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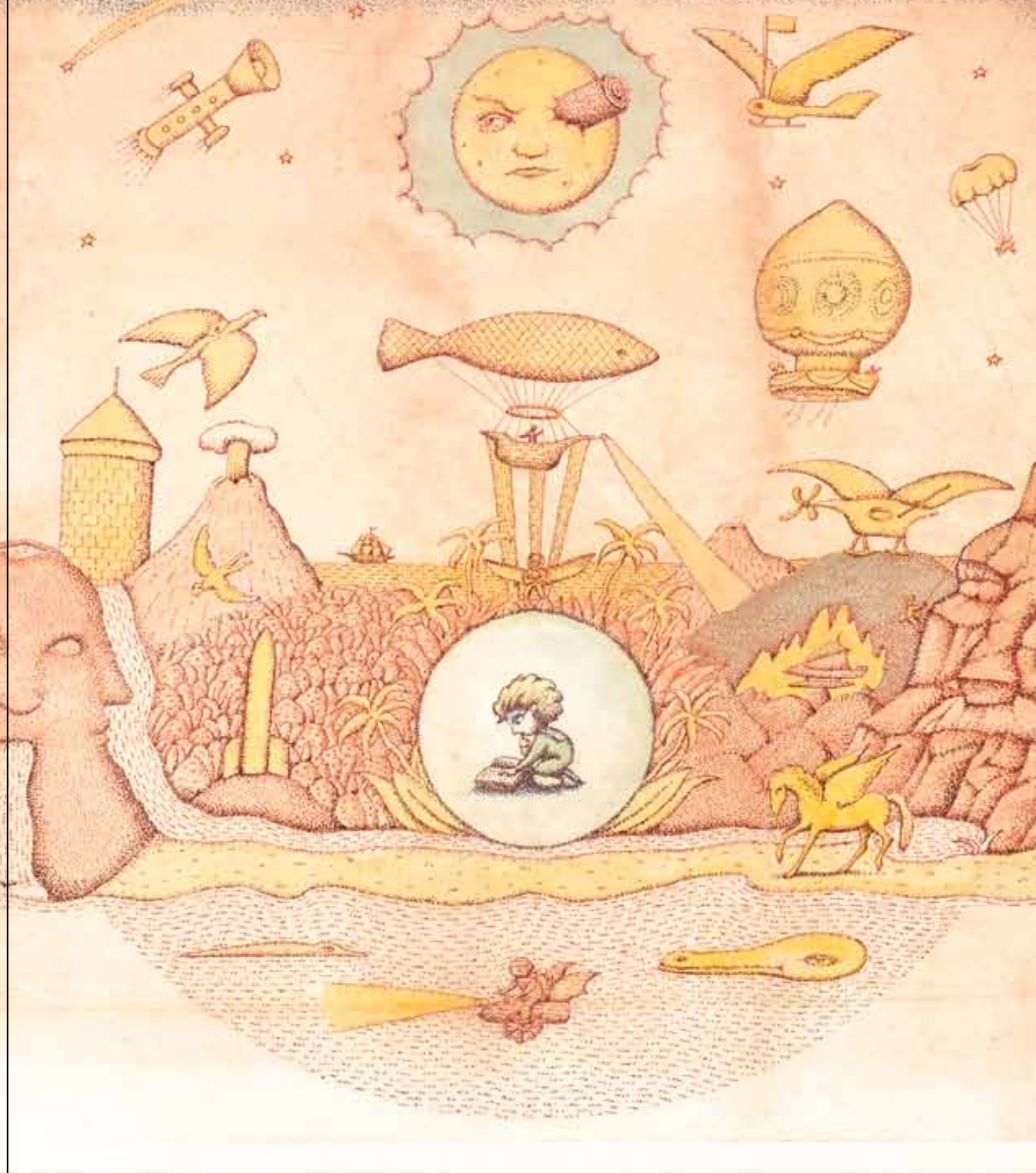
Quote on page 17 from *Antoine de Saint-Exupéry: His Life and Times* by Curtis Cate.
Inscription on page 37 courtesy of Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library.



Long 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.



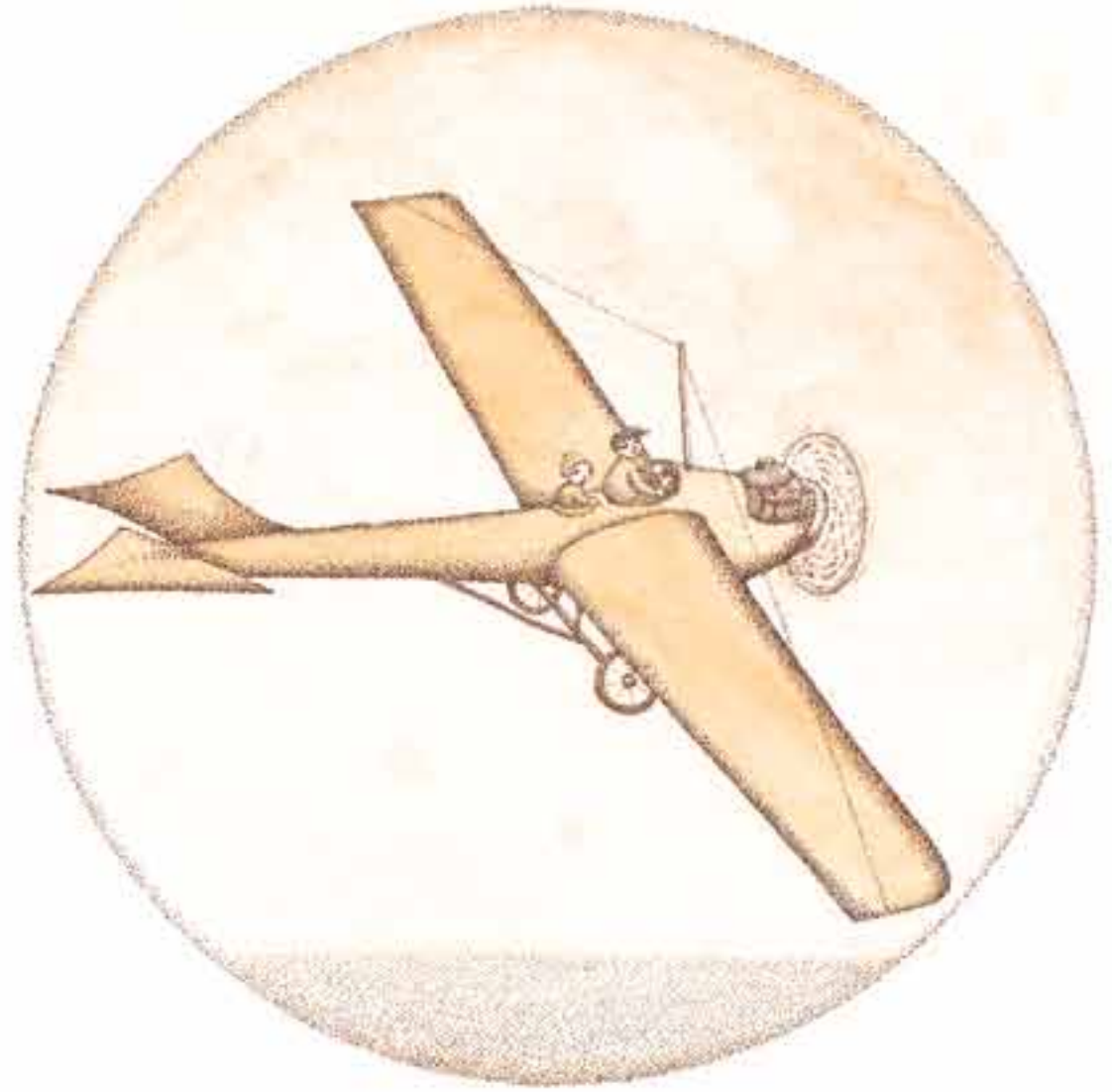
The boy would grow up to be a pilot. He would write about courageous flights, but also about places you might find if you were to fly long enough and far enough. What did he find on the earth? What did he find in the sky?



Antoine de Saint-Exupéry was born 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.



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



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



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.