

Student Packet

Grades 5–6

# The Summer of the Swans

Betsy Cromer Byars

NOVEL UNITS<sup>®</sup>

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# THE SUMMER OF THE SWANS

by  
Betsy Byars

## Student Packet

Written by  
Jean Jamieson

**Contains masters for:**

- 2 Prereading Activities
  - 11 Vocabulary Activities
  - 1 Study Guide (two pages)
  - 1 Cryptogram Activity
  - 1 Acronym Activity
  - 2 Story Review Activities
  - 1 Literary Analysis Activity
  - 1 Descriptive Words Activity
  - 1 Tongue Twister Activity
  - 2 Comprehension Quizzes (two levels)
  - 1 Unit Exam (five sections, two levels)
- PLUS**
- Detailed Answer Key

**Note**

The paperback edition of the book published by Puffin Books was used to prepare this guide. The page references may differ in the hardcover or other paperback editions.

**Please note:** Please assess the appropriateness of this book for the age level and maturity of your students prior to reading and discussing it with your class.

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**Chapters 12–16** (pages 74–107)

25. Why is Aunt Willie so upset about Charlie's disappearance?
26. How does the picture that Charlie has drawn of himself remind Sara of Charlie?
27. Why is Joe Melby important at this point in the story?
28. How does Sara show her feelings for Charlie?
29. What are some of the changes that have occurred in Sara's father since her mother's death?
30. What does Sara's father decide to do when he is told that Charlie is missing?
31. How does Sara feel about her father's decision?
32. Why doesn't Sara want Joe's help in finding Charlie?
33. Does Sara's accusation about Charlie's watch stop Joe from helping to find Charlie?
34. How does Sara find out the truth about Charlie's watch?
35. What happened at the old mine that worries Aunt Willie?
36. What does Joe find as he searches for Charlie?
37. What do Sara and Joe have in common?

**Chapters 17–23** (pages 108–142)

38. What does Sara conclude about her worries and concerns for the summer?
39. What is important to Charlie, to keep him feeling safe and well?
40. What are Sara's feelings as she goes to Charlie's?
41. How does Joe demonstrate that he understands Charlie?
42. What are Aunt Willie's feelings after Charlie is found?
43. Why do you think Sara accepts Joe's invitation to the party?
44. Why do you think Sara tries to avoid talking to her father when he telephones?
45. What is your opinion of the role of the father in this novel?
46. How does Sara envision life as the story ends?
47. What has Sara learned about herself?
48. Do you think Charlie's disappearance will change his father in any way?

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Vocabulary

inscrutable (10)	pathetic (10)	illusion (18)	silhouette (19)
grimaced (20)	emphatically (21)	uneventful (24)	disappointment (33)
obediently (37)	incredible (40)	awkwardly (41)	tormented (52)

**Directions:** Make a special word map for **five** of the above vocabulary words. Before following the word map pattern given below, turn to the pages in the book on which each word appears. Look at how each word is used in the story.

**Synonyms**  
(words with the same meaning)

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**Drawing or Symbol to Help You Remember What the Word Means**

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**Word**

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**Definition In Your Own Words:**

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**Word Used In A Sentence:**

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Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Descriptive Words

**Directions:** Choose two chapters in the book, with the exception of Chapter 1. Write down on a sheet of paper the words that are used to describe things, people or situations. Separate the words into categories, such as: color, sound, shape, taste, smell, size, etc. For example, the following words are taken from Chapter 1:

color	shape	sound	size	other
puce	ball	taaaa-daaa	thin	old
blue	curled	noisily	long	young
orange	stubby	cry	biggest	small
	stretched	yawn	tiniest	insensible
		trump	huge	creaky
			littler	abruptly

In these chapters, which category has the most words? Why do you think that is?

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**Directions:** After the lists are made, write a paragraph or poem using some of the words from your lists.

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