

FAMILY BOOK CLUB



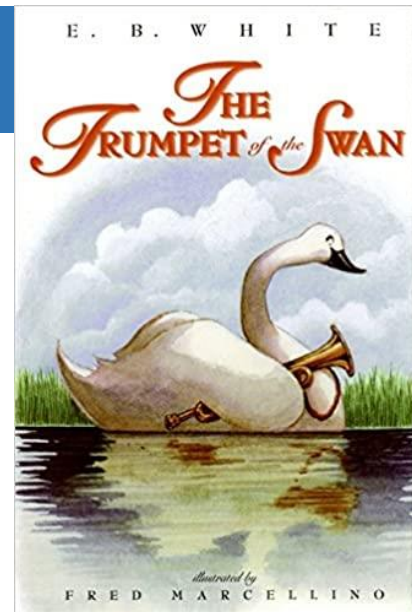
1

READ ALOUD

The Trumpet of the Swan by E.B. White

Meet the lovable swan Louis, his hilarious and talkative father, and a brass trumpet that has the potential to change everything. This is a story about facing obstacles with pluck and determination, the beauty of music, and the power of friendship.

*Read it aloud or enjoy the audio version of the story read by E.B. White himself. (Free with an **Audible** trial).*



2

SHARE AN EXPERIENCE

Picnic by the Water

Pack up a picnic, your copy of the book if you have one, and a large blanket, and head to a local river or pond to enjoy the wildlife. Read aloud, nibble on some treats, and imagine Louis's parents nest is nearby!

Are there swans in your area? What other birds do you notice? If you'd like, try to identify the various birds you notice while you are there. Use www.rspb.org.uk or www.ulsterwildlife.org to help.

3

TALK ABOUT IT

Ask any of these questions to spark a conversation. Remember, enjoying good questions is more important than getting good answers. You can ask these questions to kids of any age for a meaningful discussion.

- How are Sam and Louis the same? How are they different?
- Who is the most generous character in this story?
- Should Cob have taken the brass trumpet from the music store?
- What surprised you most in this story?
- What is something from *The Trumpet of the Swan* that you don't want to forget?

About E.B. White

Most well-known for his children's book *Charlotte's Web*, E.B. White is celebrated as one of the greatest writers of children's literature.

The Trumpet of the Swan was his third and final children's novel and was published in 1970.



Related Reading

- *Some Writer! The Story of E.B. White* by Melissa Sweet
An illustrated biography that informs young readers about the influential life and work of E.B. White.
- *Charlotte's Web* by E.B. White
Written in 1952, this is E.B. White's most famous book. The audiobook is available free from the Libraries NI website. You could also watch the film (with a box of tissues!).
- *Stuart Little* by E.B. White
This was E.B. White's first children's novel and was not very popular when it was released. Decide for yourself – does it deserve more praise than it first received? Compare and contrast with the film.