

Name _____

Fluctuating Feelings

Word Bank

hurt	loving	irritable	fearful	nervous	peaceful
guilty	angry	embarrassed	ashamed	jealous	anxious

Sara experiences many feelings throughout the story. Help Sara sort out her feelings by following the directions below.

Directions: Read each statement below. Write how Sara feels in each box. (Refer to the word bank or choose emotions not listed.) Then write what happens in the story that supports your decision.

- 

Sara's feelings toward Charlie at the beginning of the story
- 

Sara's feelings toward Wanda
- 

Sara's feelings toward _____
- 

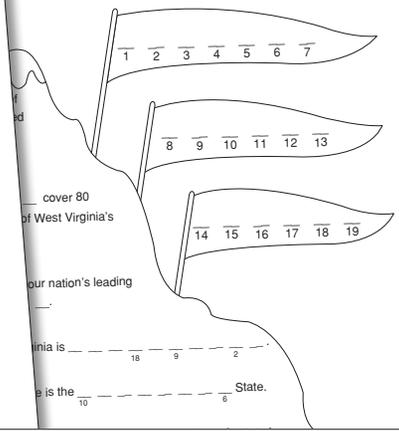
Sara's feelings toward Joe after she learns the truth about the watch
- 

Sara's feelings toward her dad
- 

Sara's feelings toward Charlie at the end of the story

Fact-Finding Climb

Charlie, she climbs the rugged terrain of West Virginia. Learn more about the mountain of facts below. At the base of the mountain, read each statement. Use reference materials to fill in the missing words. Then write each numbered letter on the West Virginia state motto. Translated, the motto means "Mountaineers



cover 80 of West Virginia's _____

our nation's leading _____

inia is _____

is the _____ State.

Caught in Conflict

the characters experience various conflicts. Follow the directions characters learn about themselves as a result of the conflicts. A type of conflict is given. Determine a conflict in the book that the questions.

Example of a **person versus person** conflict between _____ and _____

the conflict? _____

the conflict resolved? _____

what is learned? _____

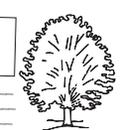


Example of a **person versus nature** conflict between _____ and _____

the conflict? _____

the conflict resolved? _____

what is learned? _____



Example of a **person versus his or her thoughts** conflict happens between _____ and _____

the conflict? _____

the conflict resolved? _____

what is learned? _____

I desire...

er of the Swans" wer Keys

ary. Accept all reasonable

ry. Accept all reasonable

The Summer of the Swans

by Betsy Byars



About the Book

It's summertime, and 14-year-old Sara is troubled and discontented. She feels like a nobody. She feels that she is not cute, not smart, not a good dancer, and not popular. Her father seems remote, her Aunt Willie is bossy, and her older sister is beautiful. Things are unexpectedly put into perspective for Sara when she awakens one morning to find her mentally retarded younger brother missing. Charlie has wandered off and no one knows where he is. Sara remembers Charlie's love for the swans at the lake and goes to look for him there. As Sara's search grows more desperate, she learns some of life's important lessons and the world comes back into focus.

About the Author

Betsy Byars was born in 1928 in Charlotte, North Carolina. Reading was her favorite subject in school. While growing up, she wanted to work with zoo animals or be a mathematician. However, she majored in English at Queens College. She wrote for *The Saturday Evening Post* and several other magazines. Her first children's book was published in 1962. Since then, Byars' first children's book has written more than 50 children's books. It takes Byars about a year to write a novel. She gets writing ideas from events in her life. She encourages young writers to write about what they know. She believes she's a successful writer because she reads constantly.



The Summer of the Swans won the Newbery Medal in 1971. The story was inspired by a first-grade boy whom Byars tutored. Byars also included something of herself in this novel, as she tries to do in all of her books. When she was little, she had big feet, so she gave big feet to Sara in *The Summer of the Swans*.

Student Contract Materials List

- Activity #1: construction paper, scissors
- Activity #2: drawing paper, colored pencils, markers, or crayons
- Activity #3: dictionary, graph paper
- Activity #4: paper plate, set of watercolors, dictionary
- Activity #5: phone book, large index card
- Activity #6: copy of page 5
- Activity #7: reference materials on swans, one 12" x 18" sheet of light blue construction paper
- Activity #8: drawing paper
- Activity #9: copy of page 6
- Activity #10: 1/2 sheet of poster board, markers
- Activity #11: copy of page 7
- Activity #12: scraps of construction paper, a twig, twine or raffia, scissors

The Summer of the Swans

Independent Contract

Name: _____ Number of activities to be completed: _____

<p>1. Writing</p> <p>Sara is frustrated with her big feet. On a sheet of construction paper, trace around your bare foot. Cut out the shape and write a "footnote" to Sara. In your note, tell Sara what you would like to change about yourself and why. Since Sara can't change the size of her feet, give her some advice on how to deal with her problem.</p>	<p>2. Art</p> <p>Early in the book Sara compares herself to Donald Duck because of the big orange tennis shoes she is wearing. While searching for Charlie, Joe compares himself to the cartoon character Wile E. Coyote. "...who is always getting flattened and dynamited and crushed and in the next scene is strolling along, completely normal again." Choose a cartoon or comic strip character with whom you have a trait in common. Draw and color a short comic strip in which the character displays how the two of you are alike.</p>
<p>3. Social Studies</p> <p>Various physical land features are mentioned throughout Sara's outdoor adventures. To develop an understanding of the geography of the area in which Sara lives, create a crossword puzzle using the words listed below. Make the geographical definitions of the terms the clues for your puzzle.</p> <p>pond ravine lake cliff valley ditch bank forest</p>	<p>4. Art</p> <p>Sara wants to change the color of her shoes from orange to baby blue. But the blue dye turns her orange shoes puce. Complete this color wheel activity to discover some unusual colors. Fold a paper plate in half, in half again, and in half once more. Untuck the plate to reveal eight sections. Along the rim of each section, write one of the following colors: puce, khaki, chartreuse, taupe, azure, coral, indigo, and fuchsia. Under each word, write the color's dictionary definition. Then mix paint to create each color. Under each definition, paint the section with its corresponding color.</p>
<p>5. Research</p> <p>When Aunt Willie realizes that Charlie is missing, she calls the police. If your family had an emergency, would you know what number to call? Have your parent or guardian help you make a list of important emergency numbers on a notecard. Display this card in a prominent location at home for quick reference in case of an emergency.</p>	<p>6. Reading</p> <p>Throughout the book, Sara's feelings fluctuate wildly. In fact, her feelings toward Joe change drastically from the beginning to the end of the book. Obtain a copy of page 5 from your teacher and take a closer look at Sara's feelings.</p>

The Summer of the Swans

Independent Contract

Name: _____ Number of activities to be completed: _____

<p>7. Science</p> <p>Charlie is mesmerized by the swans at the lake. Find out more about swans by researching two of the following swan species: mute, tundra, whooper, trumpeter, black, black-necked, and coscoroba. Then create a Venn diagram by drawing two overlapping lakes. In each lake, draw and label one of the swans you researched. In the area where the two lakes intersect, list the similarities between the two types of swans. In the lake area around each swan, list how that species differs from the other. Cut out the overlapping lakes along the outer edge. Share your project with the class.</p>	<p>8. Social Studies</p> <p>When Sara reaches the top of the hill in her search for Charlie, she is awed by the sight of the valley before her. Reread the beginning of chapter 19. Then draw a map of what Sara sees. Keep in mind that Sara is up high on a mountain and is looking into a valley. Include buildings, forests, and anything else she sees.</p>
<p>9. Research</p> <p>The setting for <i>The Summer of the Swans</i> is West Virginia. To "climb a mountain" and learn more about West Virginia, obtain a copy of page 6 from your teacher.</p>	<p>10. Art</p> <p>At the end of chapter 15, a radio announcer reports that Charlie is missing. He gives a description of Charlie in the hope that someone may have seen him. Using the announcer's description and the description of Charlie in chapter 2, create a missing-child poster of Charlie. Include a drawing of Charlie as well as a written description. Title your poster "Find This Child!"</p>
<p>11. Reading</p> <p>In <i>The Summer of the Swans</i>, the characters experience various conflicts. Three types of conflicts arise in the story: conflict between a person and another person, conflict between a person and nature, and conflict between a person and his or her thoughts and desires. Through these conflicts, the characters' eyes are opened and they learn more about themselves and each other. Obtain a copy of page 7 from your teacher to further investigate these three types of conflict.</p>	<p>12. Writing</p> <p>Throughout the story, there are events that lead to the climax, in which Charlie is found. Draw six leaf shapes on construction paper and cut them out. Write a sentence describing one event on each leaf. Then poke a hole at the top of each leaf and use twine or raffia to tie your leaves to a twig in the sequence in which they occur.</p>