



The Great Journey of the Little Prince in Romania

Vlad is playing the role of The Little Prince, the other four children wear traditional Romanian costumes.

Edi: Dear friends, greetings!

We are Larisa, Maria, Edi and Vlad (*each child is telling his/her name*) and we are here to tell you an extraordinary story.

Larisa: One day, as we were walking in the forest, we happened upon “a little man who laughs, who has golden hair and who refuses to answer questions” and we immediately knew who he was: the Little Prince (*she points to the Little Prince*).

Maria: After having visited six planets with strange and disturbing inhabitants, the Little Prince took the advice of the geographer and came to visit the planet Earth which had “a good reputation”.

Vlad: The story might seem strange to grown-ups – who understand very little and are only interested in things such as getting a job, making money, etc.

Edi: We know that the Little Prince said, “All grown-ups were children...but only a few of them remember it”.

Vlad: However, in leaving the “unimportant” things of the spirit – imagination, art – to children, they did us a favour.

Maria: Our story is a miraculous one because we take the Prince on a tour of Romania, a country which, in the beginning, seems strange to him but, remembering that “What makes the desert beautiful is that somewhere it hides a well”, he ends up loving it because “one sees clearly only with the heart”.

Larisa: The Little Prince had many questions, but we had answers for each of them.

Vlad: But, since he already returned to his planet, I shall play his part.

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Vlad/Little Prince: What is the name of this country?

Larisa: Romania

Vlad/Little Prince: Is it a big country?

Edi: Neither big nor small.

Vlad/Little Prince: What has it got?

Maria: Everything!

Larisa: Plains.

Edi: Rivers

Maria: Sea

Larisa: A fabulous history.

Edi: Fascinating people.

Maria: Spectacular sights.

Larisa: Traditions.

Maria: A rich culture.

Edi: Come with us and we will show you! (*They show to the audience the map of Romania*)

Larisa: We are here, in the heart of Romania, in a beautiful city called Brasov. (*she points Brasov on the map*)

Vlad/Little Prince: Ooh, how lovely! Look there: people riding horses! What marvelous costumes! Who are they?

Edi: Junii Brasovului. They parade once a year on the streets of the city in keeping with an old tradition. And, yes, their costumes are very beautiful and very old.

Vlad/Little Prince: But I see you are wearing similar costumes.

artists who sing our popular songs. Would you like to hear one?

Maria: It is called Iia and it has been a source of inspiration for painters (Henri Matisse) and fashion designers all over the world (Yves Saint Laurent).

Larisa: Yes, our traditional costume makes us proud. It is worn by artists who sing our popular songs. Would you like to hear one?

Vlad/Little Prince: I would love to. Please, will you sing for me?...

(*Larisa is singing a popular Romanian song*)

Thank you, I have never heard anything so beautiful!

Edi: Well, shall we continue our walk?

Vlad/Little Prince: Look at that steeple!.

Edi: It's the steeple of the "Black Church", considered to be the largest Gothic style church in Southeastern Europe.

Larisa: The Black Church is over 600 years old, and it is the most representative historic monument in Brasov, the greatest Gothic church in Transylvania.

Maria: Inside the church the 4000 pipes of one of the greatest organs in Europe mesmerize music lovers who come to concerts once a week in summer.

Edi: Inside the Church there is a collection of Oriental rugs, the largest in Romania.

Vlad/Little Prince: They are like the magic flying carpets in the stories. Can they take us to a strange place with strange people? On the other planets that I visited I

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met some strange people. Is there a strange, thrilling, scary character you can tell me about?

Larisa: Yes, there is. Bram Stoker, a nineteenth century Irish writer, made him famous. He is called Dracula and he is supposed to be a vampire.

Maria: The story is based on one of the princes of Wallachia, Vlad the Impaler. He was not a vampire, of course. He was a brave prince who defended our country against the Turks.

Edi: But even in the Middle Ages stories were spread which pictured him in gruesome colours.

Vlad/Little Prince: How sad! People can be so cruel! But, my friends, I am tired. Could we sit and rest for a while?

Larisa: Of course, and while resting, we can show you some photographs.

Vlad/Little Prince: Oh, thank you, you are such good friends!

Maria: Here is my album of famous people: artists, athletes, scientists, writers, all have found a place not only in our hearts, but in the hearts of people all over the world: *(she is showing an album containing the photos of each monument and people introduced in the scene)*

Vlad/Little Prince: Look at these lovely girls! Who are they? What are they famous for?

Larisa: Well this one is Nadia Comaneci. She is a famous gymnast. In 1976, at the Summer Olympics of Montreal, she was the first gymnast to be awarded a perfect score of ten and won three gold medals.

Vlad/Little Prince: She looks so small and graceful!

Maria: And this one is Simona Halep. She is a professional tennis player. She was number one for sixty-four weeks in 2017 and 2018 and she has won two Grand Slam singles: 2018 French Open and 2019 Wimbledon Championships.

Vlad/Little Prince: Perhaps she might want to teach me how to play tennis one day!

Edi: I don't see why not. She is said to be a very friendly person.

Vlad/Little Prince: That would be lovely! I am feeling very well now and I am ready to continue travelling through Romania. Can we do that?

Larisa: Of course. Let's go to a part of the country called Bucovina. Here you can admire the Voronet Monastery, often known as the “Sistine Chapel of the East” with its frescoes which feature an intense shade of blue, known as Voronet Blue.

Vlad/Little Prince: Ooh, what lovely, bright and intense colours, what lovely images. Who can we thank to for this marvel?

Edi: Well, first of all to Stephen the Great, Prince of Moldavia. It took his subjects three months to build it. It commemorated one of the numerous battles against the Turks.

Maria: Yes, and after that we can go to Targu Jiu to admire the sculptures of one of the world's greatest sculptors, Constantin Brancusi.

Larisa: It is dedicated to the Romanian heroes of the First World War. There are three sculptures.

Edi: The Endless Column, The Table of Silence and the Gate of Kiss

Vlad/Little Prince: Remarkable! The Column does indeed seem endless. Perhaps from its top I can jump right back on my asteroid. Let's go sit around the table and listen to the silence. If we do that, we can hear and understand so many things! “In the silence something throbs, something gleams”. And then we could seal our friendship with kisses near the Gate! Because, after that, my dear friends, I must away!

Maria: So soon! Can you not stay a little longer?

Vlad/Little Prince: No, I cannot. But remember: “To me you will be unique in all the world, To you I shall be unique in all the world”.

Larisa: I am so sad to see you go!

Vlad/Little Prince: I know, but never forget that “To become spring, means accepting the risk of winter. To become presence, means accepting the risk of absence”.

Edi: But I’m sure you will never forget us, just as we will never forget you. And, who knows, maybe one day.....

Maria: And these bracelets of friendship will never let us forget the bond we have built.

(The four actors distribute bracelets of friendship to the audience).

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