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The Fifth Planet

“ A day lasts only one minute, here where you live,” The Little Prince mentions. This is one of the many complex discoveries the Little Prince has come upon. The book is a whole metaphor for how adult’s minds are not abstract or imaginative as a child’s mind. Everyone in the many planets lack imagination due to the fact that their minds are only focused on their occupation or with life itself. *The Little Prince*, Antoine de Saint-Exupéry, work of fiction. The universal theme that systems work to complete a task or a mission is identified in chapter 14 through the lamplighter’s contribution as a worker, the impact of economic systems that change over time, and the role that orders have on society.

The first reason how systems is identified in chapter 14 is through the lamplighter’s contribution as a worker. The lamplighter in the fifth planet turns on and off the lamp every minute and he is proud of his job. The lamplighter works and works day on and off and cares about what he does for a living. (Y, Pg. 59), “ His work has some meaning. When he lights the lamp, it is as if he brings one more star to life, or one flower. When he puts a flower, or star to sleep.” The lamplighter’s job is to turn the lamp on and off. His job means a lot to him. (Y, Pg.59), “ I follow a terrible profession. In the old days, it was reasonable. I put the lamp out in the morning, and in the evening I lighted it again.” The lamplighter is proud to work by turning

the lamp on and off daily. His job contributes to a valuable meaning. The lamplighter also follows orders changed over time.

An additional reason why system is identified in the chapter 14 because of the impact of economic systems that change over time. In the chapter, the lamplighter worked everyday and has orders which is to turn on and off the lamp. The lamp has orders that he has to follow and didn't change the orders. (Y, Pg.60), "The orders did not changed," said the lamplighter. "That is the tragedy! Year after year the planet has turned more rapidly and the order have not been changed yet!" As there is more expectation for the lamplighter to work faster, he is constantly struggling to keep as these changes happen over time. In the article, *The Evolution of Economy: Changes from the Agricultural and Industrial Revolutions*, it shows, "Work that was previously done by individuals was now being performed in centralized settings in cities with large factories and on equipment capable of producing massive amounts of products quickly." Just like how these had to change their lifestyles as the economy changed, the lamplighter does not even have a chance to rest, relax and try and catch up with the new expectations. Much of his time is spent working on turning on and off the lamplight. This shows that only is time changing, but also the amount of the work this lamplighter is putting in. This can be considered symbolic or as symbolism.

Lastly, the reason why systems is identified in chapter 14 is by the role that orders have on society. The lamplighter is one of the many adults introduced in this book that symbolizes some part of society. If we examine closely in Pg. 61 that writes, "That man is the only one of them all whom I could have made my friend." The man is saying that only one out of all of them is able to become friends with him. Also, that the man has one true friend "best friend." The

lamplighter is joyful for what he has now. In a website that relates to the role that orders have on society, “ At the core of the working class are those engaged in manufacturing, engineering, construction, energy, transport and manual work, who produce commodities directly for capitalist profit.” The working class relates to the lamplighter and how he works everyday of his entire life. He is thankful of what he has and even before he had it. The lamplighter not only works daily but also is thankful and joyful of his work and the planet he is living in.

In conclusion, chapter 14 has a lamplighter in the fifth plant and he cares about his work. Systems is examined throughout chapter 14 by the contribution in the lamplighter as a worker, the impact of systems that changes over time, and the role orders that society has. This matters because the lamplighter gives his job meaning. This relates to us because not many people give their job meaning like the lamplighter. The lamplighter cares about his job and values it very much because flipping on and off the lamp is his life.

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