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Opening extract from  
**The Pilot and the Little Prince**

Written & Illustrated by  
**Peter Sis**

Published by  
**Pushkin Children's Books**

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*The Wind—idea—Bill Shipsey*  
*The Earth—inspiration—Terry Lajtha*  
*The Stars—dreams—Frances Foster*



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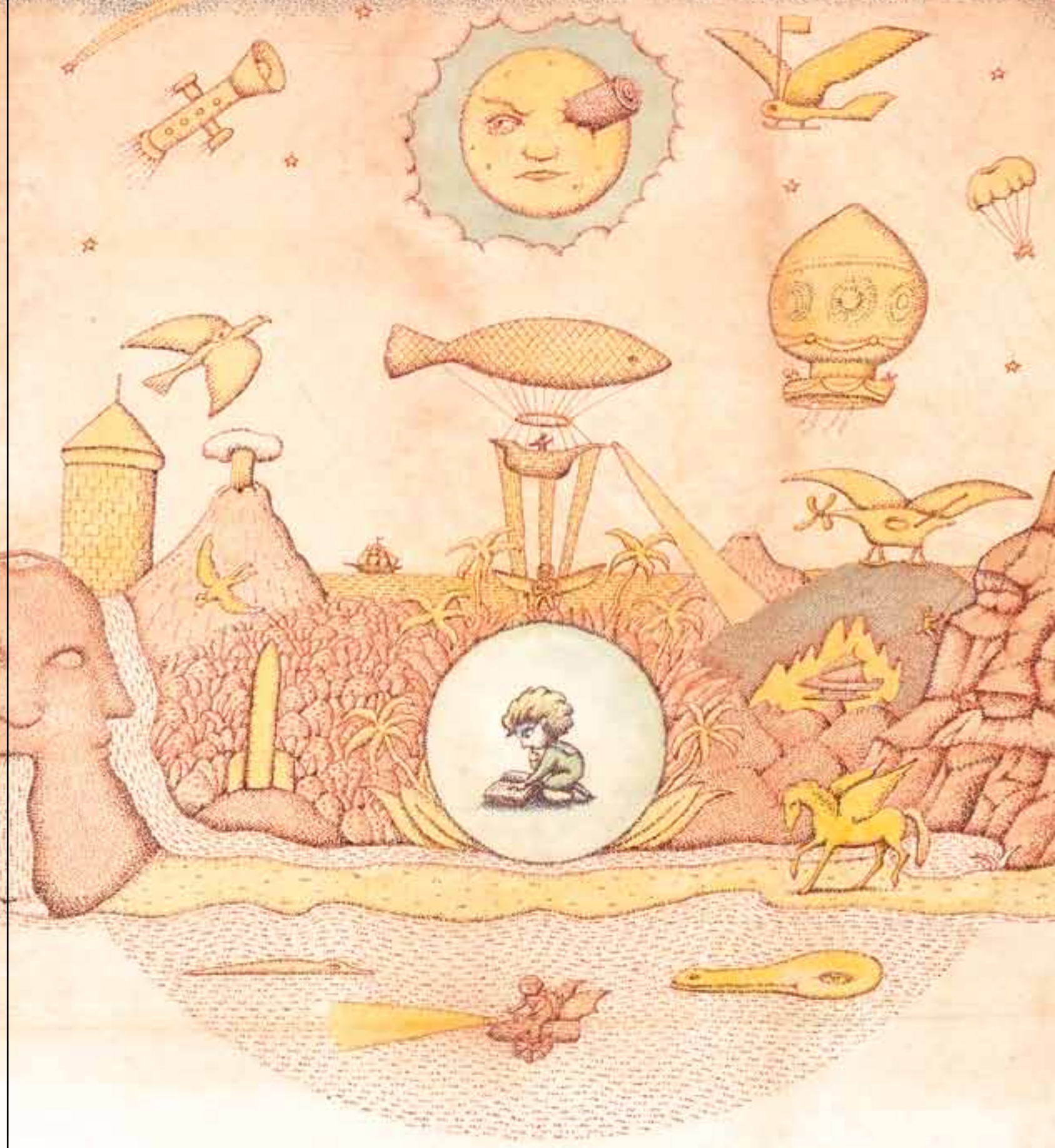
Quote on page 17 from *Antoine de Saint-Exupéry: His Life and Times* by Curtis Cate.  
Inscription on page 37 courtesy of Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library.



**L**ong ago in France, at the turn of the last century, a little boy was born  
to be an adventurer.



It was an exciting time of discovery in the world. Things people had only dreamed about were being invented—including flying machines.



The boy would grow up to be a pilot. He would write about courageous flights, but also about places you might find if you were to fly long enough and far enough. What did he find on the earth? What did he find in the sky?

Antoine de Saint-Exupéry was born June 29, 1900, in Lyon, France. In his family tree there were an ambassador, a count, a baron, a count, an archbishop, a corn chamberlain, knights, scholars, military officers, and musicians.



His father, Count Jean de Saint-Exupéry, died in 1904.



His mother, Countess Marie de Fonscolombe, was a widow at age twenty-eight.



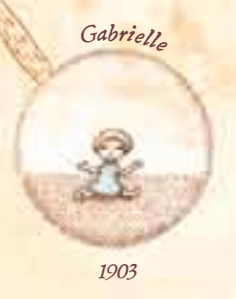
Marie-Madeleine  
1897



Simone  
1898



François  
1902



Gabrielle  
1903



Antoine's favorite home was his great-great-aunt's chateau at Saint-Maurice-de-Rémens, near Lyon.



He also liked to play at his mother's parents' Château de La Moite.



Was his father on a star?



Antoine would wake his family late at night to read them his poetry.



Great-great-aunt

He's so wild!

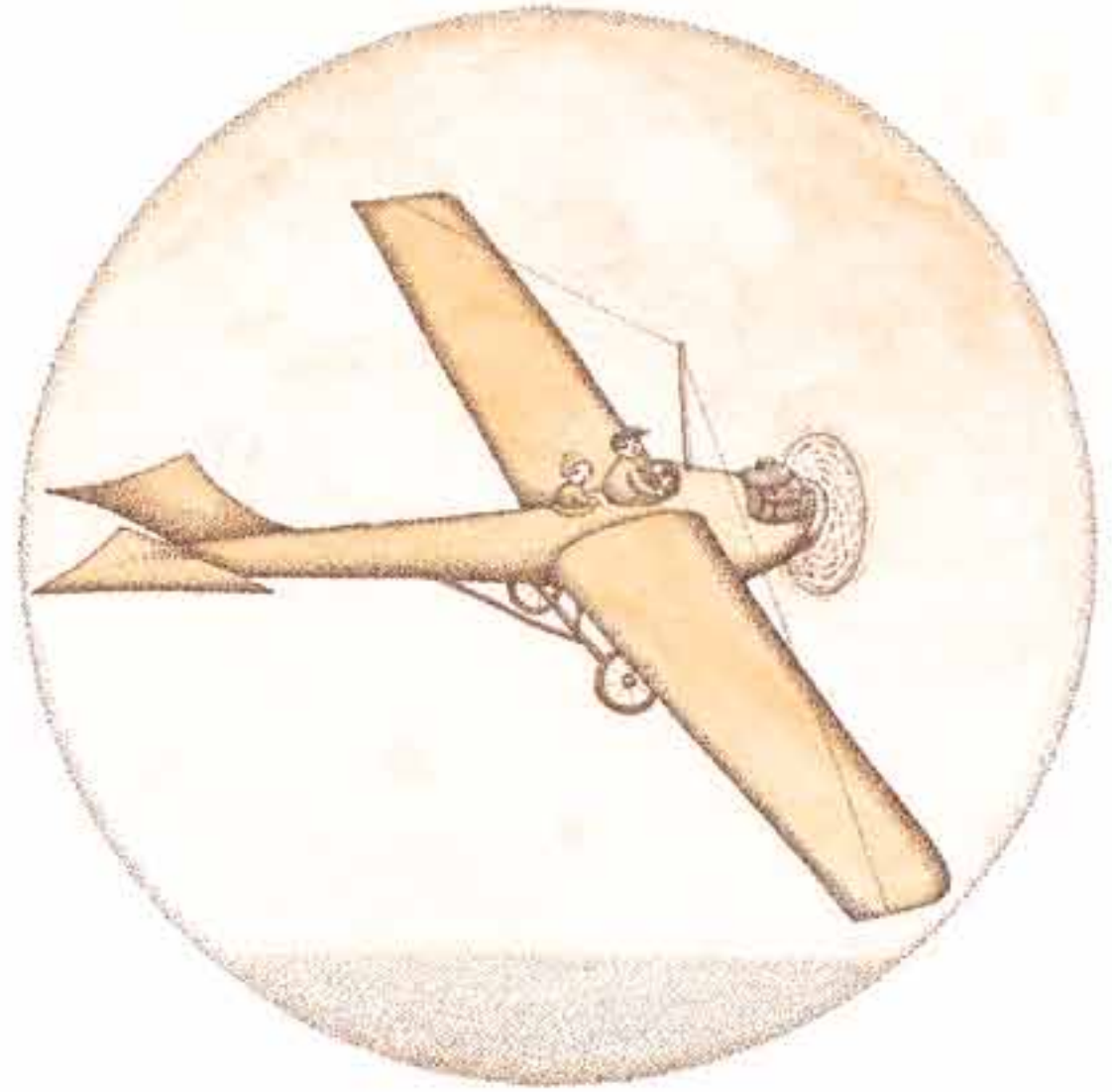


Mother

He's such an angel!

Antoine de Saint-Exupéry was born with golden hair. His family called him the Sun King. When he was four years old, his father died unexpectedly. The boy wondered, Where did he go?

Antoine spent sunny days playing with his brother and sisters in the loving care of their mother and family. They lived in a big house surrounded by meadows and gardens.



1890: Clément Ader built a steam-powered plane. It got off the ground, but it did not fly.



Wright Flyer I

DECEMBER 17, 1903: Orville and Wilbur Wright flew in Kitty Hawk, North Carolina. It was the first heavier-than-air flight.



1908 Flyer

AUGUST 8, 1908: Wilbur Wright flew near Le Mans, France, delighting thousands of spectators.



Blériot XI

JULY 25, 1909: Louis Blériot was the first person to fly from France to England.

Antoine attached sheets to wicker rods on his bicycle to make his plane.

He got a ride in a Berthaud-Wroblewski at the Ambérieu-en-Bugey airfield, near Saint-Maurice.

Airplanes had just been invented and France was the center of aviation. When Antoine was twelve years old he made his own flying machine. It did not take off, but this didn't discourage him.

That summer, he rode his bike to a nearby airfield every day to watch pilots test planes. He told them he had permission from his mother to fly, so one pilot took him up in the air. His mother was not happy. Antoine couldn't wait to go up again.