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“Whenever I met one of them who seemed to me at all clear-sighted, I tried the experiment of showing him my Drawing Number One, which I have always kept. I would try to find out, so, if this was a person of true understanding. But, whoever it was, he, or she, would always say:

"That is a hat."

Then I would never talk to that person about boa constrictors, or primeval forests, or stars. I would bring myself down to his level. I would talk to him about bridge, and golf, and politics, and neckties. And the grown-up would be greatly pleased to have met such a sensible man.”

(Pg.5)

Most grown-ups refuse to give up their time to know the whole truth behind certain things and they don't try to appreciate abstract ideas like love, happiness and freedom. This quote in, *The Little Prince*, portrays how grown-ups do not learn how to look beneath the surface to find the real worth of things. They never look or think beyond to see things from a different perspective. The narrator says, “ I would try to find out, so, if this was a person of true understanding.” He wanted to test the grown-ups to see if they saw things as what they are instead of seeing them as what they appear to be. A person of true understanding is someone who has patience and uses their time to expand their thoughts. Most grown-ups don't have imagination and poetry in them, so they often get fooled by appearances.

The narrator goes on to say, “I would bring myself down to his level,” meaning the level of their understandings. The narrator emphasizes the word “down” because he was only six when he did the experiment to see if the grown-ups were capable of understanding the drawing of the boa constrictor. Although there is a huge gap between his age and the grown-ups, the grown-ups would simply answer with, “That is a hat.” The narrator uses his imagination to understand the picture he drew himself and he doesn't have literal thoughts like most grown-ups. They don't try to think outside the box and they are close minded unlike the narrator. Most grown-ups are constantly focused on “What's next?”

instead of appreciating what already exists and what's real. The narrator shows this by saying, "I would talk to him about bridge, and golf, and politics, and neckties." These words resemble accessories of life. That would make their life/time more useful. It is like an addition to their life to get to a certain level. The grown-ups that are being talked about in the quote are the ones who have jobs or responsibilities over their family. Most of those grown-ups seem afraid to open their hearts to real issues of life; instead they choose to act on a surface level.

It is all about survival to the grown-ups, whereas, children tend to have patience and acceptance when it comes to using their imagination to understand life. The narrator ends the quote saying, "And the grown-up would be greatly pleased to have met such a sensible man." This is what makes the grown-ups grateful, knowing that there are people like them that exists. They would be glad to talk to someone who is "realistic" and "reasonable." From their perspective the narrator is "wasting time" talking and thinking about inconsequential matters such as stars and boa constrictors. Children are able to use their time and imagination to think beyond the surface. Most grown-ups do not know how to appreciate other's happiness or even find their own happiness.