

Vocabulary for Trumpet of the Swan

Chapter 1

presence - the area that is close to someone — used to describe being in the same place as someone (pg. 2) *Nothing he had ever seen before in al his life had made him feel quite the way he felt, on that little pone, in the **presence** of those two enormous swans.*

sizzling - to make a hissing sound, as in frying or burning. (pg. 3) *Mr. Beaver looked up from the wood stove, where the fish were **sizzling** in a pan.*

treacherous - dangerous; hazardous (pg. 3) *I don't like you crossing swamps. They're **treacherous**.*

Chapter 2

vixen - a female fox. (pg. 10) *The **vixen**, dozing in her den, knew she would have kits soon.*

mighty – powerful, strong (pg. 14) *The male stretched out his great wings, eight feet from tip to tip, and gave the water a **mighty** clout to show his strength.*

tamping - to force in or down by repeated, rather light, strokes (pg. 15) *Then she twisted round and around, **tamping** the earth with her broad webbed feet, hollowing it out to make it like a saucer.*

Chapter 3

capers - a frivolous, carefree episode or activity. (pg 23) *Do you ever tire of sitting in one place and in one position, covering the eggs, with no diversions, no pleasures , no escapades, or **capers**?*

irksome - annoying; irritating; exasperating; tiresome (pg. 23) *“My dear” said her husband, the cob, one afternoon, do you ever find your duties onerous or **irksome**?*

pang - a sudden, brief, sharp pain or physical sensation; spasm (pg. 24) *“Don't you ever feel the **pangs** of hunger or suffer tortures of thirst?” asked the cob.*

Chapter 4

pipping - to crack or chip a hole through (the shell), as a young bird.; to chirp or peep (pg. 31) *All morning long, the swan heard the **pipping** of the shells.*

cooped – to be kept in any small or narrow place (pg. 31) *It was glad to breathe the air, after being **cooped** up so long inside an egg.*

existence - the state of continuing to be or to live (pg. 30) *The mist rises slowly, like steam from a kettle, while I glide, swanlike, while eggs hatch, while young swans come into **existence**.*

Chapter 5

burble - to make a bubbling sound; bubble. (pg. 43) *Have you ever heard him utter a single beep or a single **burble**?*

endearments – a word or an act (as a caress) showing love or affection (pg 44) “A young male swan will be greatly handicapped in finding a mate if he is unable to say ko-hoh, ko-hoh, or if he can’t utter the usual **endearments** to the young female of his choice.”

buoyant - capable of keeping a body afloat, as a liquid. (pg. 47) “Here we are, gracefully floating, supremely **buoyant**, at some distance from the others, in perfect surroundings...”

Chapter 6

odious - causing hatred or strong dislike (pg. 53) You have avoided the **odious** otter and the cruel coyote.

commotion - noisy excitement and confusion (pg. 55) First, the takeoff, during which there is a lot of fuss and **commotion**, a lot of splashing and rapid beating of the wings.

exalted - to feel strong, glad, firm, high, proud, successful, satisfied, powerful and elevated (pg. 55) Besides, swans do not get dizzy—they feel wonderful in the air. They feel **exalted**.”

Chapter 7

captivity - held or confined so as to prevent escape (pg. 66) “I think it’s against the law to hold one of these wild birds in **captivity**.”

compliment - an expression of respect, affection, or admiration; especially : an admiring remark (pg. 67) “...he trusts you. That’s quite a **compliment**, son.”

solitary - all alone (pg. 70) “If you wanted to say ko-hoh and couldn’t make a single **solitary** sound, wouldn’t you feel worried?”

Chapter 8

disinclined - not wanting to do something : not inclined to do something (pg. 78) “I am **disinclined** to leave these attractive lakes now, in the fall of the year, with the winter coming on.”

countenance - the appearance of a person's face : a person's expression (pg. 82) “How good it is to see your **countenance** again.”

doleful - very sad (pg 89) Well I do remember how painful love can be, how exciting, an in the event of unsuccess, how disappointing and **doleful** the days and nights.

Chapter 9

marimbaphones – an obsolete tuned percussion instrument (pg 92) He saw banjos, horns, violins, mandolins, cymbals, saxophones, **marimbaphones**, cellos and many other instruments.

bestow - to present as a gift (pg. 97) Whilst there, I picked up a gift for you, which I now **bestow** upon you with my love and my blessing.

deplorable - very bad in a way that causes shock, fear, or disgust (pg. 98) “The long and short of it is, I had not money; I took the trumpet without paying for it. This was **deplorable**.”

Chapter 10

reveille - a bugle call at about sunrise signaling the first military formation of the day (pg. 106) *The idea is you blow a lot of loud fast notes in the early morning to wake the boys up. That's called **reveille**.*

desperate - having a strong need or desire for something or to do something (pg. 106) *"I'll try anything," wrote Louis. "I am **desperate** for money."*

convertible - able to be changed in form or use (pg. 108) *The car was a **convertible**, so Mr. Beaver put the top down.*

Chapter 11

counselors - supervisors of campers or activities at a summer camp (pg. 111) *The camp consisted of a big log cabin where everybody ate, seven tents where the boys and the **counselors** slept, a dock out front and a privy out back.*

implored - to make a very serious or emotional request to (someone) (pg. 113) *"Take it easy, will you?" Sam **implored**.*

prejudices - favoring or dislike of something without good reason (pg. 114) *Everyone is entitled to his likes and dislikes and to his **prejudices**.*

privy - a toilet located in a small shed outside a house or other building; outhouse (pg. 111) *The camp consisted of a big log cabin where everybody ate, seven tents where the boys and the counselors slept, a dock out front and a **privy** out back.*

Chapter 12

malodorous - having a bad smell (pg. 123) *I'm sure we'll all remember this **malodorous** event for a long time to come.*

untarnished - having no stains, not spoiled (pg. 128) *Our record for safety is still **untarnished**.*

distinguished - to recognize one thing from others by some mark or quality (pg. 131) *He is our most **distinguished** counselor—a great trumpet player, a great bird, a powerful swimmer, and a fine friend.*

Chapter 13

ambition - desire to achieve a particular goal (pg. 135) *The thought filled him with **ambition**.*

hoisted - to raise or become raised into position especially by mechanical means (pg. 138) *The canoes had been **hoisted** onto the racks in the boathouse...*

impersonal - not caring about individual persons or their feelings (pg. 138) *He was really thinking of Serena, but he left her name out of it and kept it **impersonal**.*

Chapter 14

impression - the first and immediate effect of an experience or perception upon the mind (pg. 142) *The sound made a big **impression**.*

accommodate - to make or have room for (pg. 146) *Another boat was being made ready, to **accommodate** the crowds.*

quintuple - being five times as great or as many (pg. 146) *I can triple it. I can quadruple it. I can **quintuple** it.*

Chapter 15

immaculate - perfectly clean (pg. 151) *"Look at him! He's **immaculate**."*

summoned - to send for (pg. 157) *He **summoned** a bell boy and handed him a key.*

associated - to join or come together as partners, friends, or companions (pg. 163) *I am **associated** with the Swan Boat at a salary of \$100 a week.*

Chapter 16

veered - to change direction or course (pg. 171) *When he saw the Empire State Building, he **veered** off to the right, crossed the Hudson River, and followed the railroad tracks to Newark and Trenton and points south.*

revulsion - a sudden or strong reaction or change (pg. 176) *Sensing in advance the **revulsion** you would feel toward having the tip of one of your powerful wings removed, I approached the Man.*

peasantry - all the peasants living in an area or country (pg. 176) *But in return for this so great favor on the part of the management of the Philadelphia Zoo, you are to give a free concert here at the lake every Sunday afternoon for the people of Philadelphia, the **peasantry**, who come here to refresh themselves.*

vertebrates - an animal that has a backbone (pg. 172) *Welcome to the Philadelphia Zoo, which crawls with rare mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, and fishes, including sharks, rays and other fishlike **vertebrates**.*

Chapter 17

perceive - to notice or become aware of (something) (pg. 183) *She is in no condition at the moment to **perceive** the depth of my affection or the extent of my love.*

critic - a person who disapproves of someone or something : a person who criticizes someone or something (pg. 186) *Once when he played it at one of his Sunday concerts, a music **critic** from a Philadelphia newspaper heard him, and the next morning the paper said: "Some of his notes are like jewels..."*

succumbed - to stop trying to resist something (pg. 196) *She **succumbed** completely to this charmer, this handsome musician, this rich and talented cob.*

Chapter 18

balustrade - a low wall or barrier (pg. 202) *Then he raced back to the island, grabbed his trumpet, his slate, his chalk pencil, his medal, and his money bag, flew over the **balustrade**, and walked boldly into the Bird House.*

civilization - a place that has the things that modern cities and towns have : a place where there is electricity, hot water, etc. (pg. 209) *...he and Serena intended to leave **civilization** and return to a wild life.*

amputated - to cut off (part of a person's body) (pg. 205) *...well Louis, she's got to have her left wing tip **amputated**.*

Chapter 19

rucksack – backpack (pg. 213) *So he picked up his **rucksack** and his sleeping bag and walked into the Bird House and entered the office.*

honorable - having or showing honesty and good moral character (pg. 215) *“He’s an **honorable** bird,” said Sam.*

staggered - extremely shocked or surprised (pg. 216) *The Head Man looked **staggered** by these figures.*

Chapter 20

redeem - to make (something that is bad, unpleasant, etc.) better or more acceptable (pg. 227) *I shall **redeem** my honor.*

teeming – to be full of (pg. 227) *“I shall return to Billings, the scene of my crime—a great city, **teeming** with life--.”*

decency - polite, moral, and honest behavior and attitudes that show respect for other people (pg. 241) *“...where I handed over the money and thus regained my honor and my **decency**.”*

extinct - no longer existing (pg. 239) *“Extinction is what happens when you’re **extinct**—when you don’t exist anymore because there are no others like you.”*

Chapter 21

notions - ideas about doing something : sudden wishes or desires (pg. 245) *Louis had hoped his wife might decide to make her nest in the same spot where his mother had built hers, but females are full of **notions**;...*

donate - to give (money, food, clothes, etc.) in order to help a person or organization (pg. 247) *If the Zoo needed a young Trumpeter Swan to add to its collection of waterfowl, Louis would **donate** one of his cygnets, just as he had promised.*

crepuscular - animals that are active primarily during twilight, that is during dawn and dusk (pg. 249) *“Pop,” said Sam, “what does ‘**crepuscular**’ mean?”*