

## Book Discussion Notes – Stuart Little, E.B. White

1. Narration – \_\_\_\_\_
2. Author Review – E.B. White-
3. Discuss Toy, item from home that reminds you of book
4. Each person say “I like \_\_\_\_\_ because” (each character)

### Discussion:

Question	Answer
<b>Title</b>	Stuart Little
<b>Author</b>	E.B White
<b>Year Written</b>	1945
<b>Setting - Time</b>	Published in 1945, so assume that is the same time
<b>Setting – Place</b>	New York City

### Characters:

Question	Answer
<b>Protagonist(s)</b> – Leading character, hero, or heroine of a drama or other literary work who traditionally, undergoes some sort of change (pushing something forward). –	Stuart Little
<b>Adjectives to describe Protagonist(s)</b>	Brave, proud, greedy, spontaneous, clever, witty, prideful, short-sighted, child-like, helpful, loyal, committed, able to persevere, impatient
<b>Antagonist</b> - An antagonist is one that contents with or opposes another, adversary or opponent, the villain. The antagonist of a story is the character that provides an obstacle for the protagonist.	Snowbell in the beginning... because he is working against Stuart being found in the blind, then against Stuart’s friendship with Margalo. Then there are many antagonists working against Stuart finding Margalo. They are not bad people (villains per se, and they do add to the adventure, but they push against his mission of finding Margalo, by stalling Stuart. The superintendant, Harriet Ames, the repairman.
<b>Adjectives to describe Antagonist(s)</b>	Sly, untrustworthy, greedy, traitor,

### Rising Action, Climax, Falling Action, Resolution

Question	Answer
<b>Conflict (Man vs. Man, Man vs. Nature, Man vs. God, Man vs. Himself, Man vs. Society)</b>	Man vs. society
<b>Rising action</b> - During rising action, the basic internal conflict is complicated by the introduction of related secondary conflicts, including various obstacles that frustrate the protagonist's attempt to reach his goal. Secondary conflicts can include adversaries of lesser importance than the story’s antagonist, who may work with the antagonist or separately, by and for themselves or actions unknown, and also the conflict	The rising action is when Snowbell tries to eat Margalo and Stuart wards him off with his bow and arrow.
<b>Falling action (Emotional Climax)</b> - The falling action is that part of the story in which the main part (the climax)	Stuart runs away to find Margalo

has finished and you're heading to the resolution.	
<b>Climax</b> - The third act is that of the climax, or turning point, which marks a change, for the better or the worse, in the protagonist's affairs. If the story is a comedy, things will have gone badly for the protagonist up to this point; now, the tide, so to speak, will turn, and things will begin to go well for him or her. If the story is a tragedy, the opposite state of affairs will ensue, with things going from good to bad for the protagonist. Simply put, this is where the main part happens or the most dramatic part.	Snowbell plots with the Persian to help the Angora eat Margalo and the Pigeon overhears and warns Margalo, and Margalo runs away, North.
<b>Resolution</b> - comprises events between the falling action and the actual ending scene of the drama or narrative and thus serves as the conclusion of the story.	Stuart heads north.
<b>Meaning of the Title</b>	The story is about Stuart Little, the name of the Protagonist and main character
<b>Major Themes</b>	Not judging others based on appearance
<b>Minor Themes</b>	Friendship, Adventure, growing up

#### Other Characters:

Who	Adjectives
Mr. Little	Loving, kind, thoughtful, resourceful
Mrs. Little	Loving, kind, thoughtful
George Little	Kind, loving, faithful
Margalo	Kind, friendly, loving
Harriet Ames	Clever, kind, generous and able agreeable
Angora	Naughty, clever, scheming,

#### The Characters

- Which character do you identify with?
- Which do you *admire* or *dislike*?
- Who in this book would you most *like* to meet? What would you ask—or say?

#### The Story, the Plot and Your Experience

- Is the *plot well developed*? Is it believable?
- Does the book *remind you of someone*—or something—in your own life?

#### Title, Themes, Style and Symbolism

- How does the title *relate to the book*? Can you pick out a passage that's profound or interesting—or perhaps sums up the central issue of the book?

#### The Ending

- Did you *expect the ending* or did it *surprise* you?
- Was the ending *satisfying*? If you could *rewrite the ending*, would you?
- What ending would you have chosen for the story?

#### Do You Want to Read More?

- What is the *future of the characters' lives*?
- Would it *make a good movie*? Is there a film adaptation of this book?
- Do you think people will still be reading it in 10 years, 50 years or 100 years?

#### Great Quotes –

1. As Stuart watches Margalo sleep, guarding her he thinks to himself “Sleep dwell upon thine eyes, peace in thy breast!(200) Would I were sleep and peace, so sweet to rest!” This is from Act II of Romeo and Juliet, when

Romeo is departing from Juliet's (Capulet's Orchard). Romeo is delighted, in love and at peace. He hopes to meet with the priest to see what can be done to arrange marriage with Juliet.

2. Stuart Little to Dentist "I ran away this morning. I am going out into the world to seek my fortune and look for a lost bird."
3. Dentist to Stuart "I hope this will be a lesson to you: never push a button on an automobile unless you are sure what you are doing."
4. Stuart to one of the students in class 7, regarding being too small to rule the world "Size has nothing to do with it. Its temperament and the ability that count."
5. Stuart to Class "Law is much more solemn than advice. Law is extremely solemn... a law has to be fair to everybody."
6. Mildred's Law "no being mean." Good law? 😊
7. The repairman to Stuart "Any person who is looking for something doesn't travel very fast."
8. When Margalo left the Little's home "It was springtime, and she flew north, just as fast as she could fly, because something inside her told her that north was the way for a bird to go when spring comes to the land."
9. When Stuart heads off at the end of the story - "Stuart rose up from the ditch, climbed into his car, and started up the road that led toward the north. The sun was just coming up over the hills on his right... But the sky was bright, and he somehow felt he was headed in the right direction." (NORTH, the same direction as Margalo)

**Language Arts (Vocabulary)** – There are many nautical terms that may be unknown to you:

**Sloop** – a one-masted ship with one mainsail, a fore-and-aft rig, and a single jib

**Schooner** – a ship with two or more masts

**Mainmast** – the chief mast of a ship

**Clipper bow** – the forward part of a fast sailing vessel

**Berth** – a position or job

**Prow** – the forward end part, or bow of a ship

**Helm** – the steering apparatus of a ship

**Headsails** – front sail

**Tramp steamer** – a freight steamer that picks up a cargo wherever it can

**Language arts (Onomatopoeia)** – As the Doctor was attempting to catch the runaway car there was a Pounce! Crash! Pounce! Crash! The author of the story used a poetic device called onomatopoeia, words that make the sound of the object they are describing. These types of words make a story interesting. Have your child be on the look out for more onomatopoeic words in other stories he reads.

**Sources:**

Unit Study - <http://www.homeschoolshare.com/stuartlittle.php>