Trumpet of the Swan

Chapter Questions, Vocab & Activities
Chapter one...

1. Sam Beaver sees something special on a lonely pond in Canada. What is it? __________
   _____________________________________________________________________________________

2. Does Sam tell his father about the nest? If not, why not? ________________________________
   _____________________________________________________________________________________

3. Sam feels that he has two problems. What are they? _____________________________________
   _____________________________________________________________________________________

Chapter two...

1. Why does the male swan concur that the island is a perfect nesting place? ______
   _____________________________________________________________________________________

2. Describe how the female swan makes her nest? ____________________________________________
   _____________________________________________________________________________________

Chapter three...

1. Who is the visitor? ________________________________________________________________

2. How many eggs, total does the female swan lay? _______________________________________

3. How does Sam win over the swans? __________________________________________________

Chapter four...

1. What did the fifth cygnet do to greet Sam? ____________________________________________

2. What two things is the swan equipped with to enable it to get out of the egg? ______
   _____________________________________________________________________________________
1. **defective**: having a flaw or defect; not perfect
2. **compel**: to force or drive to do something
3. **endearments**: a loving or affectionate act, word or gesture
4. **frolic**: to act in a playful way by romping about
5. **sustained**: to provide with the basic necessities of life
6. **captivity**: bondage; imprisonment
7. **solitary**: being, traveling, or living alone
8. **desperation**: the condition or feeling of being without hope
9. **pursuits**: hobbies or activities to which one gives time and energy

Chapter five…

1. In what ways is Louis different from his brothers and sisters? ______________________
   ________________________________________________________________________________

2. How did Louis’ father initially react to the news that Louis does not have a voice? ___
   ________________________________________________________________________________

Chapter six…

1. What are the three parts of flying that the cob explains to the cygnets? ____________
   ________________________________________________________________________________

2. According to the cob, what does exalted mean? ________________________
   ________________________________________________________________________________

Chapter seven…

1. Louis is greatly admired by other cygnets at the reserve. What is he able to do? _____
   ________________________________________________________________________________

2. After Louis arrived in Montana, he makes a decision that will change his life. What was it? ______________________________

Chapter eight…

1. What happens that makes Louis feel very disappointed after he returns home? _____
   ________________________________________________________________________________

2. With whom does Louis finally communicate? ________________________________

3. Why is it necessary for Louis to communicate with other swans? ______________
   ________________________________________________________________________________

4. What does the cob decide to do to help his son Louis? ___________________________
Chapter nine…
1. What do you think a “noble quest” means? ____________________________________________
2. Do you think it is right to steal for the love of someone? ________________________________

Chapter ten…
1. What are the three problems Louis finds himself with? _________________________________
2. What does Louis decide to do about his problem? _____________________________________
3. What does Sam suggest Louis do to earn some money? _________________________________

Chapter eleven…
1. What is your opinion of Mr. Brickle’s answer about not liking birds? _________________
2. Kookooshkoos was the peculiar name of the camp. What are some other peculiar names that could be given to a camp? __________________________________________

Chapter twelve…
1. What is the skunk’s problem? ______________________________________________________
2. Should Applegate Skinner have taken out the canoe alone? ____________________________
Chapter thirteen…

1. What job suggestion does Sam give Louis? ____________________________
   ___________________________________________________________________

2. Why does Louis want Sam to slit the web on his right foot? ______________
   ___________________________________________________________________

Chapter fourteen…

1. What powers the Swan Boat? __________________________________________
   ___________________________________________________________________

2. What is the first song that Louis plays for the Swan Boat? ______________


Chapter fifteen…

1. What reason did the boatman give the hotel clerk that Louis should be allowed to
   stay at the hotel? ____________________________________________________
   ___________________________________________________________________

2. How many sandwiches did Louis order from room service? ______________

Chapter sixteen…

1. Why must Louis get a different job? _________________________________

2. What must Louis do every week in payment for not being pinioned (having the tip of
   one wing removed)? ________________________________________________
   ___________________________________________________________________
Chapter seventeen…

1. The author tells us that Serena has been blown all the way across America in the storm. Do you think that is believable, or is it part of the fantasy of the book? 

______________________________________________________________________________________________________________

2. What song does Louis decide to play for Serena first? ________________________________

Chapter eighteen…

1. How does Louis save Serena from being pinioned? ________________________________

______________________________________________________________________________________________________________

2. What does Louis offer to do to get Sam Beaver to come help him? ____________________

______________________________________________________________________________________________________________

Chapter nineteen…

1. In what way does the visit to the zoo change Sam’s life? _________________________

______________________________________________________________________________________________________________

2. What does Sam tell the head man that convinces him to allow Serena and Louis to leave the zoo? ____________________________

______________________________________________________________________________________________________________

Chapter twenty…

1. Who makes the decision concerning the money? ________________________________

2. Who did he decide should get to keep the money? ________________________________
Swan Boat
Use your imagination and draw your very own Swan Boat.
Vocab

1. irksome  
2. cygnets  
3. cautiously  
4. boggy  
5. vixen  
6. vain  
7. remote  
8. majestically  
9. sly

Comprehension Questions

10. What did Sam Beaver see on the lonely, Canadian pond? ___________________

11. Did Sam tell his father about the nest? ________________________________

12. What were Sam’s two problems? ______________________________________

13. How many total eggs did the female swan lay? __________________________

14. How did Sam manage to win over the swans? ____________________________

15. What did the fifth cygnet do to greet Sam? _____________________________

Bonus
* Name one of the things the swan is equipped with to get out of the shell. _____
..........................................................................................................................
Vocab

1. captivity
2. compel
3. desperation
4. pursuits
5. defective
6. solitary
7. sustained
8. frolic
9. endearments

Comprehension Questions

10. How is Louis different from his brothers and sisters? ________________________________

11. How did Louis’ father react to Louis not having a voice? ____________________________

12. What were two of the three parts of flying that the cob explained to the cygnets? ____________________________

13. What happened that disappointed Louis? ________________________________

14. With whom did Louis finally communicate? ________________________________

15. What does the cob decide to do to help his son Louis? ________________________________

Bonus

* Why was it so important for Louis to be able to communicate with the other swans? ________
Vocab

1. emit
2. ovation
3. serene
4. sprinted
5. procure
6. reputation
7. haunts
8. peculiar
9. quest

Comprehension Questions

10-12. What are the three problems Louis finds himself with?

13. What did Louis decide to do about his problem?

14. What does Sam suggest Louis do to earn some money?

15. What is the skunk’s problem?

Bonus

* Should Applegate Skinner have gone out in the canoe alone?
Trumpet of the Swan
Quiz 4 {ch 13-16}

Vocab
1. appropriate
2. hoisted
3. preening
4. candor
5. plumage
6. commotion
7. impression
8. shrewd
9. tendency

a. a noisy confusion; disorder
b. to trim and clean feathers as a bird does
c. clever and careful
d. quality of openness, honesty, and straightforwardness in expression
e. the fact of being likely to act in some way
f. lifted or hauled up using a mechanical device
g. the feathers of a bird
h. a strong feeling, idea, or opinion coming from experience in something
i. right for the purpose; proper

Comprehension Questions

10. What job suggestion does Sam give Louis? ___________________________________________

11. What powers the Swan Boat? _____________________________________________________

12. What is the first song Louis plays for the Swan Boat? ________________________________

13. What reason did the boatman give the hotel clerk that Louis should be allowed to stay at the hotel? ________________________________________________________________

14. How many sandwiches did Louis order from room service? __________________________

15. Why must Louis get a different job? ________________________________________________

Bonus

* What must Louis do every week in payment for not being pinioned? ______________________

________________________________________________________________________________
Vocab

1. reviving
2. roused
3. gale
4. lance
5. sullies
6. superficial
7. subsided
8. astounded
9. fascinated

a. to attract and hold the attention and interest of others
b. located on the surface
c. to give new health, strength, or life to
d. to make dirty or tarnished
e. a strong wind of about 30-60 miles per hour
f. to become less; to decrease
g. to waken from sleep
h. a weapon with a long pole and pointed metal head
i. to cause surprise or wonder; amaze

Comprehension Questions

10. What song does Sam decide to play for Serena first? ________________________________

11. What did Louis offer to do to get Sam Beaver to come help him? _______________________ 

12. In what way does the visit to the zoo change Sam’s life? ______________________________ 

13. What does Sam tell the head man that convinces him to allow Serena and Louis to leave the zoo? ____________________________________________________________

14. Who makes the decision concerning the money? ________________________________

15. Who did he decide should get to keep the money? ________________________________

Bonus

* Name one thing Louis did to save Serena from being pinioned? __________________________

Trumpet of the Swan Quiz 5 {ch 17-20}
Trumpet of the Swan Test

Vocab

1. captivity
2. cygnets
3. vain
4. serene
5. defective
6. preening
7. hoisted
8. peculiar
9. gale
10. superficial

a. having too much pride in one’s appearance
b. free from trouble; calm
c. lifted or hauled up using a mechanical device
d. having a flaw or defect; not perfect
e. odd, strange, or unusual
f. located on the surface
g. a strong wind of about 30-60 miles per hour
h. to trim and clean feathers as a bird does
i. a young swan
j. bondage; imprisonment

Short Answer

11. Sam Beaver saw a _______________________________ on the lonely Canadian pond.

12. How did Sam manage to win over the swans? ______________________________________________

13. How is Louis different from his brothers and sisters? ________________________________

14. What does the cob decide to do to help his son Louis? ________________________________

15-16. What were two of the three parts of flying that the cob explained to the cygnets? ________

17. What reason did the boatman give the hotel clerk that Louis should be allowed to stay at the hotel? ___________________________________________________________________________________

18. Why did Louis have to leave the Swan Boat job? _________________________________________

19. What song did Louis decide to play for Serena first? _________________________________

20. Who does Louis go to for advice through the book? _________________________________

21. In what way did the visit to the zoo change Sam’s life? ________________________________

Match the location with the event.

_____ 22. Camp Kookooskoos  
_____ 23. Bird Lake  
_____ 24. Canada  
_____ 25. Boston  
_____ 26. Philadelphia  
_____ 27. Billings, Montana  

a. father swan gets trumpet  
 b. Sam Beaver discovers the swans  
 c. Sam Beaver gets a job  
 d. Serena drops from the sky  
 e. Louis plays the trumpet before a Swan Boat  
 f. Louis saves Applegate Skinner

Give answers in complete sentences.

28. How does Louis show that he is honest? __________________________________________________  
__________________________________________________________  
__________________________________________________________  

29. Describe Louis and Sam Beaver’s friendship. ________________________________________________  
__________________________________________________________  
__________________________________________________________  

30. What were the five things hanging around Louis’ neck? (Use a complete sentence.). _______  
__________________________________________________________  
__________________________________________________________  

Bonus  
* Using at least two complete sentences, tell me about YOUR favorite part of this book! ______  
__________________________________________________________  
__________________________________________________________  
__________________________________________________________