



Eagle Point Elementary School Presents:
One School, One Book
The Trumpet of the Swan by E.B. White

Family Reading Guide

Chapter 1: Sam

- Vocabulary: presence sizzling treacherous

Summary: Sam Beaver and his father are camping in the Canadian wilderness, where Sam likes to explore. He has found a special place he doesn't particularly want to share with anyone, even his father. Sam begins to write about the special place in his diary.

Chapter 2: The Pond

- Vocabulary: vixen mighty tamping

Summary: As winter fades, signs of spring begin to emerge at Sam's pond. The pair of swans he had seen prepared for the arrival of their new family. They worked hard to ensure the "perfect" home!

Chapter 3: A Visitor

- Vocabulary: capers irksome pang

Summary: The Trumpeter Swans at the pond were a bit worried about the visitor they saw, until he helped to save them from a predator. So begins a relationship of trust between the swan family and Sam Beaver.

Chapter 4: The Cygnets

- Vocabulary: pipping cooped existence

Summary: Five cygnets hatch from the eggs that lay in the swans' huge nest. Sam is lucky enough to observe the babies going into the pond for the first time and to see them close up.

Chapter 5: Louis

- Vocabulary: burble endearments buoyant

Summary: The swan and the cob begin to worry about one of the cygnets, named Louis, because he appears to be different from the others in one very important way. Although his father promises to help him overcome his problem, Louis feels saddened by his very obvious difference.

Chapter 6: Off to Montana

- Vocabulary: odious commotion exalted

Summary: As the end of summer arrives, the swan and cob prepare their family to migrate south where they will spend the winter. As they begin their journey, they pass over the camp of Sam Beaver and his father, and Sam is able to watch them disappear into the distance.

Chapter 7: School Days

- Vocabulary: captivity compliment solitary

Summary: Louis decides to look for Sam while he is in Montana to get help with his problems. Louis wants to go to school to learn how to read and write so he can communicate like any other swan!

Chapter 8: Love

- Vocabulary: disinclined countenance doleful

Summary: Louis is gone from his family for over a year, and when he returns he is wearing something new and different around his neck. Louis also falls in love with a female swan named Serena, but since he is unable to ko-hoh, she is unaware of his feelings. Louis' father decides he knows how to help!

Chapter 9: The Trumpet

- Vocabulary: marimbaphones bestow deplorable

Summary: The old cob makes his trip to Billings, Montana, where he sacrifices his honor and law abiding nature to obtain an instrument that will help Louis to express his affection for Serena. Louis accepts his father's gift, as it is placed around his neck with the slate and white chalk pencil.

Chapter 10: Money Trouble

- Vocabulary: reveille desperate convertible

Summary: Sam Beaver helps Louis to get a job at a summer camp to help him earn money to pay for the trumpet his father stole.

Chapter 11: Camp Kookooskoos

- Vocabulary: counselors implored prejudices privy

Summary: Sam and Louis join the boys and counselors at Camp Kookooskoos, where Louis will be responsible to wake the children in the morning, call them to meals and end the day by playing his trumpet.

Chapter 12: A Rescue

- Vocabulary: malodorous untarnished distinguished

Summary: Louis receives recognition and a medal for saving one of the campers from drowning in the lake. Soon everyone was talking about the swan who could play a trumpet!

Chapter 13: End of Summer

- Vocabulary: ambition hoisted impersonal

Summary: At the end of the summer Louis received his \$100.00 for his trumpet playing at Camp Kookooskoos. Knowing he needed to find another job to earn more money, Louis asked Sam Beaver for advice. Sam suggested that Louis go to Boston to work on the Swan Boats.

Chapter 14: Boston

- Vocabulary: impression accommodate quintuple

Summary: In Boston, Louis found a job at the Public Gardens, leading the Swan Boats and playing his trumpet. The people of Boston were amazed by the Trumpeter Swan.

Chapter 15: A Night at the Ritz

- Vocabulary: immaculate summoned associated

Summary: Not wanting Louis to spend the night at the Public Gardens where he may be harmed, the Boatman convinced him to spend the night at the Ritz Hotel. While there, he charms guests with his trumpet playing and enjoys a dinner of watercress sandwiches.

Chapter 16: Philadelphia

- Vocabulary: veered revulsion peasantry vertebrates

Summary: Louis received an offer to play his trumpet in Philadelphia for \$500.00 a week. He knew that much money would help to pay his father's debt for the trumpet. In Philadelphia, Louis agrees to play his trumpet at a nightclub and at the zoo.

Chapter 17: Serena

- Vocabulary: perceive critic succumbed

Summary: Much to Louis' delight, a terrible storm brings Serena to him at the lake at the Philadelphia Zoo. He bides his time, planning the perfect moment to play his trumpet to her to inform her of his love for her.

Chapter 18: Freedom

- Vocabulary: balustrade civilization amputated

Summary: The Head Man in Charge of Birds at the Philadelphia Zoo wants to clip Serena's wing so she can't leave. Louis again asks Sam for help. Sam agrees to talk to the Head Man in Charge of Birds to secure Serena's freedom.

Chapter 19: A Talk About Money

- Vocabulary: rucksack honorable staggered

Summary: Sam Beaver and the Head Man in Charge of Birds have a long talk about money and animals. Sam secures Serena's freedom and gets on a plane to return to Montana. Serena and Louis decide to return also, but they take the southern route.

Chapter 20: Billings

- Vocabulary: redeem teeming decency extinct

Summary: Louis and Serena return to Montana with the money Louis had earned playing his trumpet. His father flew off to Billings to pay the shopkeeper for the trumpet and the damage done to his store.

Chapter 21: The Greening Spring

- Vocabulary: notions donate crepuscular

Summary: Louis and Serena return each spring to the Canadian pond where Louis had been hatched to build their nest for their family. Sam Beaver stopped to see them on occasion and Louis never forgot his experiences or the people he met on his travels.