

Stuart Little

STUART LITTLE

By Joseph Robinette
Based on the Book by
E.B. White

AT THE LIBRARY

Stuart Little
by E.B. White

Charlotte's Web
by E.B. White

Trumpet of the Swan
by E.B. White

ON THE WEB

Fact Monster:
Who is Stuart Little
factmonster.com/stuart-little

Meet the Author:
E. B. White
eduplace.com/kids/tnc/mtai/white.html

PLAY SYNOPSIS

From the loving heart of **E.B. White**, author of *Charlotte's Web*, comes this merry musical from Virginia Rep about a noble mouse who jumps headlong into adventures big enough to match any imagination. The play brings to life this fantasy classic where Stuart, a mouse, is brought into the Little family. Although he is quite different from other members of the family, Stuart is loved by all — except perhaps Snowbell, the family cat. Stuart's adventures include getting caught in a window shade, sailing a boat, making friends, and embarking on the journey of a lifetime. By turns funny, tender and exciting, *Stuart Little* mixes gorgeous child-size puppets with live actors to work theatrical magic.



ABOUT E.B. WHITE

The author Elwyn Brooks (E.B.) White was born in 1899 in Mount Vernon, New York. After college, he worked as a reporter, and in 1927 he became a writer for *The New Yorker* magazine; later he wrote a column for *Harper's* magazine. Even though E.B. White was already a successful writer, he wanted to try something new. He decided to write stories for the children in his family. In 1945, he started publishing these stories as books. In addition to *Stuart Little*, he wrote *Trumpet of the Swan* and *Charlotte's Web*. Today, these three books are considered classics of American children's literature.



In 1970, E.B. White was awarded the Laura Ingalls Wilder Medal. The award honors an author or illustrator whose books have made an important and lasting contribution to literature for children. Other authors who have received this award are Dr. Seuss, Maurice Sendak, and Marcia Brown.

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MAKE A BOOK

Illustrate the following pages and put the pages in order by numbering each box from 1-4.

Bonus activity: On separate sheets of paper, illustrate a cover for your book and make a title page including the title of the book and the author (you!). Add a page for your favorite part of the story!

Stuart's Journey

By _____

Stuart meets a bird named Margalo.

Stuart sails a boat.

Stuart comes to live with the Little family.

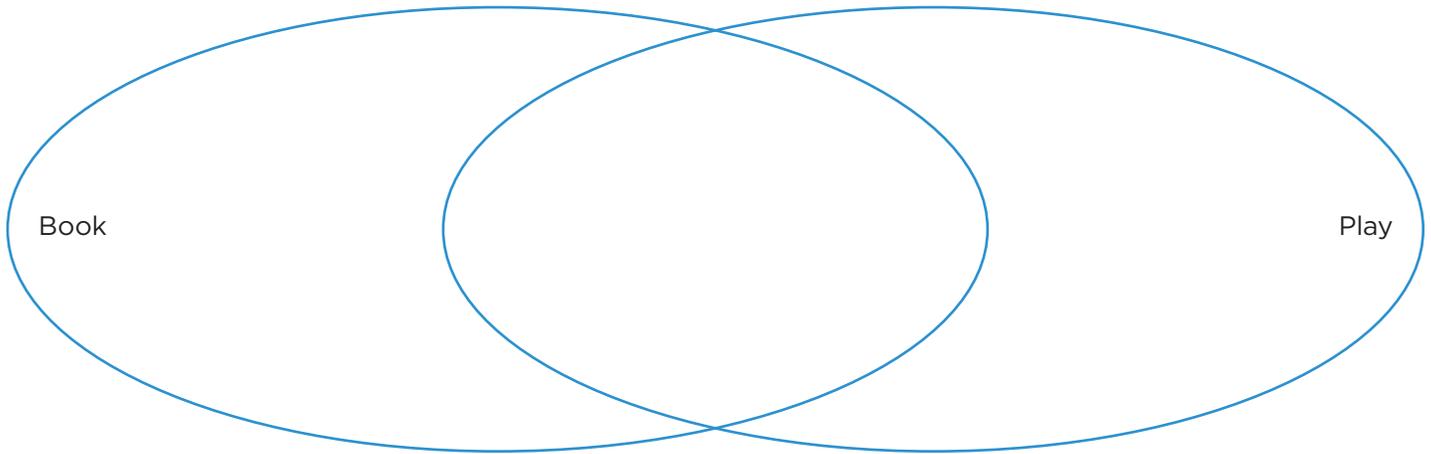
Stuart gets stuck in the window shade.

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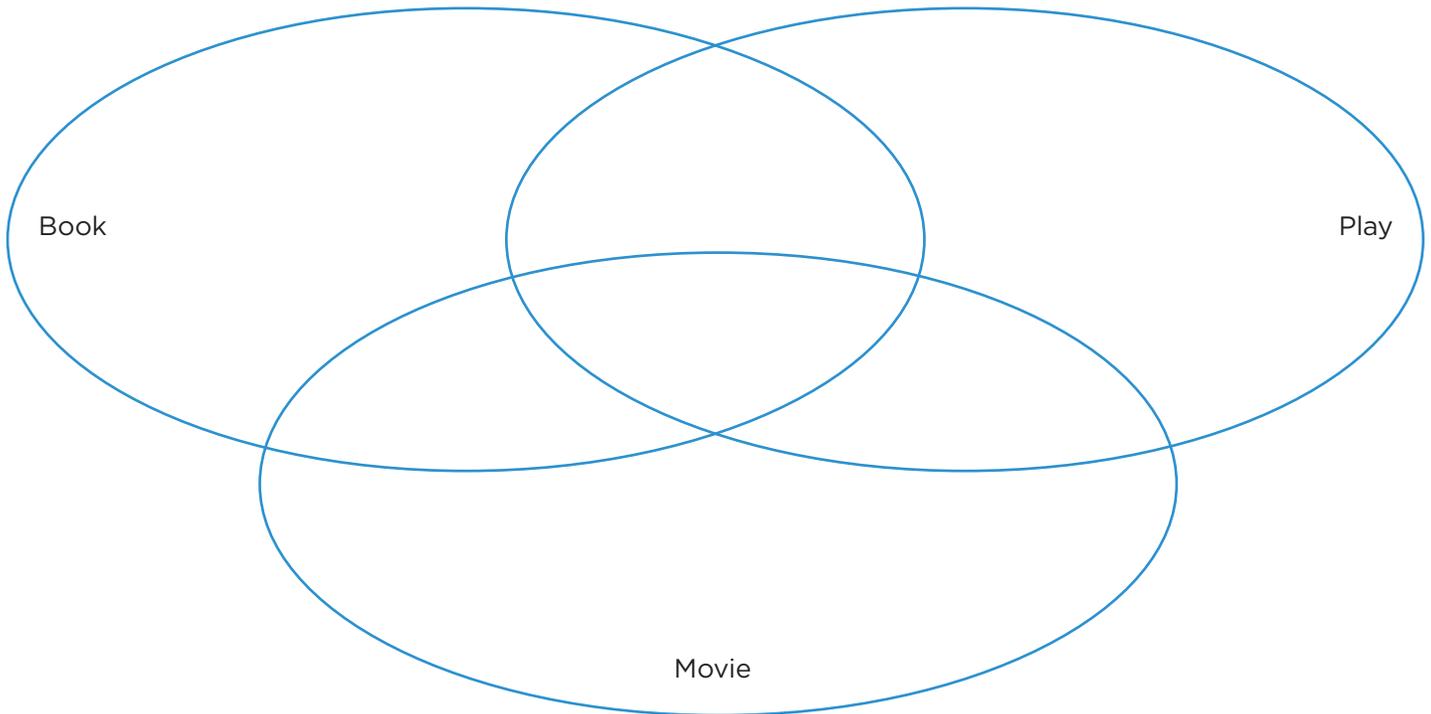
EASY ACTIVITY

Read the book *Stuart Little*. Then compare the book and the play. Use a diagram to show what is alike and what is different.

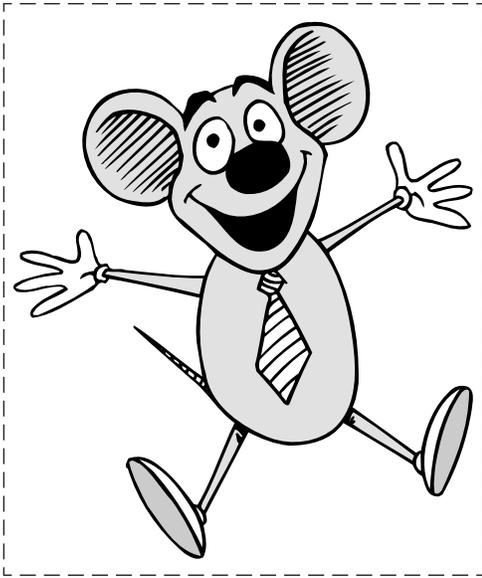


CHALLENGE ACTIVITY

Watch the movie, *Stuart Little*, and diagram what is alike and different about the three versions of the same story.



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MEASURING IN "STUARTS"

Cut out this 3 inch picture of Stuart Little to measure objects in your classroom or at home. Classify objects as "Taller than" or "Shorter than" Stuart Little.



Taller Than	Shorter Than

HOW DO YOU MEASURE UP?

With a friend's help, measure how many "Stuarts" tall you are. Circle the right number.

I am...
 14 15 16 17 18
 19 20 21 22
 "Stuarts" tall.

CHALLENGE ACTIVITY

If a "Stuart" is 3 inches tall, how many Stuarts long is a 12 inch ruler? A 48 inch table? A 60 inch tall person?

EXTRA CHALLENGE

If Snowbell the cat is eighteen times Stuart's size, how big is Snowbell in inches? How big is Snowbell in feet?

SIZING THINGS UP

Stuart Little's size both helps him and gets in his way. There are certain things Stuart can do because of his size - like sail a model boat. There are also certain things Stuart cannot do because of his size - like get out when he gets trapped in the window shade.

Make a list of the things that you can do because of your size, and things that you cannot do because of your size.

Can Do	Cannot Do

IMAGINE! Imagine that you are three inches tall like Stuart Little. What would you do that you can't do now? Write a letter describing an adventure you might have if you were three inches tall.



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CHALLENGE ACTIVITY

Which of the character traits below best describe Stuart Little? Cross off those that do not. Then, in the space provided, define the two terms that you think best describe Stuart's character in the play.

- | | |
|----------------|---------|
| Happy-go-lucky | Envious |
| Forlorn | Timid |
| Suspicious | Fretful |
| Cheerful | Angry |

What a Mouse!

Trait #1 _____

Trait #2 _____

EASY ACTIVITY

Who's Who?

Fill in the blanks using the word list.

When and where
writes
pictures
people or animals

Author:

A person who _____ a book.

Illustrator:

A person who creates _____ for a book.

Characters:

The _____ in the story.

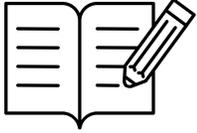
Setting:

_____ the story occurs.



The play *Stuart Little* is based on the book *Stuart Little* by E.B. White. The book and the play are alike in many ways. The **characters** include Stuart, George, Mr. Little and Mrs. Little. Both are **set** in New York City, and both include these events which make up the **plot**: Stuart meets Margalo. Stuart sails his boat. Stuart travels to find Margalo.

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DICTIONARY TIP

To look up words in the dictionary, use Guide Words. Guide Words appear at the top of each dictionary page. They are alphabetically arranged (in ABC order) and are the first and last words to appear on that page.

CHALLENGE ACTIVITY

In the play, Stuart and Dr. Carey talk about another sailor. Here is a part of what they said:

Dr. Carey: "Why he doesn't know a squall from a squid."

Stuart: "Or a jib from a jibe!"

Dr. Carey: "Or a luff from a leech!"

Stuart: "Or a deck from a dock!"

Dr. Carey: "Or a mast from a mist!"

Stuart: "Or a bow from a bow!"

Which of these words describe parts of a boat?

EXTRA CHALLENGE

Two of these words are spelled the same, but have different meanings. Identify these words, and record their meanings.

Captain Stuart's Lingo

Use a dictionary to define the sailing terms below.

Vessel _____

Rigging _____

Sloop _____

Tack _____

Schooner _____

Berth _____

EASY ACTIVITY

Stuart won his sailing race! Help compose a song to celebrate. Check the box with the correct rhyming words to finish the song.

Stuart Is Sailing

Yeah! Stuart is sailing one of the boats.

See how it _____?

floats sails

Stuart is sailing along. He's even whistling a _____.

flute song

So glad we found him, yes indeed! It really was a very good _____.

deed job

So on we sail, we'll never forget. Stuart's the best mouse we've ever _____!

met known

More Resources for Teachers

Grades K-5

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SOCIAL STUDIES

Grade K: When Stuart substitute teaches, he talks to students about **good rules**. They came up with: No swiping anything, no being mean, and no hurting feelings. Can you add to their list? What makes a good rule?

Grade 1: During Stuart’s journey, he asks a repairman which direction he should travel. **Create a map** of the classroom, labeling North, South, East, and West. Discuss the importance of knowing directions when traveling.

Grade 2: Discuss the **difference between urban, suburban, and rural areas**. Classify the settings in the play according to urban, suburban and rural. Discuss urban, suburban and rural areas in your state.

Grade 3: In “Margalo’s Song”, she describes “fields once tall with wheat...pastures deep in fern and thistle... vales of meadowsweet.” **Describe and illustrate** the type of region Margalo might have come from.

Grades 4/5: Stuart lives in New York City, NY. Based on the places in the play, including Central Park with its sailboat pond, Stuart’s house, Dr. Carey’s office, and the alley where the cats live, **create a map of Stuart’s world**. Be sure your map includes a title, compass rose, and a legend (or key) of symbols used. You may make up street names and other locations on the map.

Extension: View an online map of NYC and look for patterns in the way the streets are named and organized.

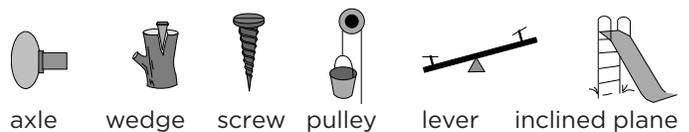
SCIENCE

Grades K/1: Design a simple sink/float experiment to discover what materials float and what materials sink. Suggestions include fabric, Styrofoam, plastic, wood, metal, glass (i.e. marbles), and paper. Ask students to classify objects they think will sink and float (hypothesis), and then test those objects and record observations. What materials would be best for Stuart’s next boat?

Grade 2: What type of weather is necessary for Stuart to sail his boat? **Discuss wind energy**. What are the pros and cons of relying on wind? Using a straw to blow and a model sailboat, simulate the way wind acts on the sails to push the boat forward. Record your observations and sketch the sailboat, including wind direction.

Grade 3/4: Mrs. Little made Stuart a pair of ice skates using just paper clips! **Review simple machines** using the following online resource: http://idahoptv.org/sciencetrek/topics/simple_machines/

How could you use everyday objects to make Stuart-sized things, such as a toothbrush, a slide, a baseball bat, or even a Stuart-cycle that he could ride on his journey to find Margalo?



Grade 5: Stuart, despite his amazing abilities, is a mouse. **Research mice and their habitats**. What do mice need to survive? Where do they live, and where are they in the food chain? What animals prey on mice? What do mice eat? As a class, create an informational poster about mice and their habitats.

Cues at the Theatre

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