

## Bookfolio for **The Summer of the Swans**

**Author:** [Betsy Byars](#)

**First Publication Date:** 1970

**Publisher:** Viking

**ISBN:** 0670681903

**Recommended for:** [Grades 4-6](#)

**Classification:** Fiction

**Genre:** [Realistic Fiction](#)

**Story Summary:** Sara is not sure how it happened, but suddenly she is having the worst summer of her life. She is feeling out of sorts with everyone in her family -- Aunt Willie, her beautiful older sister Wanda, even Charlie. Yet most of all, Sara is dissatisfied with what she sees in the mirror -- a tall, lanky girl with flat hair and big feet. These preoccupations abruptly cease when she realizes that Charlie, her younger brother who has learning disabilities, is lost. He had returned alone to the woods to find the pond with the swans he loved so much. Sara eventually finds her brother, with help from an unexpected source, and gains a new perspective on what is truly important.

**Read-aloud Recommendation:** pages 40-46

**The skills for each activity are identified by the following abbreviations:  
R=Reading, W=Writing, S=Speaking, L=Listening, D=Drawing**

<b>The Summer of the Swans - Independent Activities</b>	<b>Skills</b>
1. <a href="#">Sara Expresses Her Gratitude</a> (Writing a letter)	W
2. <a href="#">The Ugly Duckling and the Beautiful Swan</a> (Drawing a picture)	D , S
3. <a href="#">Swans: Cobs, Pens, and Cygnets</a> (Writing a letter)	D , R , S , W
4. <a href="#">A Look Within</a> (Writing a letter)	W
5. <a href="#">The White Steps</a> (Writing a poem)	S , W
6. <a href="#">Natural Resources of West Virginia</a> (Making a map)	D , R
<b>The Summer of the Swans - Group Activities</b>	<b>Skills</b>
1. <a href="#">The Life of the Party</a> (Writing a new chapter)	L , S , W
2. <a href="#">Lost and Alone</a> (Identifying with story characters)	S , W
3. <a href="#">A Happy Ending</a> (Conducting a broadcast)	L , S
4. <a href="#">More about Coal Mines</a> (Researching a topic)	D , R
5. <a href="#">Color Combinations</a> (Creating colors)	D , R
6. <a href="#">"Let's Talk About..."</a> (Discussing the story)	L , S

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