THE SUMMER OF THE SWANS
by Betsy Byars
Winner of the 1971 John Newbery Medal
35-QUESTION WHOLE BOOK TEST
by Polly Wickstrom
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35-QUESTION
WHOLE BOOK TEST

**Directions:** Read each question. Circle the response or responses that best answer the question.

1. Why did Wanda tell Sara to leave Boysie alone?
   A) Sara was making Boysie dance on his hind legs.
   B) Sara was yelling at Boysie, and she was telling Boysie that he was a bad dog.
   C) Sara was tying a scarf around Boysie’s head.
   D) Sara was pulling Boysie’s tail.

2. Choose TWO things that Sara had done for Charlie the day before Sara woke up and realized that Charlie was missing.
   A) Sara had put the candy back onto the stick of Charlie’s lollipop.
   B) Sara had helped Charlie to make a tent in the yard.
   C) Sara had taken Charlie to the library, and she had helped him check out some books.
   D) Sara had helped Charlie to build a tall tower with his wooden blocks.

3. What had Charlie done many times over the years?
   A) Charlie had pulled so much bark off the old oak tree in the front yard that the tree had almost no bark left on it.
   B) Charlie had pulled on his hair so much that he had little bald spots all over his head.
   C) Charlie had walked around the house so many times that he had made a permanent groove in the grass.
   D) Charlie had shuffled his feet back and forth on the step so many times that two grooves had been worn into the boards.
4. What did Frank do for Aunt Willie?
   A) Frank gave Aunt Willie a ride on his motor scooter.
   B) Frank helped Aunt Willie wash and dry the dishes.
   C) Frank gave Aunt Willie a beautiful bouquet of flowers.
   D) Frank moved some furniture around in the living room for Aunt Willie.

5. What did Sara think of her sister, Wanda?
   A) Sara thought that Wanda was the smartest person she had ever known.
   B) Sara thought that Wanda had trouble seeing things and that she needed to wear glasses.
   C) Sara thought that Wanda was a hundred times prettier than Sara was.
   D) Sara thought that Wanda should get her hair cut.

6. What did Charlie like to do?
   A) Charlie liked to go swimming at the public swimming pool.
   B) Charlie liked to go down the elephant slide at the park.
   C) Charlie liked to hide things.
   D) Charlie liked to listen to and look at his watch.

7. Mrs. Weicek told Ernestine that Charlie:
   A) Couldn’t hear
   B) Couldn’t talk
   C) Was a hard worker
   D) Was a troublemaker

8. Choose TWO things that happened when Sara took Charlie to see the swans.
   A) Charlie was afraid of the swans.
   B) Sara showed Charlie how to toss pieces of bread to the swans.
   C) When Sara told Charlie that it was time to go home, Charlie didn’t want to leave.
   D) When Charlie was watching the swans, he got too close to the lake, and he ended up falling into the lake.
9. Choose TWO things that Sara didn’t like about Frank.
   A) Sara didn’t like it that Frank was always helping himself to all of the food in their refrigerator.
   B) Sara didn’t like the way Frank was always bragging about how rich his parents were.
   C) Sara didn’t like the way that Frank called Wanda “Little One.”
   D) Sara didn’t like it that Frank never paid any attention to Charlie.

10. What sound did Sara hear from Charlie’s room each night?
    A) Sara heard the sound of Charlie thumping his foot against the wall.
    B) Sara heard the sound of Charlie humming.
    C) Sara heard the sound of Charlie clicking his tongue.
    D) Sara heard the sound of Charlie coughing.

11. How was Charlie’s brain injured?
    A) Charlie’s brain was injured when he was just a few weeks old, and he was in the car when there was a terrible car accident.
    B) Charlie’s brain was injured when Charlie was six, and he fell out of a second-story window while he was visiting a friend.
    C) Charlie’s brain was injured when Charlie was three, and he had two terrible illnesses, one right after the other.
    D) Charlie’s brain was injured when Charlie’s father dropped Charlie when Charlie was just four days old.

12. Why did Wanda have the radio on at night?
    A) Wanda wanted to hear the weather report so that she could find out if it was going to rain on the day of the church picnic.
    B) Wanda had the radio on so that she wouldn’t have to hear what Sara was saying to her.
    C) Wanda could never fall asleep unless she was listening to the radio.
    D) Wanda wanted to hear Frank’s dedication to her on the Diamond Jim show.
13. What had Charlie been concerned about before he went to bed the evening that Sara had taken Charlie to see the swans?
   A) Charlie had been concerned about a button that was missing from his pajamas.
   B) Charlie had been concerned about a new scrape that he had on his elbow.
   C) Charlie had been concerned about the loud noises made by the thunder during the thunderstorm.
   D) Charlie had been concerned about the bulb that had burned out on his nightlight.

14. What did Sara do with her orange tennis shoes?
   A) Sara threw the tennis shoes into the lake.
   B) Sara tried to dye the tennis shoes a baby blue color.
   C) Sara sold the tennis shoes at a yard sale.
   D) Sara gave the tennis shoes to Mary.

15. Why did Charlie walk out of the house in the middle of the night?
   A) Charlie thought he had seen a swan outside his window.
   B) Charlie was following Boysie.
   C) Charlie thought that he had left his watch in the yard.
   D) Charlie thought that he had heard someone calling his name.

16. What was Mary wearing when she went with Sara down to the lake to look for Charlie?
   A) Mary was wearing a bathing suit.
   B) Mary was wearing ballet slippers.
   C) Mary was wearing rollers beneath a scarf.
   D) Mary was wearing her cheerleading uniform.

17. What had Aunt Willie promised Sara’s mother?
   A) Aunt Willie had promised Sara’s mother that she would go back to school so that she could become a nurse.
   B) Aunt Willie had promised Sara’s mother that she would make sure that Sara and Wanda went to college.
   C) Aunt Willie had promised Sara’s mother that she would look after Charlie her whole life.
   D) All of the above
18. Aunt Willie disagreed with Sara when Sara said that Joe Melby:
   A) Would quit school before he was sixteen years old
   B) Had stolen Charlie’s watch
   C) Had once shoved Charlie down onto the sidewalk
   D) Was very stupid

19. Aunt Willie told Sara that Sara:
   A) Wanted revenge too much
   B) Never wanted to learn anything new
   C) Was selfish
   D) Spent too much time looking at herself in the mirror

20. Why didn’t Sara want Aunt Willie to call Sara’s father?
   A) Sara didn’t want her father to be worried.
   B) Sara didn’t think that her father would come.
   C) Sara thought that her father would yell at Aunt Willie.
   D) Sara thought that her father would blame her for Charlie’s disappearance.

21. What happened when Aunt Willie spoke with Sara’s father on the phone and told him that Charlie was missing?
   A) Sara’s father said that if anything at all had happened to Charlie, it would be Aunt Willie’s fault.
   B) Sara’s father said that he thought that Aunt Willie was joking.
   C) Sara’s father said that he was coming home right away.
   D) Sara’s father said that he would call back that evening.

22. What happened when Sara passed a vacant lot where a baseball game was in progress?
   A) Andy Murphy whistled and yelled, “Look who’s here! It’s the Jolly Green Giant!”
   B) Joe Melby offered to help look for Charlie.
   C) Sara was hit on the shoulder by a foul ball.
   D) Some of the boys asked Sara to play on their team because they didn’t have enough players.
23. What did Joe Melby tell Sara about Charlie’s watch?
   A) Joe Melby told Sara that it was true that he had stolen Charlie’s watch and that he was very sorry for doing it.
   B) Joe Melby told Sara that Charlie was confused. Joe said that he had not stolen Charlie’s watch. He had given the watch back to Charlie.
   C) Joe Melby told Sara that he would never have stolen Charlie’s watch because Charlie’s watch was a piece of junk.
   D) Joe Melby told Sara that for all he knew, it was Sara herself who had stolen Charlie’s watch.

24. Sara couldn’t believe it when she found out that Aunt Willie had done what?
   A) Aunt Willie had asked Frank to break up with Wanda.
   B) Aunt Willie had once stolen a candy bar from the drug store.
   C) Aunt Willie had read Sara’s diary.
   D) Aunt Willie had gone over to see Joe Melby’s mother.

25. While Sara and Mary were looking for Charlie, Mary kept talking about:
   A) The time she had won the spelling bee at school
   B) The new bike she would be getting for her birthday
   C) The invitation she had received to Bennie Hoffman’s party
   D) Her horseback riding lessons

26. What did Joe Melby find by the fence?
   A) A brown felt slipper
   B) A small stuffed animal
   C) A pair of binoculars
   D) A stack of old newspapers

27. When Charlie was lost, he became very upset about something. What did Charlie become very upset about?
   A) Charlie had lost the dime that Aunt Willie had given him after he had helped her to weed the garden.
   B) Boysie was not with him.
   C) The Band-Aid on his finger had fallen off.
   D) The tiny red hand on the dial of his watch had stopped moving.
28. As Sara climbed to the top of the hill with Joe Melby, she thought about what she would be doing if Charlie wasn’t missing. What was Sara usually doing at that time of the afternoon?

A) She was usually watching television with Charlie.
B) She was usually practicing the piano.
C) She was usually talking on the phone to one of her friends.
D) She was usually taking a nap.

29. Sara found Charlie soon after what had happened?

A) Soon after Sara had heard Charlie screaming and crying
B) Soon after the sky had grown very dark and it had begun to rain
C) Soon after a police officer had told Sara that they had decided to call off the search until the next day
D) Soon after Sara had climbed up high into the branches of a big oak tree

30. What did Joe do when he and Sara were with Charlie in the ravine?

A) Joe helped Charlie find the missing stem of his watch.
B) Joe gave Charlie a piggy-back ride all the way home.
C) Joe told Sara to wait with Charlie while he ran for help.
D) Joe put his watch on Charlie’s arm.

31. What did Sara see when she came out of the woods with all the searchers?

A) Sara saw Frank and Wanda riding past on Frank’s motor scooter.
B) Sara saw the swans flying away.
C) Sara saw her father walking toward her.
D) Sara saw Mary sitting on the ground with a badly bruised ankle.

32. Sara was surprised when Joe Melby did what?

A) Joe invited Sara to come over to his house for dinner.
B) Joe invited Sara to go to church with him on Sunday.
C) Joe invited Sara to come to his birthday party on Saturday.
D) Joe invited Sara to go with him to Bennie Hoffman’s party.
33. How did Wanda hear that Charlie was lost?
   A) Wanda heard it from three-year-old Tommy who lived next door.
   B) Wanda heard it on the car radio when she was coming home.
   C) Wanda heard it from her boss at work.
   D) Wanda heard it from Joe Melby’s mother.

34. What was Charlie doing when Sara’s father called on the phone?
   A) Charlie was taking a nap.
   B) Charlie was in the kitchen playing with Boysie.
   C) Charlie was eating watermelon over on the Carsons’ porch.
   D) Charlie was at the hospital being checked out by the doctor.

35. What did Sara’s father tell Sara on the telephone?
   A) Sara’s father told Sara that he was going to start being home more often.
   B) Sara’s father told Sara that he wished Sara would learn to be more responsible and that she would take better care of Charlie.
   C) Sara’s father said that since everything was okay, he would wait until the weekend to come home.
   D) Sara’s father told Sara that he was sorry he hadn’t been a better father.
## The Summer of the Swans

by Betsy Byars

### 35-Question Whole Book Test

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