the little prince actually needs and never hesitates to take care of him. This protective and caring action of the narrator makes him fit the role of the caregiver in the story.

The Lover

The lover is a figure with the opposite gender of the hero that bonds in deep connection and strong influence romantically. This characteristic fitted the character of the rose that also became very important to the little prince. Despite her presence that only appears in one chapter of the story, the rose influence was haunting the little prince's mind until the end of the story.

"No one could die for you. To an ordinary passer-by, of course, my own rose would look no different. But she on her own is more important than all of you, because she's the one that I've watered. Because she's the one that I put under a cloche. Because she's the one I sheltered with a screen. Because she's the one for whom I killed caterpillars (apart from two or three, for the butterflies). Because she's the one I listen to complaining, or boasting, or even sometimes being silent. Because she is my rose." (pg. 68)

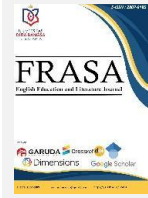
In the encounter shown in the quotation above, the little prince stated about how he took care of his rose. The little prince stated that the rose might not be so different from other roses from its appearance. But, what makes her different is the time they have spent together. That he always genuinely cares about her which makes her special to him. Not because of its beauty, but because it was his rose. He is always taking care of her, making sure that she was always safe, the little prince always admitted how precious she is to him.

Even with the misunderstanding and arguments that happened between them, he was still making sure that she would be safe and sound. Yet, different from the narrator's concern for him that nurturing, the little prince's treatment of the rose was based on romantic feelings between them. This action symbolised the little prince's love towards the rose, and how she meant so much to him.

"I got it all wrong! I should have judged her on her deeds and not for her words. She gave me fragrance and light. I should have never run away! I should have noticed the tenderness behind her feeble wiles. Flowers are so contradictory! but I was too young to know how to love her." (pg. 29)

To strengthen more of the statement, the quotation above also shows the evidence that the rose is the lover of the little prince. Even after the arguments they had, the little prince finally realised the truth of his feelings.

In the book, the little prince admitted that he was too young to know how to love her. As the two parties still keep their ego high, preventing them from understanding the deeper meaning of their feelings. They are still too proud to admit their mistake, and lead them into arguments that separated them. It could be concluded that the rose has a great effect on the little prince, and how she was adored so deeply. This makes the rose considered as the lover archetype of the story.



The Anti-Hero

Anti-hero is the archetype that usually stands in a grey area. The anti-hero has the greatness qualities of a hero, but is also haunted by their own self-doubt and flaws. The anti-hero is a complex character that lacks of heroic qualities such as the desire to help others (Khare, 2024).

In the story, the little prince also met a character that stood on the grey area. The character is the snake, that seems nice at the beginning but also leads to the little prince's death. The snake claimed that it could help the little prince back to his planet, to meet his rose. Despite its action to help the little prince to his planet, the snake's true intention was to put the little prince to death. With the contradiction of the Snake's statement to help and its true intention to destroy; this makes the Snakes placed in the anti-hero archetype. There are some evidence that shows the snake contradictory character;

"Whoever I touch, I return to the ground whence they came," it continued. "But you are pure and come from a star..." (pg. 56)

In these lines, the snake's statements show two contradictory intentions. The first line is showing how dangerous he could be, while the second line stated that the little prince did not deserve his cruelty. The line "whoever I touch, I return to the ground where they came," means that it would bite whoever it meets and poison them to death. But, as the snake spoke in riddles, which the little prince did not catch the true intention until it was too late.

"I'm telling you this...also because of the snake. He mustn't bite you...Snakes are cruel. They can bite for the fun of it..."

"I won't leave you" But something reassure him:

"It's true they have no venom left for the second bite..." (pg 84)

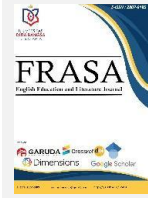
These lines were showing the scene, where the little prince already realised that the snake was never meant to help him but to kill. The statement became evidence that the snake complex.

From the beginning, the snake was never meant to help the little prince. He only talks sweetly and promised to help him, and gain his trust. So, at the end, he trapped the little prince in his plan, and killed him for fun. The sweet facade at the start was never meant as kindness but always to harm him.

In other words, this could make the snake represent the anti-hero archetype. As its presence also confuses the main character—the little prince to destroy him. This malicious actions of the snake are showing the behaviour of the anti-hero.

The individuation process

The goal of the individuation process according to Jung is the integration of the personality of one individual (Jones, 2020). Based on the object of this study, there are three archetypes that could be used to explain the process of individuation or self discovery. The archetypes are the self, the persona, and the shadow. These archetypes are suitable for the individuation process because of the characteristics that could lead into the individuation process. The analysis would be divided into four parts:



The Self

Jung believed that every person has inherited a tendency to grow, move forward, and go through self-discovery which he called as the self (Rizakiah et al., 2018). In the story, the self-archetype is represented by the main character of the story, The Little Prince. The main goal of this archetype is to gain the individuation process, which merges between ego and unconscious into a whole united self.

"The stars are different for different people. To some, those who travel, the stars are guides. To others, they are just little lights. To others, who are scientists, they are problems. To my businessman they were gold. But all of those stars are silent. You, you will have stars unlike anyone else's..." (pg 83)

The quotations above show the mindset change of the little prince, from a naive child to be more mature and understanding. Talking about the stars, and remembering the encounter with other characters, the little prince stated deeper understanding and showed a form of self-discovery from his journey.

In this scene, the little prince explained the meaning of stars from his perspective. He stated that the stars could have different meanings for every person. One could have deeper meaning, while one could mean nothing. While as for him, the stars would mean different things to the narrator. The little prince wanted the narrator to remember their happy memories by representing it through the stars in the sky.

"You know...my flower...I'm responsible for her! And she's so feeble! And she's so naive . She has four piffling thorns to protect her against the world" (pg 86)

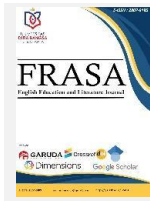
At the beginning of the story, the little prince was described as someone too innocent, and naive that he doesn't understand much about life. But from the quotation above, it shows that through the journey, the little prince discovers the deeper meaning of life and understands his responsibilities—especially to the rose that he cares the most.

The explanation above shows how the little prince who once used to be innocent and childish, now could be more mature and wiser when it comes to processing emotions. He did not want the narrator to drown in grief and be unable to continue his life just because of his death. Even at the beginning of the story he used to show innocents and lack of adult mindset understanding.

The whole journey, the little prince always wondered why the rose behaved the way she was, and how he was haunted by guilt for leaving her alone on his planet. But, in this scene, the little prince finally admitted that he was responsible for his rose. This shows that the little prince finally discovers a deeper understanding of his emotions and consciously admits his mistakes in the past. He never changes his creative and child-like personality, but also discovers the self that he had questioned at the beginning of the story.

The Persona

The persona archetype is a social mask that one self uses to display their role in representing cultural stereotypes to be accepted by society (Li et al., 2023). Persona is the opposite of the shadow where the character that represents this archetype would choose to change themselves to fit the society's standard. This characteristic fits the description of the narrator's character. This could be seen through the narrative below;



"Having to choose another profession, I learnt to fly planes. I flew a little all over the world. And it's true that geography served me well." (pg 6)

In these lines, he stated that he needed to choose another profession rather than choosing the one he truly wanted which showed a strong characteristic of the persona. The action symbolises the social mask he wears just to be fitted with the cultural stereotypes of the society.

"When a mystery is too overpowering, one dare not disobey. Absurd as it might seem to me a thousand miles from any human habitation and danger of death, I took out my pocket sheet of paper and my fountain-pen. But then I remembered how my study had been concentrated on geography, history, arithmetic and grammar, and I told my chap (a little crossly too) that I did not know how to draw." (pg 8)

In these lines, he also showed the evidence of changing his true self—that used to love drawing by learning another subject that was accepted in the unwritten rules of society. This action led to the sign of losing his true old self.

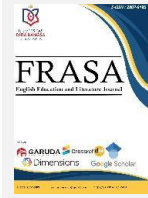
In this scene, the narrator was stated about his dilemma of keeping his true self and the one that fitted the society standard. He once stated that he had to choose another profession that was not what he wanted, because of the stereotype in the society. The adults, as said by the narrator, usually lack of imaginations. They are always serious and prefer numbers rather than figures. As one of the lines stated, *"When the mystery is too overpowering, one dares not to disobey,"* symbolises the unwritten rules in the society that no one dares to break. This becomes the reason for the narrator to wear a social mask just to fit in.

"And I might become like grown-ups who are only interested in numbers. This is why I've bought a box of watercolours and pencils. It's hard to take up drawing again, at my age, when you've only ever attempted open and closed boa constrictors at the age of six." (pg 16)

In these lines, the narrator showed his frustration of losing his old self and was trying to gain it back. But behaving differently for too long makes him become the self that is accepted in the society. In this scene, the narrator stated that he was also trying to change back to his true self by bringing watercolours and pencils with him. But with the weight of society expectations, and the period of time he wears the social mask, make him unable to bring back the joy he used to be.

Even though the narrator used to be someone who loves drawing, he grew up learning about subjects that were more acceptable to society. Such as arithmetic, grammar, geography, history, and other subjects that focus on logic and number. While he secretly prefers arts and more imaginative subjects.

This explanation shows how much his behaviour was affected by society, and how the narrator suited the description of the persona archetype. The way he grew up became more logical rather than imaginative like he used to be when he was younger.



The Shadow

Shadow archetype is the archetype that shapes from repression or darkness which we wish not to acknowledge or shown to others (ÖZATA, 2021). It usually shows the negative thought, personality, or desire of one self that could not be acknowledged by the ego. The opposite of persona, the shadows usually would not change their personalities just to be able to fit the society's expectations. In the story, the shadow archetype is represented by the snake. These could be shown from the quotations below;

"You move me to pity—you are so weak in this Earth of granite," the snake said. (pg 56)

In this line, the snake showed an arrogance of himself by saying that the little prince is too weak than him. The disrespectful behaviour of the snake is clearly unacceptable by the stereotypes in the society, which makes him become the shadow.

Based on the quotations above, the snake is showing an arrogant personality by thinking that he was stronger than the little prince. This behaviour was not suitable in the stereotypes of society. Not only being arrogant, the snake also acts maliciously by hiding his true intention to harm the little prince.

"Oh! I've understood well enough," said the little prince, "But why do you always talk in riddles?"

"I solved them all," said the snake. (pg 58)

While in these quotations, the snake openly admitted that he talked in riddles which would confuse other characters that were interacting with him. His action of confinement is a form of mask or the repression of his true intention. By acting sweet and claiming that he would help the prince to go back to his planet, the snake trapped him with lies and fake promises. This plan is being achieved by talking in riddles, making the little prince confused with his true intention.

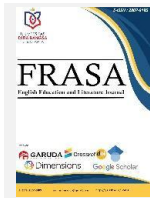
"I'm telling you this...also because of the snake. He mustn't bite you...Snakes are cruel. They can bite for the fun of it..." (pg 84)

The lines above, stated by the little prince who warns the narrator about the cruelty of the snake. This became another evident of the shadow behaviour in the snake's character.

In one scene, the snake stated that he talked in riddles because he already solved them all. This symbolised that the only one that understands the true meaning of his statement is himself. This action that confuses others is a form of repression by hiding his true intention. At the moment the little prince realised the snake's bad intention, the plan was already done. The snake successfully tricked him, and put him to death by poison. This action of the snake shows the characteristic of the shadow that is a form of his repressed self.

Self-discovery in The Little Prince

Individuation or self-discovery is a process of self-understanding, embracing the true self and uniqueness by accepting the self without being followed by ego. The individuation process could happen when the character is going through a journey where they experience certain events that lead into deeper understanding of themselves. In *The*



Little Prince by Antoine de Saint-Exupéry, the little prince had experienced an individuation or self-discovery in the end of his journey.

As it is shown in the explanation above, it could be concluded that the little prince had been through the individuation process through his journey. In the self-archetypes, the little prince once showed how mature his mindset had become. As he did not want the narrator to be drowned in grief after his passing. He also finally understands the deep emotion he had been feeling for his rose, that he is responsible for her.

In the beginning of the story, he had mentioned that the little prince's purpose of his journey is to gain new knowledge and meet new friends.

"But I don't have much time. I have friends to find and lots of things to learn"
(pg 65)

This statement was said by the little prince to the fox at their first meeting. The little prince has shown his excitement and curiosity through the goal that he said in this journey. Which later in the story, he did meet new people, and listen to the way they see the world.

"Grown-ups are really strange," the little prince thought to himself on his travels.
(pg 37)

The little prince had stated when he first met the king, about how confused he is with the way adults think and see the world. Later, he kept repeating the same confusion. Until he reached the last planet before earth where he met the lamplighter. There he admitted that the lamplighter man is the only one that could be his friend, because the man did not only think of himself. Yet, the planet was too small, so the little prince finally decided to leave.

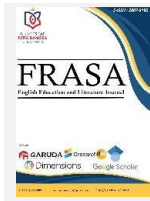
After a long time of wandering through some planets and galaxies until he landed on earth as his final destination. There he met other characters such as the fox, the narrator, the snake, even other roses that make him feel even more betrayed by his rose. As his rose once stated that she is the only one of her kind. But, on the earth, the little prince met the other roses, which makes him less than a prince, since his rose is not actually one of her kind. Until he then met the fox, who gave him wise advice and a deeper understanding of his feelings.

"It's the time that you gave to your rose that makes your rose important."

"It's the time that I gave to my rose..." said the little prince, so that he would remember. (pg 70)

From the scene above, the fox explained to the little prince that what makes his rose important is not that she is the only one of her kind, but the time he spends with her, the way he protects her and takes care of her. Which put the little prince into deeper understanding, and the question that he had wondered before.

Furthermore, there are also other characters that give a strong impact of the little prince's self-discoveries. The snake that he meets in the desert who fits the explanation of the anti-hero and the shadows archetypes. Which the snake indirectly shows the little prince the importance of being cautious. The little prince later understood the snake's bad intention when he let the snake bite him, and sent him to death at the end.



Another impactful character is the narrator who is also used to being as imaginative as the little prince but had to change because of society's expectations. From his meeting with the little prince, the narrator finally also realised the importance of keeping what he used to be.

"Look at the sky. Ask yourself: "Has the sheep eaten or not eaten the flower?" And you will see how everything changes... And grown-ups will never understand how important it is!" (pg 89)

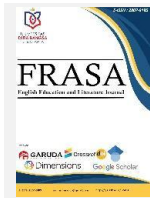
In those scenes, the narrator has shown that he now also keeps the side of his younger self which is still full of imagination while also being a responsible adult. This shows that, not only does the narrator help the little prince to understand the mindset of an adult, but the little prince also shows him the importance of seeing things from another perspective.

CONCLUSION

The Little Prince by Antoine de Saint-Exupéry is telling the story of the little prince's adventure through the galaxies and planets. The story with deep meaning and representation of life which lead into the individuation process or self-discoveries of the main character, the little prince. This study offers deeper understanding of literary interpretation of *The Little Prince* through a reflective framework, which could lead readers into self-realization, and pursuit of authenticity by focusing on the encounters of the characters.

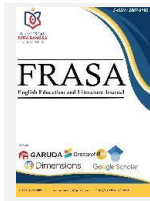
The character archetypes, identifying five key roles: the hero, the wise old man, the caregiver, the lover, and the anti-hero. The little prince embodies the hero archetype, as his journey leads him toward deeper self-understanding. The fox represents the wise old man, offering guidance and meaningful insights that shape the prince's perspective. The narrator takes on the caregiver role through his compassion and attentiveness toward the prince. Meanwhile, the rose symbolizes the lover archetype, as her emotional significance profoundly influences the prince throughout the story. Lastly, the snake represents the anti-hero, characterized by its ambiguous and less compassionate nature toward the prince.

In the other hands, the individuation process through Jungian theory, particularly the concepts of the self, persona, and shadow. The little prince represents the self, undergoing a transformative journey toward inner awareness. The narrator reflects the persona, adapting his identity to align with societal expectations. In contrast, the snake embodies the shadow, representing aspects that diverge from heroic qualities. By the end of the narrative, the little prince gains a deeper understanding of relationships, friendship, and the value of those he loves. Despite encountering adult perspectives through characters like the lamplighter and the narrator, he retains his imaginative spirit, ultimately achieving a balance between maturity and authenticity.



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