

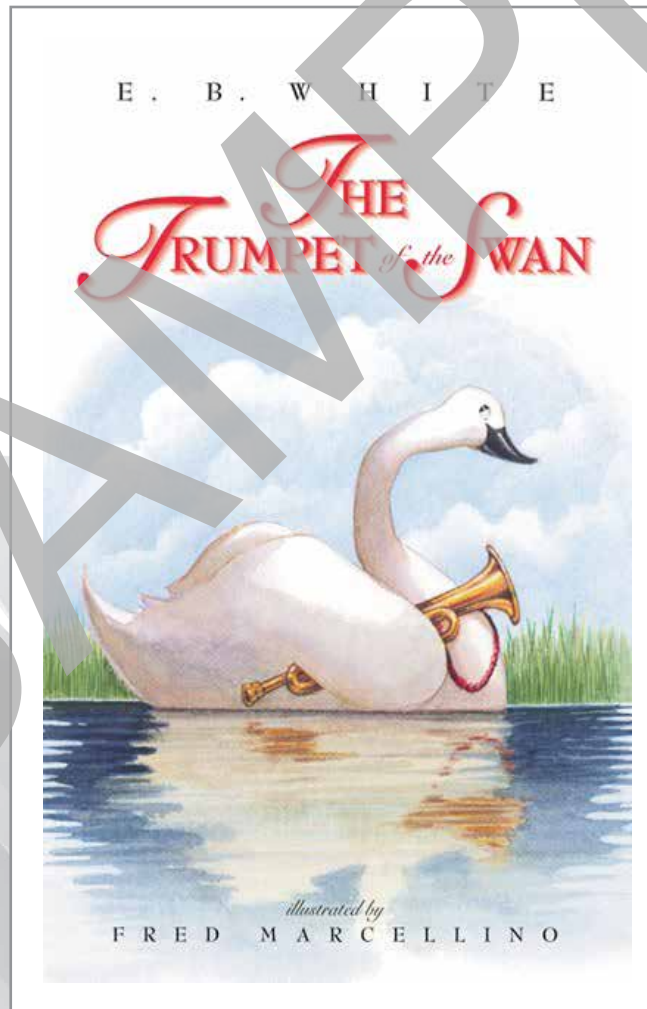


STUDENT PACKET

GRADES 3-5

The Trumpet of the Swan

E. B. White



READ, WRITE, THINK, DISCUSS AND CONNECT

The Trumpet of the Swan

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NOTE:

The trade book edition of the novel used to prepare this guide is found in the Novel Units catalog and on the Novel Units website. Using other editions may have varied page references.

Please note: We have assigned Interest Levels based on our knowledge of the themes and ideas of the books included in the Novel Units sets, however, please assess the appropriateness of this novel or trade book for the age level and maturity of your students prior to reading with them. You know your students best!

ISBN 978-1-50205-075-5

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Name _____

Activity: To use the quatrain poetry form to express thoughts and feelings

Problems

"These were the pleasantest days of Sam's life, these days in the woods, far, far from everywhere—no automobiles, no roads, no people, no noise, no school, no homework, no problems, except the problem of getting lost. And, of course, the problem of what to be when he grew up." (page 4)

At this time, Sam feels that he has two problems: getting lost, and what to be when he grows up. What about you? Do you have any problems at this time in your life?

A quatrain is a poem written in four lines that can be rhymed or unrhymed. When rhymed, a quatrain may have one of several rhyme patterns, such as: AABB, ABCB, or AAAA.

For example: (This quatrain has the rhyme pattern AAAA, because all the lines rhyme.)

Sam—The Reply

I have a problem. <i>Yes, that is true.</i>	A
I just don't know what I will do	A
To make the world better, make some money, too.	A
<i>Follow your heart.</i> Oh, yes! My thanks to you.	A

Use the quatrain poetry form to express your thoughts and feelings about one of Sam's problems or about one of your problems.

Name _____

Activity: To adapt a game from land to water; to give instructions

Water Games

"Soon they [Louis and his father] joined the others, and everyone started water games, and Louis joined in, dipping and splashing and diving and twisting." (page 43)

Think of a game that you know how to play on the playground or in a yard. How could that game be played in the water? Change the rules and the instructions to make that game a water game.

Before you begin, what is the **most** important rule that should be stated first in any water game?

Rules for the Game of _____

SAMPLE

Name _____

Activity: To use descriptive words to create an image

Creatures of the Wild

Father Swan tells the cygnets of some of the things that they have learned at the pond. *“You have learned to dive and swim underwater...You have avoided the odious otter and the cruel coyote.”* (page 45)

When Father Swan names the otter and the coyote, he also uses a descriptive word. What descriptive words would you use when naming other creatures living in the wild? Complete the chart. On the back of your paper illustrate at least one of the wild creatures named.

Descriptive	Wild Creature	Descriptive	Wild Creature
odious	otter	cruel	coyote
	snake		elephant
	frog		whale
	muskrat		lion
	raccoon		eagle
	wolf		alligator

Name _____

Activity: To name and describe; to use imagery to create a mind picture

Voices In The Night

Father Swan reminds the cygnets, *"At night you have dropped off to sleep to the sound of frogs—the voices of the night."* (page 45)

Close your eyes and think about your night. What sounds do you hear? What words best describe those sounds? List some of the sounds here.

Paint a picture with words that describe the sounds and feelings of your night. You don't need to write complete sentences. Instead, write phrases and words that come into your mind. Create an image in the mind of the person who will read your work. Use words that will appeal to the senses and the emotions of that person so that you will truly share your image of the night with that person.

Voices of My Night

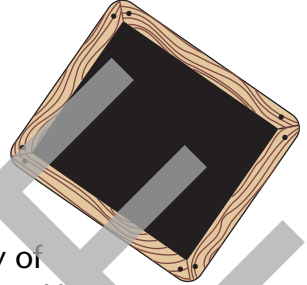
Name _____

Activity: To identify reasons for communication

Lessons

"All birds and animals talk to one another—they really have to, in order to get along." (page 58, Sam to Mrs. Hammerbotham)

Birds, animals, and humans communicate with one another for many of the same reasons. Why do you communicate with others? List reasons. Use the letters of the word *communicate* and think of a word, phrase or sentence that begins with the letter on each line. Each line should be a reason or a way to communicate.



C _____

O _____

M _____

M _____

U _____

N _____

I _____

C _____

A _____

T _____

E _____

What do you think is the most important use of communication? Why?