

**West Sayville Christian School Presents Its  
Super Summer of Spiritual Growth 2017  
For Grades 5-8**

School is almost out, which means extra free time. We do not want our students to have just an average summer, instead we want to strengthen their spiritual life through our *Super Summer of Spiritual Growth* project.

Every student going into grades 5-8 is required to complete the following assignments:

1. Read the Book of I John. Memorize I John 3 : 16-18 and think about how those verses can be applied to the service project listed below.
2. Serve for a total of six hours in your church, neighborhood or community.

When completed, each student must write a 250 word (or more) essay summarizing their service project(s) and how the challenge helped you grow closer to God.

The essays will be due on, Thursday, September 7, 2017. *The assignment as a whole will count as a quiz grade toward the students' first quarter Bible grade.*

# West Sayville Christian School Summer

Reading Program

Grade 5 & 6

June 2017

Dear Students,

This summer all middle school students will be required to do summer reading for English class. You will be reading Summer of the Swans by Betsy Byars. There is also a guided reading packet for you to fill out **as you read the book**. I suggest that you do a little at a time and do not leave it all for the last minute before school starts.

This packet and book should be handed in on the first full day of school. It will count as your first test grade for the quarter. I hope you enjoy your summer and Summer of the Swans!

See you in September,

# The Summer of the Swans

## Types of Swans

### Did You Know?

Swans are large white waterfowl. They are and black bills. In the United States, most excellent swimmers and strong fliers. Their mute swans live near the Great Lakes or in size and beauty have inspired many artists and mid-Atlantic coastal areas. writers. In this country, you are most likely to see one of two species: the so-called muteswan or the whistling swan.

- Mute swans are not really mute, or silent They can make sounds-from soft hissing . to loud trumpeting noises-but they are usually quiet. These are large birds, up to usually quiet. These are large birds, up to five feet tall, with wings that can spread as wide as eight feet. Mute swans are often photographed because they are so prettyAdults have large white bodies, arched wings, gracefully curved necks, and orange

and black bills. In the United States, most excellent swimmers and strong fliers. Their mute swans live near the Great Lakes or in size and beauty have inspired many artists and mid-Atlantic coastal areas.

- Whistling swans are slightly smaller than mute swans. Unlike the larger swans, these birds have longer necks, which are straight, not curved. Whistling swans migrate long distances, traveling each fall from the Far North down to their winter homes near the Great Lakes and the Atlantic shore. These swans have deep, rich voices-which sound a little like the voices of geese-and they are often heard before they are seen. They often travel in large flocks made up of hundreds of birds.

--published in 1970

--story takes place in West Virginia during late 1960's

--West Virginia is nicknamed "The Mountain State"

--West Virginia is filled with hills and mountains (Allegheny Mountains, Blue Ridge Mountains)

--sometimes large caves and underground streams form tunnels beneath the mountains

--coal is also in the mountains

--One hint as to the time frame is the mention of Jackie Kennedy Onassis. Jackie Kennedy was married to President John F. Kennedy (who was assassinated in 1963). In 1968, she married Aristotle Onassis, a Greek shipping magnate. When Jacqueline Kennedy lived in the White House, she was known for her charm, her elegance, and her sense of style. Many American women copied her hairdo and style of dress.

# Before You Read

## *The Summer of the Swans* Chapters 1-6

### BACKGROUND

#### Did You Know?

Many novels begin with a direct description of the setting—the time and the place in which the story occurs. In this novel, you will find hints that suggest when the events take place. One hint is the mention of Jackie Kennedy Onassis.

Jacqueline Kennedy was the widow of President John F. Kennedy who was assassinated in 1963. In 1968, she married Aristotle Onassis, a Greek shipping magnate, and added his name to hers. When she lived in the White House, Jacqueline Kennedy was known for her charm, her elegance, and her sense of style. Many American women copied her hairdo and style of dress, and many Americans called her Jackie instead of by her formal name.

#### Who's Talking?

Every story has a narrator—a "voice" that tells what is happening. The narrator determines how much readers will know. If the narrator is a character in the novel, readers know only what that character sees, hears, and feels. Sometimes, however, the narrator is not a character in the story and may not know what the characters think or feel. As you read the novel, think about what you learn from the narrator and what you are able to figure out for yourself.

### VOCABULARY PREVIEW

**abruptly** [a brupt' lej] *adv.* suddenly; unexpectedly (p. 3)

**clamoring** [klam' ar ing] *adj.* noisy (p. 16)

**emphatically** [em fat' ik le] *adv.* forcefully; showing determination (p. 7)

**indignation** [in' dig na' shan] *n.* anger that is caused by an unfair situation or statement (p. 9)

**kaleidoscope** [ka IT'da skop ' ] *n.* tube-shaped toy that contains loose bits of colored glass or plastic.

A viewer looks in one end and sees the colors form different, ever-changing patterns as the tube is turned. (p. 4)

# Responding

## *The Summer of the Swans* Chapters 1-6 Personal

### Response

What is your impression of Sara at this point in the book? Explain.

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### Analyzing Literature

#### Recall and Interpret

1. In chapter I, what advice does Wanda give Sara? Why doesn't Sara follow Wanda's advice?

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2. What is Charlie doing when he first appears in the novel? How does Sara treat him? What does her treatment of Charlie tell you about their relationship?

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3. Why is Aunt Willie taking care of the children? How does Sara feel about her?

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4. How does Sara respond when Wanda mentions that she has discussed Charlie with a boy in her psychology class? Why?

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5. Why does Sara want to look like Wanda? Why are looks important to Sara?

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6. What happened to Charlie when he was three? What was the result?

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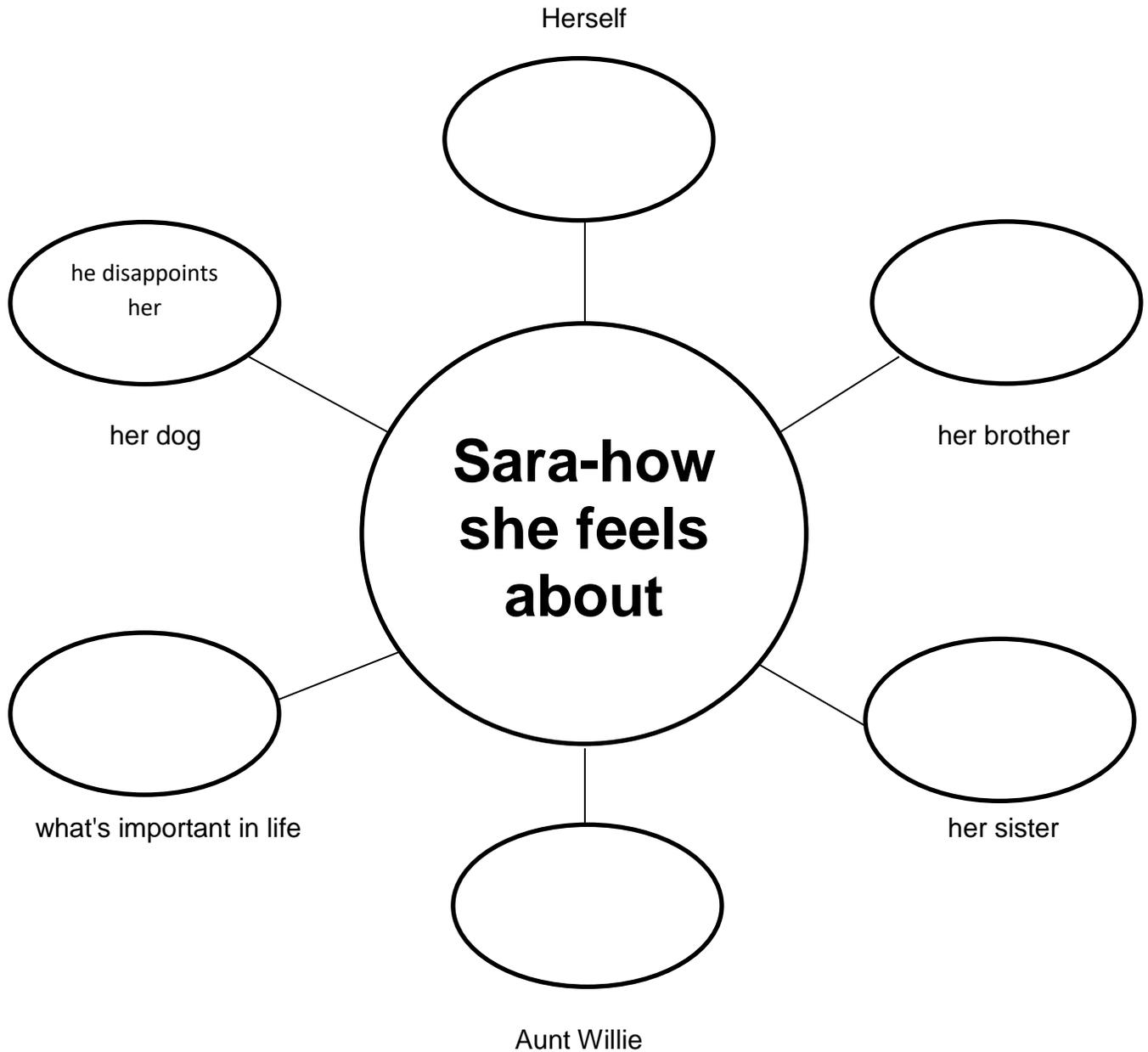
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# Active Reading

## *The Summer of the Swans* Chapters 1-6

At the beginning of *The Summer of the Swans*, you learn a lot about Sara. As you read the first six chapters, try to understand what kind of person she is. Keep track of what you learn by filling in the character web below.



# Before You Read

## *The Summer of the Swans* Chapters 7-11

### BACKGROUND

#### Did You Know?

*The Summer of the Swans* is told from the third-person limited point of view. The narrator describes the unspoken thoughts and feelings of only two characters. As you read the next five chapters, notice that the narrator sometimes focuses on Sara's thoughts and feelings and at other times on Charlie's.

#### Different Kinds of Conflict

Every story contains some type of conflict, or struggle. Novels often contain several conflicts. These may be external or internal. An external conflict exists when a character struggles with an outside force, such as another character or a force of nature. An internal conflict exists when a character is caught up in a psychological struggle. Usually, the character must make a difficult decision of some kind. As you read the next five chapters, be alert to both kinds of conflicts.

### VOCABULARY PREVIEW

**discontent** [dis' kan tent'] n. lack of satisfaction or contentment (p. 20)

**feverish** [fe 'var ish] adj. restless; showing great emotion (p. 28)

**irritating** [ir' a tat ing] adj. annoying (p. 20)

**persist** [par sist', -zist'] v. to stubbornly insist on something (p. 24)

**posse** [pos 'e] n. search party (p. 36)

**rasping** [rasp' ing] adj. hoarse; gruff (p. 30)

**thrash** [thrash' ing] v. to move about wildly or violently (p. 30)

**wedge** [wej] v. to cram; to force into a narrow space (p. 18)

# Active Reading

## *The Summer of the Swans* Chapters 7-11

Characters have reasons for the things they do. They may be motivated by some sort of problem. As you read chapters 7-11. pay attention to what the characters want and what they do.

Character	Wants	Action
Sara	to leave lake	

# Responding

## *The Summer of the Swans* Chapters 7-11

### Personal Response

If you were Sara, what thoughts might be going through your mind at this point? Why?

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### Analyzing Literature

#### Recall and Interpret

1. Why doesn't Sara want to stay at the lake? How does Charlie react to her request to leave? Why?

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2. What does Sara say about Wanda's boyfriend, Frank? What do Sara's statements suggest about her feelings toward Wanda?

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3. Why can't Charlie get anyone's attention when he points out that a button is missing from his pajamas? What does this tell you about the family?

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4. What motivates Charlie to get out of bed? What happens as a result?

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5. How does Aunt Willie respond when Sara says that Charlie is not in his bed? How is her response different from Sara's? In your opinion, what accounts for this difference?

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# Responding

## *The Summer of the Swans* Chapters 7-11

### Analyzing literature (*continued*)

#### Evaluate and Connect

6. What is the effect of switching from Sara's to Charlie's point of view? How would the story change if the reader had only Sara's perspective of events?

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7. Should Aunt Willie have called the police, or was she right to let Sara go looking for Charlie? Explain.

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# Before You Read

## *The Summer of the Swans* Chapters 12-16

### BACKGROUND

#### Did You Know?

A person lost in the woods faces many dangers. The obvious ones include contacts with wild animals and accidents—for example, suffering a fall, getting hurt, and being unable to walk. A less obvious danger also lurks: hypothermia, or the loss of body heat. People who do not wear warm clothing can suffer from hypothermia. As you might imagine, this occurs most frequently in cold weather, but it can also occur in warmer weather if the person is damp or is in a cold or windy place.

#### Rising Action

The plot is the sequence of events in a narrative work. Most authors begin their novels with an exposition, or introduction of the characters, the setting, and the conflict. The rising action is the part of the plot in which the conflict becomes complicated. This is the part of the plot that keeps the reader asking, What will happen next? How will it all work out? As you read chapters 12-16 of *The Summer of the Swans*, think about the twists and turns in the plot.

### VOCABULARY PREVIEW

**grudgingly** [gruj' ing lel] *adj.* in a reluctant manner, as if against one's will (p. 39)

**hustled** [hus'aid] *v.* moved or worked quickly or energetically (p. 51)

**impetuously** [im pech' 6b as lel] *adv.* without preplanning or forethought; reckless (p. 57)

**indestructible** [in' di struk' ta ball] *adj.* unable to be destroyed (p. 57)

**ravines** [ra venz'l] *n.* narrow valleys with steep sides (p. 39)

**remoteness** [ri mot' nasj] *n.* an attitude of distance or coldness toward another person (p. 43)

# Responding

*The Summer of the Swans* Chapters 12-16

## Personal Response

How do you feel the search for Charlie is going? What, if anything, would you do differently if you were among the searchers?

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## Analyzing Literature Recall and Interpret

1. Why does Aunt Willie feel so guilty about Charlie's disappearance?

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2. What does Charlie's self-portrait reveal about him? What other details do you learn about him? How do they add to the suspense?

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3. How does Sara feel about Joe Melby at first? How do her feelings change? Why?

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4. What kind of person is Joe? What words and actions led you to form your opinion of him?

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5. How are Joe and Sara alike? How are they different? Give examples from the novel to support your answers.

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# Before You Read

## *The Summer of the Swans* Chapters 17-23

### BACKGROUND

#### Climax and Resolution

In novels and stories, the climax is the point of the greatest emotional intensity, interest, or suspense. It typically comes at the turning point, where readers are eager to find out what will happen next. Most major events in the story lead up to the climax. However, a story does not stop at the climax. It continues to the resolution, or final outcome, where readers know or can guess what will happen to the main characters.

#### Did You Know?

A symbol is a person, a place, or a thing that stands for something else, typically something abstract. For example, in *The Summer of the Swans*, Sara's sneakers, Charlie's watch, and the swans all have symbolic meanings. **AS** you read the final chapters of the novel, think about what the sneakers, the watch, and the swans represent to the characters.

### VOCABULARY PREVIEW

**cascade** [kas kad'ɪ] n. fall of materials (p. 66)

**clammy** [klam'e] *adj.* cool, damp, and sticky (p. 60)

**enveloped** [en vel'əpt] *v.* wrapped up or covered completely (p. 59)

**nailing** [flaɪ ɪŋ] *v.* beating wildly (p. 60)

**frenzy** [fren'ze] n. wild, violent activity (p. 67)

**tremulous** [trem 'ya las] *adj.* timid, trembling (p. 61)

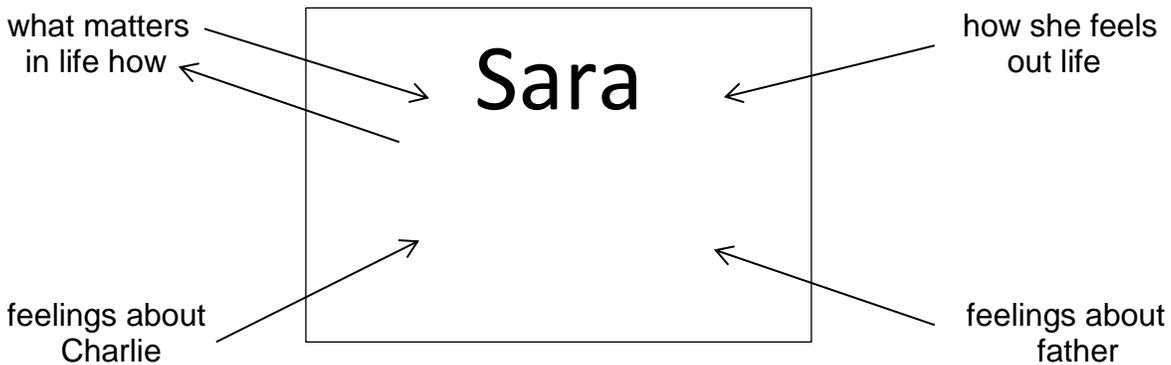
**waver** [wa'var] n. hesitation (p. 65)

**wryly** [ri'le] *adv.* with grim humor (p. 63)

# Active Reading

## *The Summer of the Swans* Chapters 17-23

Even though *The Summer of the Swans* revolves around Charlie, Sara is actually the best-developed character in the novel. Not only does she exhibit many different traits, she changes during the course of the story. Before you finish the novel, review the notes that you made about Sara for the character web on page 17. Then, as you read the final chapters, make notes about how she has changed.



Notes:

# Responding

## *The Summer of the Swans* Chapters 17-23

### Personal Response

Were you pleased with the novel's ending? Why or why not?

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### Analyzing Literature

#### Recall and Interpret

1. How does Charlie's watch break? Why is he so upset when it no longer works

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2. What does Joe do to help in the search for Charlie? In your opinion, how does his help make Sara feel? Give reasons for your answer.

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3. Upon finding Charlie, Sara knew that "if she lived to be a hundred no one would ever look at her quite that way again." Explain what she meant by this thought. What does she realize about her relationship with Charlie at that point?

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4. Describe Sara's telephone conversation with her father. What does she realize about her father after she talks with him?

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