

Thematic Bibliography for *The Little Prince*, By Antoine de Saint-Exupéry



Annotated Thematic Bibliography:

Bach, Richard. *Jonathan Livingston Seagull*. Boston: Scribner, 1997.

"Most gulls don't bother to learn more than the simplest facts of flight--how to get from shore to food and back again," writes author Richard Bach in this allegory about a unique bird named Jonathan Livingston Seagull. "For most gulls it is not flying that matters, but eating. For this gull, though, it was not eating that mattered, but flight --*Gail Hudson*

Camus, Albert. *The Stranger*. New York: Vintage Books, 1989.

*The Stranger* is not merely one of the most widely read novels of the 20th century, but one of the books likely to outlive it. Written in 1946, Camus's compelling and troubling tale of a disaffected, apparently amoral young man has earned a durable popularity in part because it reveals so vividly the anxieties of its time. Alienation, the fear of anonymity, spiritual doubt--all could have been given a purely modern inflection in the hands of a lesser talent than Camus, who won the Nobel Prize in 1957 and was noted for his existentialist aesthetic. The remarkable trick of *The Stranger*, however, is that it's not mired in period philosophy. --*Ben Guterson*

Cuehlo, Paulo. *The Alchemist*. San Francisco: Harper, 1995.

Like the one-time bestseller *Jonathan Livingston Seagull*, *The Alchemist* presents a simple fable, based on simple truths and places it in a highly unique situation. And though we may sniff a bestselling formula, it is certainly not a new one: even the ancient tribal storytellers knew that this is the most successful method of entertaining an audience while slipping in a lesson or two. Brazilian storyteller Paulo Coelho introduces Santiago, an Andalusian shepherd boy who one night dreams of a distant treasure in the Egyptian pyramids. And so he's off: leaving Spain to literally follow his dream. --*Gail Hudson*

Cuehlo, Paulo. *The Fifth Mountain*. New York: Harper Collins, 1999.

With *The Fifth Mountain*, Paulo Coelho turns his talent for spiritual fiction to the story of the Biblical prophet Elijah. Like a blossoming flower, Coelho opens up the brief account of Elijah's flight from Gilead and his time in Zarephath. He deepens the prophet's character by revealing the thoughts, doubts, and discoveries that Elijah must have experienced as he struggled to find his course in life amidst the confusion of war and political turmoil. --*Amazon.com*

Hesse, Hermann. *Siddhartha*. New York: Macmillan, 1976.

In the shade of a banyan tree, a grizzled ferryman sits listening to the river. Some say he's a sage. He was once a wandering shramana and, briefly, like thousands of others, he followed Gotama the Buddha, enraptured by his sermons. But this man, Siddhartha, was not a follower of any but his own soul. Born the son of a Brahmin, Siddhartha was blessed in appearance, intelligence, and charisma. In order to find meaning in life, he discarded his promising future for the life of a wandering ascetic. --*Brian Bruya*

Nicholson, Willaim. *The Velveteen Rabbit*. New York: Doubleday, 1958.

A stuffed toy rabbit comes to life in Margery Williams's timeless tale of the transformative power of love. Given as a Christmas gift to a young boy, the

Velveteen Rabbit lives in the nursery with all of the other toys, waiting for the day when the Boy will choose him as a playmate. In time, the shy Rabbit befriends the tattered Skin Horse, the wisest resident of the nursery, who reveals the goal of all nursery toys: to be made "real" through the love of a human. –*Amazon.com*

Saint-Exupéry, Antoine de. *Wind, Sand, and Stars*. New York: Harcourt, 1992.

In this book we follow the author of *The Little Prince* in his flying adventures for Aéropostale, the French airmail carrier that evolved into Air France. In those days airplane engines were undependable, and every flight was an adventure. On some flights two planes were sent out together in case one engine threw a rod. The planes were so primitive that the pilots kept their compass and altimeter with them when they left their plane. –*Bobby Matherne*

White, E. B. *Charlotte's Web*. New York: Harper Trophy, 1999.

An affectionate, sometimes bashful pig named Wilbur befriends a spider named Charlotte, who lives in the rafters above his pen. A prancing, playful bloke, Wilbur is devastated when he learns of the destiny that befalls all those of porcine persuasion. Determined to save her friend, Charlotte spins a web that reads "Some Pig," convincing the farmer and surrounding community that Wilbur is no ordinary animal and should be saved. –*Amazon.com*