

Prince Lucien and the Messenger

****Please do not translate while reading the article or answering questions. I need this to gather data on what needs to be focused on in our classes****

In the opulent kingdom of Lysandre, Prince Lucien lived a life circumscribed by the towering walls of his palace and the confines of his wheelchair. Despite his physical limitations, Lucien possessed a keen intellect and a tender heart that endeared him to his subjects and those who had the privilege of knowing him.

It was during a particularly chilly autumn morning when fate introduced Lucien to Elara, a spirited messenger girl with fiery curls and a heart as vibrant as the sunlit leaves that adorned the palace gardens. Her visits became a cherished routine, bringing news and stories from distant lands that painted vivid pictures of the world beyond the palace walls.

Through Elara's visits, Lucien found solace and companionship. Her laughter echoed through the quiet corridors, her tales of adventure sparked his imagination, and her genuine kindness warmed his soul. In her presence, the boundaries of his disability seemed to fade, replaced by moments of shared joy and heartfelt conversations.

But one day, as winter cast its icy veil over the kingdom, Elara did not appear at the palace gates. Days turned into weeks, and Lucien's heart grew heavy with worry and longing. He questioned why she had stopped coming, grappling with the fear that she had chosen to abandon him.

Determined not to succumb to despair, Lucien embarked on a journey of rigorous physical therapy. Guided by skilled therapists and fueled by the memory of Elara's unwavering spirit, he dedicated himself to reclaiming his strength and mobility. Days blurred into weeks, and weeks into months, as he persevered with unwavering resolve.

Finally, one spring morning, Lucien stood on unsteady legs beneath the azure sky, his heart pounding with equal parts hope and trepidation. Supported by a cane, he ventured beyond the palace gates and into the bustling town that Elara had described in her tales.

With each step, memories of Elara filled his mind—her laughter, her stories, and the warmth of her presence that had illuminated his life. As he approached the quaint cottage where she had once spoken of her family, his heart beat faster with anticipation.

He knocked on the weathered door, his hand trembling with emotion. A moment passed before the door creaked open, revealing Elara's parents with weary but kind eyes. They looked at him with a mixture of surprise and sorrow, recognizing the prince who had captured their daughter's heart.

"Prince Lucien," Elara's mother whispered, her voice heavy with emotion. "We are so sorry..."

Lucien's heart sank as he felt a lump form in his throat. "... I came to see Elara," he managed to say, his voice barely above a whisper.

Tears welled up in her mother's eyes as she gently shook her head. "Elara... she passed away, Your Highness," she replied softly. "She often spoke of you... until her last breath."

Devastated and overwhelmed with grief, Lucien stood frozen in disbelief. The truth shattered his heart into a million pieces—the girl he had loved, the girl who had brought light into his world, was gone. He had yearned for her return, believing she had abandoned him, only to discover she had departed this world without a chance to say goodbye.

In that moment of profound sorrow, Prince Lucien realized the depth of Elara's love and sacrifice. She had never abandoned him; she had simply journeyed beyond, leaving behind memories that would forever shape his path forward.

With tears streaming down his face, Lucien vowed to honor Elara's memory by embracing life fully, knowing that her spirit would forever guide him. And as he stood, surrounded by the echoes of their shared moments, the prince felt a gentle warmth in his heart—a testament to the enduring bond that transcended time and space, and the enduring power of love that had illuminated his world.

Comprehension Questions

1. List 15 adjectives from the story.
2. List 5 adverbs from the story.
3. List every word you did not understand from the story.
4. Write a summary of the story.