

Sample 5th-Grade Essay (Literary Analysis)

Formatting key: **Topic sentence** Transition **Quote set-up** Information **Details**
Ending **strong vocabulary** literary device

Prompt: Based on the excerpt from *The Little Prince* by Antoine de Saint-Exupéry, explain how the narrator feels about adults. Format: a single body paragraph with 3 quotes.

"The Little Prince" by Antonie de Saint-Exupéry is about a kid who draws a picture of a boa constrictor which adults cannot understand, but then he meets a six inch tall alien who understands him. **The narrator in the story thinks grown-ups are biased, absurdly boring, and lack creativity.** When describing grown ups, the narrator states, "When you tell [adults] that you have made a new friend, they never ask you any questions about essential matters. They never say to you, 'What games do they love best? Do they collect butterflies?' Instead, they demand: 'How old are they? . . .How much money do their parents make?'" This quote shows that adults cannot ask creative questions. They are boring and they love to ask questions about status. Next, the author believes that adults are biased. When describing an astronomer at a space conference, the narrator declared, "He was dressed in Turkish [fashion] and so nobody would believe what he said. Grown-ups are like that ...". This proves that adults don't accept people who are different from them, and they are insanely judgemental. Additionally, if you were judgemental your kids wouldn't be able to make a single friend because you would be a terrible influence! Finally, the narrator says adults are awfully boring. When the narrator showed grown-ups his picture, he stated, "The grown-ups' response, this time, was to advise me to lay aside my drawings of boa constrictors, whether from the inside or the outside, and devote myself instead to geography, history, arithmetic and grammar." This proves that adults ARE NOT creative and only care about boring academic subjects. This is harmful to all adults because it will suppress their creativity and make life devilishly boring. Also, adults won't have any personality, which means they'll have one friend (who's a ghost) and they WILL NOT try ANYTHING new. They'll miss out on any opportunities for success or friendship and they will have NO emotions. They will also be sad just like a kitty cat (no offense to kitty cats.) In conclusion, the narrator in the story thinks adults are extremely biased, judgemental and dry as dust! This story shows that to have success in life, you need to not be aridly boring.

✓ Answers prompt
✓ Includes insight

Quote set-up

✓ Info from text shows claim

✓ Explains quote

Information

✓ Explains quote

Strong vocabulary

Quote set-up

Detailed Analysis

✓ Proves and builds upon the claim

✓ Summary

✓ Identifies lesson

Thesis

Information

Detailed Analysis

Quote set-up

Detailed Analysis

Information

Sentence variety

- ✓ Simple
- ✓ Complex
- ✓ Compound

Literary device

- ✓ Simile

Ending