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Some Writer!: The Story Of E. B. White (Ala Notable Children's Books. All Ages)



Synopsis

6 Starred Reviews! New York Times Bestseller! A People Magazine Best Children's Book! A Washington Post Best Book! A Publishers Weekly Best Book! Boston Globe-Horn Book Nonfiction Award Honor recipient Caldecott Honor winner! Sweet mixes White's personal letters, photos, and family ephemera with her own exquisite artwork to tell the story of this American literary icon. Readers young and old will be fascinated and inspired by the journalist, New Yorker contributor, and children's book author who loved words his whole life. This authorized tribute, a New York Times bestseller, includes an afterword by Martha White, his granddaughter.

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 1030 (What's this?)

Series: Ala Notable Children's Books. All Ages

Hardcover: 176 pages

Publisher: HMH Books for Young Readers (October 4, 2016)

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Product Dimensions: 7 x 0.6 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.4 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.9 out of 5 stars 93 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #19,048 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #10 in Books > Children's Books > Biographies > Literary #26 in Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > Jobs & Careers #31 in Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > Reading & Writing > Composition & Creative Writing

Age Range: 7 - 10 years

Grade Level: 2 - 5

Customer Reviews

Throughout his life, E.B. White (1899-1985) divided his time between New York City and Belgrade Lakes in Maine. He drew inspiration for his books from the bucolic setting near author Sweet's own home and studio. Readers and writers will relate to stories of White's childhood—he was "scrawny" and "fearful" but in love with words. As a child, he contributed short pieces to magazines, winning awards for his studies of nature, dogs, and his

family. Some of his youthful creations, such as essays, poetry, and a handmade brochure, are included. Readers may be surprised to find that "Andy" spent his adult years at *The New Yorker* working with writers like John Updike and James Thurber and that his most ubiquitous book may actually be *The Elements of Style*. Much of the information on White's adulthood is organized in the volume by his major children's publications. Portions of handwritten and typed drafts of *Charlotte's Web* will serve as inspiration for young writers. The book is illustrated in Sweet's signature watercolor and collage, which incorporates wood and hardware, vintage office supplies, and quotes from White. Detailed tableaux invite careful inspection and reward readers with connections to the subject's work. Photos of the author and the animals upon which he based his stories will delight readers. In addition to providing carefully chosen words and beautiful illustrations, the biography serves as a stealthy introduction to primary source material, and for the teacher librarian, the text is a rich source of nonfiction features, including a how-to on using a manual typewriter. An afterword by White's granddaughter is an added bonus. VERDICT Drop everything and share widely. —Deidre Winterhalter, Niles Public Library, IL

2018 Boston Globe-Horn Book Nonfiction Honor Award Top 20 Children's Books of 2016 Booklist Editors' Choice 2016 Book Links Lasting Connections 2016 Book Page Best of 2016 Bulletin Blue Ribbon 2016 Chicago Public Library Best of the Best Books of 2016 Horn Book Fanfare Kirkus Best of 2016 Nerdy Book Club Nerdies 2016 Longform Nonfiction New York Times Bestseller People Best Children's Books of 2016 Publishers Weekly Best of 2016 Raleigh News & Observer Best of 2016 San Francisco Chronicle Best of 2016 School Library Journal Best of 2016 Shelf Awareness Best Books of the Year Nonfiction Detectives: Best of 2016 Washington Post Best of 2016 "E. B. White is such a fixture in the children's literature landscape that it's hard to think of him as a regular person. Fortunately, Melissa Sweet comes to the rescue in this individual, creative, and thoroughly artistic chronicle of the noted writer's life." —Bulletin, starred review "An excellent guide to the life of a celebrated writer." —Publishers Weekly, starred review "Like Charlotte, Sweet spins a terrific story. A masterful biography." —Kirkus, starred review "Melissa Sweet's beguiling biography of the author of *Charlotte's Web* deserves to be savored by anyone who has ever loved White's words." —Columbus Dispatch "An E. B. White biography like no other." —BookPage "Whether the name E. B. White is a new discovery or a much-loved author, *Some Writer!* will captivate readers of all ages." —Christian Science Monitor "Drop everything and share widely."

Ã¢â¬â School Library Journal, starred review Ã¢â¬â "Sweet raises her collage skills to new heights while bringing her love and admiration for fellow Mainer E. B. White to the page for everyone to appreciate. Just as her astounding collages blend materials that might have been found in a barn in Maine, the text carefully blends her words with those of the beloved writer of children's books... Sweet has written and drawn a fast-moving, thorough, deeply researched, and accessible biography." Ã¢â¬â Horn Book, starred review Ã¢â¬â " This beautiful piece of bookmaking with enchanting artwork will easily draw in young readers, and the warm account of the adored author will keep them turning pages." Ã¢â¬â Booklist, starred review "What elevates this book to the stratosphere is the art. Practically glowing, it turns a very fine biography into something original, creative, and marvelous." Ã¢â¬â NerdyBookClub.com

Best book I've read in a while! I love the scrapbook-type format, and am especially glad to see that there are plenty of examples of E. B. White's actual writing in here. It is great for my daughter to see that a famous author did lots of revisions, wasn't perfect, kept on trying, etc. I'll definitely be giving this as a gift too!

I might have bought this book just because of the cover. Then, the description of how a manual typewriter works, followed a few pages later by an excerpt about a boy and his dog, oh my! The entire book feels like poetry, art, history, and your favorite uncle's best stories all clustered together. The fact that the reader learns all kinds of interesting details about an amazing writer is almost a bonus.

All I knew about E.B. White was that he wrote "Charlotte's Web." After reading this book, I know him much better, and I feel great affection for him, even love. What a wonderful man he was...wise, humble and kind. And indeed, "Some Writer!" He started out in his profession as a writer of essays for adults at The New Yorker. Much later he became a writer for children after his long affiliation with animals of all kinds on his farm. He was especially fond of one particular pig, He also became fascinated with the ways of the common grey spider, and from these two critters, he wove the story of Charlotte's Web. The "story of the story," you might say, just a small portion of this book, is simply captivating. This book is filled with illustrations, photos, letters, and quotes to help us get to know this fine gentleman. Melissa Sweet has put together the most engrossing biography I have ever read. For example, did you know that White's book, "Stuart Little," was banned from libraries when it was first published? This and many other interesting tidbits are included in the biography. This book was

written for ages 7 to 10. I am 65 years old. I think this wonderful book will appeal to readers all ages. Yes, E.B. White was *Some Writer*. Melissa Sweet is a good writer too, and she is *Some Illustrator*! I am looking forward to reading "The Right Word, Roget and His Thesaurus," written by Jen Bryant and illustrated by Melissa Sweet. Other books by E.B. White, including "The Elements of Style," with William Strunk Jr., and "Stuart Little" along with a long overdue reread of "Charlotte's Web", are also calling my name. I'll end this review with a four-word quote from a poultry primer written by E. B. White years ago. It could be a timeless formula for life for us all: "Be tidy. Be brave."

E.B. White is my favorite author and I was so excited knowing this book was coming out that I pre-ordered it. The author did not disappoint! I love all the pictures and information about him. Thank you Ms. Sweet for doing such a remarkable job on this!

Every image, every word of this story should be savored. Even if you're not an aspiring writer, you'll be inspired by EB White's story told and depicted so beautifully you almost want to cry. I'd give this book to any young writer, and maybe to the older ones as well.

E.B. White deserves some kind of monument, a wonderful and humane writer. This is a delightful biography, delightfully illustrated.

This is a complete understanding of who E.B. White was. He wrote with a broad stroke, and he had a great impact on young readers and writers for young readers. Still does! The book is now in my library.

Lovely, interesting book! E.B. White was a wonderful author.

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