

# Stuart Little

by E. B. White

## Classroom Favorites

Teacher's Guide by Kathy Sammis



A Perma-Bound Production

*Note to the Teacher: This guide is not intended to be followed exactly. Feel free to pick and choose among the suggested activities based on the needs and interests of your particular group. You are encouraged to make adaptations, or to supplement the guide with activities of your own creation. Numbers following page references indicate the paragraph number on that page.*

### Instructional Objectives

1. Students will use discussion questions to recall details, interpret characters and events, read critically, and respond creatively to the novel.
2. Students will expand their vocabulary through word study, class discussion, research, and activities.
3. Students will learn to expand their response to a novel by completing a variety of related activities.
4. Students will have opportunities to exercise artistic and craft skills to help interpret their reading.
5. Students will gain experience in a variety of different writing forms.
6. Students will practice research skills to learn about topics related to their reading.

### Word Study Activities

1. Students will keep a 3x5-inch card file of the words listed under *Word Study* for each reading selection. At the top of each card, students will write the vocabulary word. Under that, they copy the sentence from the book containing the word. Next, they write a brief definition of the word as it is used in context. Finally, they write an original sentence containing the word. Students can arrange their word cards in different ways—alphabetically, by categories of various kinds, by parts of speech, by words they know and words they need to study, etc.
2. With a partner, students can quiz each other on the meaning and spelling of the words.

### Introductory Activities

1. For what reasons might someone with good parents and a nice home want to leave?

2. Imagine what it would be like to be only two inches high. What problems would you have in your daily life?
3. Suppose you wanted to take a long trip away from home. Where would you go? How would you get there? What would you bring with you?
4. Imagine an event you are about to experience in such detail that you seem to be living the event in your mind. Then compare your imagined version with the actual event. Which did you prefer, the dream or the reality?
5. How do you think you could get a cat to live peacefully in your house with a bird and a mouse?

### Chapters I-III

#### In the Drain, Home Problems, & Washing Up

**Synopsis:** Stuart is the second son of Mr. & Mrs. Little and also, astonishingly, a mouse. Stuart lives with his parents and brother George in New York City. His size—only 2 inches high—and agreeable nature make Stuart quite a help to his family: he descends into the tub drain to rescue a lost ring, he retrieves Ping-pong balls that roll under radiators, and he pushes stuck keys from inside the piano. Stuart's minute size worries his parents. They remove references to mice from their conversation and from nursery rhyme books and worry that Stuart will disappear down a mousehole someday. To enable Stuart to use the family bathroom, Mr. Little has made a number of adaptations: a floor-length string for the light pull-chain, a miniature rope ladder up to the sink, and a tiny wooden hammer to pound the faucet and start a flow of water.

**Word Study:** worsted, p. 2(2); trifle, p. 5(2); louse, p. 10(3); souse, p. 10(5); abdominal, p. 13(1); wrapper, p. 13(2); friar, p. 14(2)

#### Discussion Questions:

1. **LITERAL:** In what ways is Stuart's small size an advantage? In what ways is it a disadvantage?
2. **INTERPRETIVE/CRITICAL:** How does the author illustrate Stuart's size to us in these chapters? (For example, he is weighed on a postage scale.)
3. **CREATIVE:** Stuart's father has made a number of adaptations so Stuart can use the bathroom. What other difficulties do you imagine Stuart runs into around the house?
4. **CRITICAL/CREATIVE:** What other nursery rhymes and

children's stories can you think of that involve mice? If you were Stuart's parents, would you change or censor any of these rhymes or stories?

#### Activities:

1. Construct a bed for Stuart. You may use clothespins and a matchbox or any other appropriate materials.
2. Describe a room in your house as it appears very early in the morning.
3. Invent a device that would help Stuart overcome one of the difficulties you listed in Discussion Question 3.

### Chapters IV & V Exercise & Rescued

**Synopsis:** One May morning when Stuart is three, he shows off to the family cat, Snowbell. He leaps to the window shade, which flies up, rolling and trapping Stuart inside; his cries can't be heard. Snowbell stealthily places Stuart's hat and cane at the mousehole entrance. The family concludes Stuart must have disappeared down the mousehole. Mrs. Little feels her little son must be dead. George, in response, begins pulling down shades to darken the house for mourning, and out drops Stuart. He suggests the family draw its own conclusions about the placement of the hat and cane.

**Word Study:** trapeze, p. 18(6); budge, p. 20(2); shrill, p. 20(2); vigorous, p. 21(2); exasperated, p. 25(3); conclusions, p. 25(8)

#### Discussion Questions:

1. LITERAL/INTERPRETIVE: How does George try to help find his brother? Is he actually helpful?
2. INTERPRETIVE: What do these chapters reveal about the relationship between Stuart and Snowbell?
3. INTERPRETIVE/CRITICAL: What does Stuart suggest about the hat and cane being next to the mousehole? Why do you think Snowbell put them there?
4. CREATIVE: How do you think Stuart might have gotten himself out or noticed if George had not pulled down the shade?

#### Activities:

1. *With your parents' permission*, try attaching a soft Stuart-sized object to the ring of a window shade and then snapping the shade up sharply. How tangled does the ring get?
2. Find out about your town or city's Bureau of Missing Persons or its equivalent.
3. Demonstrate some exercises to the class that strengthen stomach muscles.

### Chapters VI & VII A Fair Breeze & the Sailboat Race

**Synopsis:** Not without difficulty, Stuart boards a bus and hurries to the toy sailboat pond in Central Park, spiffily attired in a sailor suit. Stuart especially admires the fine schooner Wasp, whose owner—Dr. Paul Carey, a dentist—offers Stuart a regular job as helmsman if he will sail the Wasp in a race and beat the detestable sloop the Lillian B. Womrath. The Womrath's fat, sulky owner, 12-year-old Leroy, agrees to the contest. Hordes of spectators line the pond, jostling a very large policeman into the water, creating an enormous wave. Stuart is

swept overboard but regains the deck. On the return trip cross-pond, dirty weather builds up. In the gloom, the Wasp drives into a huge paper bag; the Womrath, with no helmsman, gets its nose stuck in the Wasp's rigging. But Stuart ably frees his craft and wins the race, to the delight and admiration of the crowd.

**Word Study:** spyglass, p. 26(1); tartly, p. 30(1); berth, p. 32(4); diminutive, p. 32(7); detestable, p. 33(9); serge, p. 36(1); consternation, p. 39(2); flotsam, p. 41(5); ominous, p. 41(6) (For words related to sailing, see Activity Sheet 1.)

#### Discussion Questions:

1. CREATIVE: Describe the difficulties Stuart would have if he tried to use another type of public transit like a subway, airline, or ferryboat.
2. LITERAL/CRITICAL: What reward does Dr. Carey offer Stuart for sailing his schooner? What reward does Leroy offer? Why do you think Stuart rejects Leroy's offer?
3. CRITICAL: How does the author use exaggeration to increase the drama of the sailing race?
4. INTERPRETIVE: In what ways does Stuart's seamanship help the Wasp to win the race?

#### Activities:

1. Draw or trace pictures of a schooner and a sloop. Label their parts and explain the differences between the two types of sailboat.
2. Make up a list of comparisons like Stuart's and Dr. Carey's ("doesn't know a jib from a jibe . . . a deck from a dock") relating to some other sport or game you enjoy.
3. Complete Activity Sheet 1 to learn more about the many sailing words used in these two chapters.
4. Bring a barometer to class and explain what it is and how it works.

### Chapter VIII Margalo

**Synopsis:** After being trapped in the refrigerator when he is seven years old, Stuart develops bronchitis. While he is sick in bed, Mrs. Little revives a small bird, which soon begins hopping around the house. Stuart is entranced with the tiny, beautiful creature, who tells him her name is Margalo. That night, as Margalo sleeps in the living room's Boston fern, Stuart worries about her safety: he simply cannot trust Snowbell the cat. So Stuart creeps downstairs and hides behind a candlestick with his bow and arrow. Soon the cat does indeed appear; he crouches, ready to spring on the defenseless bird. But Stuart shoots an arrow straight into Snowbell's ear and saves Margalo.

**Word Study:** tapioca, p. 47(2); bronchitis, p. 49(3); vales, p. 51(3); bolt, p. 51(4); descended, p. 54(2); dwell, p. 54(5)

#### Discussion Questions:

1. CREATIVE: What other ways besides wearing a red cap can you think of to help Stuart's parents locate the little mouse around the house?
2. LITERAL/CRITICAL: What does Stuart's family do to help him through his illness? What kinds of things does your family do

for you when you're sick in bed? How do these things make you feel?

3. INTERPRETIVE: Why does Stuart suspect Snowbell will try to harm Margalo?
4. CRITICAL/CREATIVE: Do you think Stuart did the best thing by secretly guarding Margalo with his bow and arrow? What else might he have done to save the bird from Snowbell?

#### Activities:

1. Make a "how to" leaflet describing what to do to care for an injured bird.
2. Find out more about bronchitis: its causes, its symptoms, its treatment.
3. Reread the description of Margalo on pages 50 and 51. In a field guide to birds, find a picture and description of the type of bird you think Margalo is. Compare notes on your choice with your classmates.

### Chapter IX A Narrow Escape

**Synopsis:** Margalo decides to stay at the Littles' for a while; Stuart hopes she will never leave him. One day Stuart goes out to skate. Seeing a dog on the street, he scrambles into a garbage can to hide. But garbage collectors toss the can's contents, now including Stuart, into their truck. Stuart struggles to the surface of the garbage only to find the truck rumbling to the East River, where the truck's load is dumped onto a garbage scow. The scow is towed out into the Atlantic Ocean, where the garbage will be dumped. As Stuart sobs at the thought of impending death, Margalo appears to rescue him. Stuart hangs onto her ankles as she flies back toward land. The flight is perilous until Stuart jettisons his ice skates to lighten the load. Back home, Stuart and Margalo entertain the Littles with descriptions of the ocean.

**Word Study:** fast, p. 57(1); terrier, p. 57(2); hoisted, p. 58(1); scow, p. 60(2); slithering, p. 60(2); perish, p. 64(5); crests, p. 66(3)

#### Discussion Questions:

1. LITERAL: Why does Stuart climb into the garbage can?
2. CRITICAL: How do the events of this chapter parallel the events of the last chapter?
3. CREATIVE: How might Stuart have escaped from his predicament if Margalo hadn't followed him?
4. INTERPRETIVE: Weigh a pair of paper clips. How much difference in the total weight Margalo is carrying does it make when Stuart drops his ice skates?

#### Activities:

1. Find out how the City of New York disposes of its garbage today. Does it still dump the garbage in the Atlantic Ocean?
2. Imagine you, like Stuart, are trapped in a pit of garbage. Write a vivid description of your experience, telling about textures, smells, and colors.

### Chapter X Springtime

**Synopsis:** One spring night under George's window, Snowbell tells

an Angora friend about the bird and the mouse in his house. The Angora agrees it would be wrong to eat either a family member or a house guest, but suggests that *she*, the Angora, is under no such constraints. The cats agree that the Angora will creep in and eat Margalo the next night. A pigeon who has overheard the conversation leaves a note for Margalo on her fern: BEWARE OF A STRANGE CAT WHO WILL COME BY NIGHT. Upset and frightened the next day but not confiding in anyone, Margalo flies away just before dark, following her instinct to head north.

**Word Study:** delicatessen, p. 67(2); permanent, p. 68(3); offhand, p. 69(5); unlawful entry, p. 70(3)

#### Discussion Questions:

1. INTERPRETIVE: The Angora wonders how Snowbell can live with a mouse and a bird and not "do anything about it." Why does she think this is strange?
2. LITERAL/CRITICAL: Why does Snowbell feel he cannot eat Margalo? Why does he feel it's all right for the Angora to do so? Do you think this is sound reasoning?
3. CRITICAL: Why do you think Margalo didn't dare to show the note to anyone, not even Stuart?
4. CREATIVE/CRITICAL: How might Margalo have saved herself from the strange cat other than by flying away? Do you think she made a wise decision?

#### Activities:

1. Make a booklet about cats. On each page draw or trace a picture of a different kind of cat and write a brief description of the cat's distinctive features.
2. Find out more about the migratory patterns of birds. Chart some migratory flows on a map of North America.

### Chapter XI The Automobile

**Synopsis:** Stuart is heartbroken; he runs away from home to search for Margalo—and seek his fortune while he is at it. Seeking advice on where he should go, Stuart consults his friend Dr. Carey at the dentist's office. The doctor's patient, Mr. Clydesdale, tells Stuart to look in Connecticut. Dr. Carey provides Stuart with a tiny model car equipped with a real gasoline motor. Amazingly, the car becomes invisible at the touch of a button. But when Stuart attempts to push the button again to make the car reappear, he pushes the starter button instead. The car careens madly and invisibly around the office, frantically pursued by Dr. Carey. It stops only when it runs out of gas, in the fireplace. The car is quite a wreck.

**Word Study:** pariah, p. 72(7); jauntily, p. 75(1); gauze, p. 75(4); pincers, p. 76(2); extracting, p. 78(2); punctured, p. 82(1)

#### Discussion Questions:

1. LITERAL/CRITICAL: Why does Stuart leave home?
2. INTERPRETIVE: How does Stuart seem to feel about Margalo?
3. CREATIVE: What mementoes of home would you want to take with you if you had to leave for a very long time?
4. INTERPRETIVE: What is a Clydesdale? What kind of man

does the name Clydesdale suggest?

5. **LITERAL/CRITICAL:** What lesson does Dr. Carey suggest Stuart should learn from the car incident? Expand this into a general rule of conduct.

#### Activities:

1. Suppose a pet of yours disappeared. Make a list of steps you would take to try to find the missing pet.
2. Read some dialogue from this book aloud as though your mouth were wide open and your cheek full of gauze, dropping all the initial consonants as Mr. Clydesdale does. See if a classmate can figure out what you are saying.
3. Draw or trace a streamlined car of the 1930's or 1940's that you think could be Stuart's car. Color it, using bright yellow for the body and black for the fenders.

## Chapter XII

### The Schoolroom

**Synopsis:** While Dr. Carey repairs the car, Stuart outfits himself completely at a dolls' shop. The next morning Stuart sets off. Along the way, he encounters a despondent superintendent of schools who can't find a substitute teacher. Stuart offers to fill in. Dressed appropriately, Stuart entrances the class with a discussion about being Chairman of the World. The students decide what things are important—a note in music is one—and what laws would be good for the world—nix on swiping anything and absolutely no being mean. After a classroom demonstration of the laws in operation, Stuart dismisses the students and drives off to the north.

**Word Study:** accessories, p. 83(1); substitute, p. 84(1); togs, p. 86(4); discipline, p. 87(1); scholars, p. 87(3); bother, p. 90(5); abomination, p. 90(9); expectancy, p. 91(6); reminiscently, p. 91(11); temperament, p. 92(6)

#### Discussion Questions:

1. **LITERAL/CREATIVE:** What does the class decide are the important things in life? What would your list of important things be?
2. **LITERAL/CREATIVE:** What laws for the world does the class propose? What laws would you propose?
3. **INTERPRETIVE/CRITICAL:** Why do you think Stuart is a successful substitute teacher?
4. **INTERPRETIVE/CRITICAL:** What examples of illogic do you find in this chapter—incidents that people take for granted but actually are quite extraordinary?

#### Activities:

1. With your classmates, brainstorm techniques a substitute teacher could use to be effective and also maintain discipline.
2. Would the doctor really have diagnosed Miss Gunderson as having rhinestones? Do some research to find out what her actual ailment might have been.

## Chapter XIII

### Ames' Crossing

**Synopsis:** Stuart stops for a drink of sarsaparilla in the loveliest town

of all, Ames' Crossing. The storekeeper suggests that Stuart should meet Harriet Ames, young daughter of a prominent family in town, who is Stuart's size—smaller, if anything. Although Stuart still longs to find Margalo, he lingers in Ames' Crossing, camping by a stream. The next morning Stuart watches from behind an inkwell as Harriet enters and leaves the post office. Intrigued, Stuart writes Harriet an extremely formal note inviting the girl to meet him by the river the next day at five o'clock for a paddle in his canoe (and warning her about his "somewhat mouselike appearance"). After mailing the letter, Stuart is fortunate to find a souvenir birchbark canoe for sale. The storekeeper adds cardboard ice-cream spoons for paddles, and Stuart walks off with his prize to the river.

**Word Study:** sarsaparilla, p. 100(1); ruinous, p. 102(2); prominent, p. 104(4); will o' the wisp, p. 104(5); stamen, p. 106(1); muster, p. 110(4); thwarts, p. 112(1)

#### Discussion Questions:

1. **LITERAL/INTERPRETIVE:** Describe Harriet and her family. In what ways are Stuart and Harriet similar? In what ways are they different?
2. **INTERPRETIVE:** Why does Stuart stay on in Ames' Crossing even though he tells the storekeeper he must be on his way?
3. **CREATIVE:** Describe the most beautiful and peaceful spot you have ever found. What makes it feel that way to you?
4. **CRITICAL:** Stuart's letter to Harriet is extremely formal. Paraphrase (rewrite) the first two paragraphs of the letter (on pages 108 and 109 of the book) to make the letter more conversational and casual.
5. **CRITICAL:** Why do you suppose Stuart proposes a canoe ride to Harriet when he doesn't have a canoe?

#### Activities:

1. Find out what a general store in a small town in the 1940's might have looked like and offered for sale. Make a list of its merchandise and prices. Sketch the interior of the store if you wish.
2. Write a letter to someone you have seen but do not know proposing that you meet, telling who you are and giving persuasive reasons why you two should get to know each other.

## Chapter XIV

### An Evening on the River

**Synopsis:** Stuart spends the entire afternoon making the canoe into the perfect craft for Harriet—plugging its leaks, ballasting to cure its tippiness, even making a backrest. Then Stuart imagines every detail of tomorrow's perfect outing. The next day, Stuart is a wash in nervous perspiration, but at five o'clock Harriet does indeed arrive. Stuart is horrified to discover that some boys have played with the canoe and ruined it. He is heartbroken. Although Harriet is all for fixing up the canoe and going out on the river anyway, Stuart can't stand that idea because it wouldn't be the way he imagined it. Stuart gets quite distraught and sulky, so Harriet leaves him "alone with his broken dreams and his damaged canoe."

**Word Study:** swindled, p. 113(2); spruce gum, p. 113(4); ballasted, p. 114(1); morrow, p. 115(1); whipporwill, p. 117(2); courteous, p. 119(4)

### Discussion Questions:

1. **INTERPRETIVE/CRITICAL:** Why do you think the canoe is so leaky and cranky? In your opinion, was Stuart swindled when he bought the canoe?
2. **LITERAL:** What does Stuart do to make the canoe better?
3. **INTERPRETIVE:** Why is Stuart unwilling to repair the canoe and go out on the river although canoeing with Harriet is what he has dreamed of.
4. **CREATIVE:** How might Stuart have done things differently to make his date a success?

### Activities:

1. Have you ever imagined an event so vividly that the actual event seemed disappointing by comparison? In one column on a sheet of paper list what you imagined, and in the other column write what actually happened.
2. Do you feel nervous before a date or other important event? Discuss with your classmates things you and they can do to ease this type of nervousness.
3. Construct a Stuart-sized birchbark canoe. Try to make it stable and leak-free. Put a Stuart sized figure in your canoe and see how it handles in a stream.

## Chapter XV

### Heading North

**Synopsis:** The following morning at dawn Stuart sets out on the road once again to continue his search for Margalo. At a fork in the road, Stuart pulls over and encounters a telephone repairman. The mouse describes Margalo to the man, who promises to keep an eye out for her. Then they discuss the merits of traveling on a northerly course. "I rather expect that from now on I shall be traveling north until the end of my days," Stuart concludes. As he resumes his journey, he feels that the way is long but that he is headed in the right direction.

**Word Study:** filling station, p. 125(2); spurs, p. 127(1); orchards, p. 129(9); rank, p. 129(9); junctions, p. 131(1)

### Discussion Questions:

1. **INTERPRETIVE/CRITICAL:** Why do you think Stuart remains so determined to search for Margalo?
2. **CREATIVE:** The repairman jots down an abbreviated description of Margalo. Write a similar description of Stuart.
3. **INTERPRETIVE:** What does the telephone repairman mean when he says the Telephone Company "has to follow its nose"?
4. **LITERAL/CRITICAL:** What reasons do Stuart and the repairman offer each other for going north? Do these reasons seem important to you?

### Activities:

1. Invite a telephone repairer to your class to describe his or her job.
2. List a number of reasons why east, south, or west would be the best direction to travel in.

### Culminating Activities

1. Do you think Margalo would have left the Littles' eventually even if she hadn't been scared away by the pigeon's note? Do you think Stuart would have gone with her if he had been given the opportunity? Compare your opinions on these questions with your classmates'.
2. Write an ending to the story in which Stuart does or does not find Margalo and does or does not return home to his family.
3. Prepare for and participate in a class debate on whether Stuart should or should not: 1) have left home; 2) have told his family why or where he was going; and 3) return home.
4. Do Activity Sheet 2 (and Activity Sheet 1 if you have not already done so).
5. Read *The Borrowers* by Mary Norton. Compare Stuart's experiences in the world of "giant" people with the Borrowers' experiences.

## STUART LITTLE TEST

### Part I Matching (2 points each)

Read each character description. In the list to the right, find the character who matches the description. Write the letter of the character in the space next to the description number.

- |  |                        |
|--|------------------------|
| ___ 1. Forgets to finish making a brace for Stuart in the bathroom.  | a. Stuart              |
| ___ 2. At one time, plans to eat Margalo.                            | b. Mr. Little          |
| ___ 3. Suffers from a case of bronchitis.                            | c. Mrs. Little         |
| ___ 4. Advises Stuart to drive to Connecticut.                       | d. George              |
| ___ 5. Owner of the boat Stuart sails in the race.                   | e. Snowbell            |
| ___ 6. Person Stuart substitutes for at the school.                  | f. Margalo             |
| ___ 7. Comes from pastures deep in thistle and loves to whistle.     | g. Dr. Carey           |
| ___ 8. Is only two inches high but is not a mouse.                   | h. Leroy               |
| ___ 9. Rigs up a rope ladder for Stuart in the bathroom.             | i. Mr. Clydesdale      |
| ___ 10. Suggests to Stuart that heading north is always a fine idea. | j. Harriet Ames        |
|  | k. Miss Gunderson      |
|  | l. telephone repairman |

### Part II Fill-In (2 points each)

Write a word in each blank to make each statement true.

1. During the sailboat race, Stuart is helmsman for the schooner \_\_\_\_\_ .
2. Stuart sails against the sloop \_\_\_\_\_ .
3. Stuart plans to take Harriet out in his \_\_\_\_\_ .
4. Mr. and Mrs. Little change a line in the poem that begins "\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ ."
5. Stuart's parents worry that he will disappear down a \_\_\_\_\_ some day.
6. Stuart is always very careful to avoid \_\_\_\_\_ when he goes out on the city streets.
7. Margalo rescues Stuart from a \_\_\_\_\_ being towed out to sea.
8. The pigeon overhears the \_\_\_\_\_ planning to creep in and eat Margalo.
9. The miniature automobile gets wrecked after it becomes \_\_\_\_\_ .
10. One of the two laws for the world is: \_\_\_\_\_ .

**Part III Multiple Choice (2 points each)**

Choose the best ending for each sentence. Write the letter of the correct answer in the blank.

- \_\_\_ 1. When the doctor examines the baby Stuart, he says that a) Stuart is not developing normally;  
b) it is unusual for an American family to have a mouse; c) the Littles should feed Stuart more cheese and less milk d) many European families do have mice.
- \_\_\_ 2. To help his family, Stuart a) retrieves lost earrings from the bathtub drain b) jumps on the piano keys when they stick; c) finds lost articles of food in the refrigerator; d) pushes Ping-pong balls out from under radiators.
- \_\_\_ 3. When Stuart disappears into the window shade, his brother George suggests a) spooning applesauce down the mousehole b) ripping up the bathroom floor; c) buying a rowing machine to increase Stuart's strength; d) getting rid of Snowbell.
- \_\_\_ 4. During the sailboat race, Stuart a) sails Leroy's boat; b) gets washed overboard; c) rams into the other sailboat; d) gets tangled up in a floating popcorn box.
- \_\_\_ 5. Stuart's father makes the mouse a pair of ice skates out of a) a used razor blade; b) two pen points; c) two paper clips; d) two large staples.
- \_\_\_ 6. Stuart saves Margalo from the cat by a) shooting the cat with his bow and arrow;  
b) waking up his parents; c) turning on the living room light; d) giving Margalo a warning note.
- \_\_\_ 7. Margalo flies away because a) Snowbell attacks her; b) Mr. and Mrs. Little ask her to leave;  
c) she wants to rejoin her family; d) a pigeon leaves her a warning letter.
- \_\_\_ 8. For Stuart's journey, Dr. Carey provides the mouse with a) a new suit of clothes;  
b) a gas-powered automobile; c) camping gear; d) road maps.
- \_\_\_ 9. One of the "important things" Stuart's students name is a) spelling words correctly;  
b) a law against fighting; c) a shaft of sunlight at the end of a dark afternoon;  
d) having a King of the World.
- \_\_\_ 10. On his date with Harriet, Stuart a) refuses to go to the Country Club dance with her;  
b) takes her canoeing; c) offers her some peppermints; d) shows her how well he can swim.

#### Part IV Vocabulary (2 points each)

Match each italicized word with its meaning in the list below. Write the letter of the correct meaning in the space next to the sentence number.

- \_\_\_ 1. Mr. Little becomes *exasperated* with George's attempts to help find Stuart.
- \_\_\_ 2. Although Stuart is *diminutive*, he is bold.
- \_\_\_ 3. Stuart speaks *tartly* to the bus conductor.
- \_\_\_ 4. The boat owners scream with *consternation* about the huge wave.
- \_\_\_ 5. Margalo once lived in a *vale* of meadowsweet.
- \_\_\_ 6. Snowbell complains that the family is trying to make a *pariah* out of him.
- \_\_\_ 7. Stuart cocks his grey felt hat *jauntily* to one side.
- \_\_\_ 8. Stuart declares to the students that a misspelled word is an *abomination*.
- \_\_\_ 9. In his letter to Harriet, Stuart says he will await her arrival with all the eagerness he can *muster*.
- \_\_\_ 10. In the north there are pastures *rank* with ferns and junipers.

- |                      |                    |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| a. valley            | f. greatly annoyed |
| b. something hateful | g. outcast         |
| c. dismay            | h. cuttingly       |
| d. strong smelling   | i. bring together  |
| e. with spirit       | j. tiny            |

#### Part V Essay Questions (10 points each)

Choose any *two* of these questions to answer. Write one or two paragraphs for each question.

- 1. Write a character description of Mr. Little, Mrs. Little, or George.
- 2. Describe the relationship between Stuart and Snowbell, using incidents from the book as illustrations.
- 3. Describe some of the ways in which Stuart overcomes any problems his size causes him.
- 4. In your opinion, why does Stuart leave home to search for Margalo? Do you agree with his decision to do this? Why or why not?



## Activity Sheet 1

**Directions:** Fill in the crossword puzzle by answering the clues with words from the novel relating to sailing.

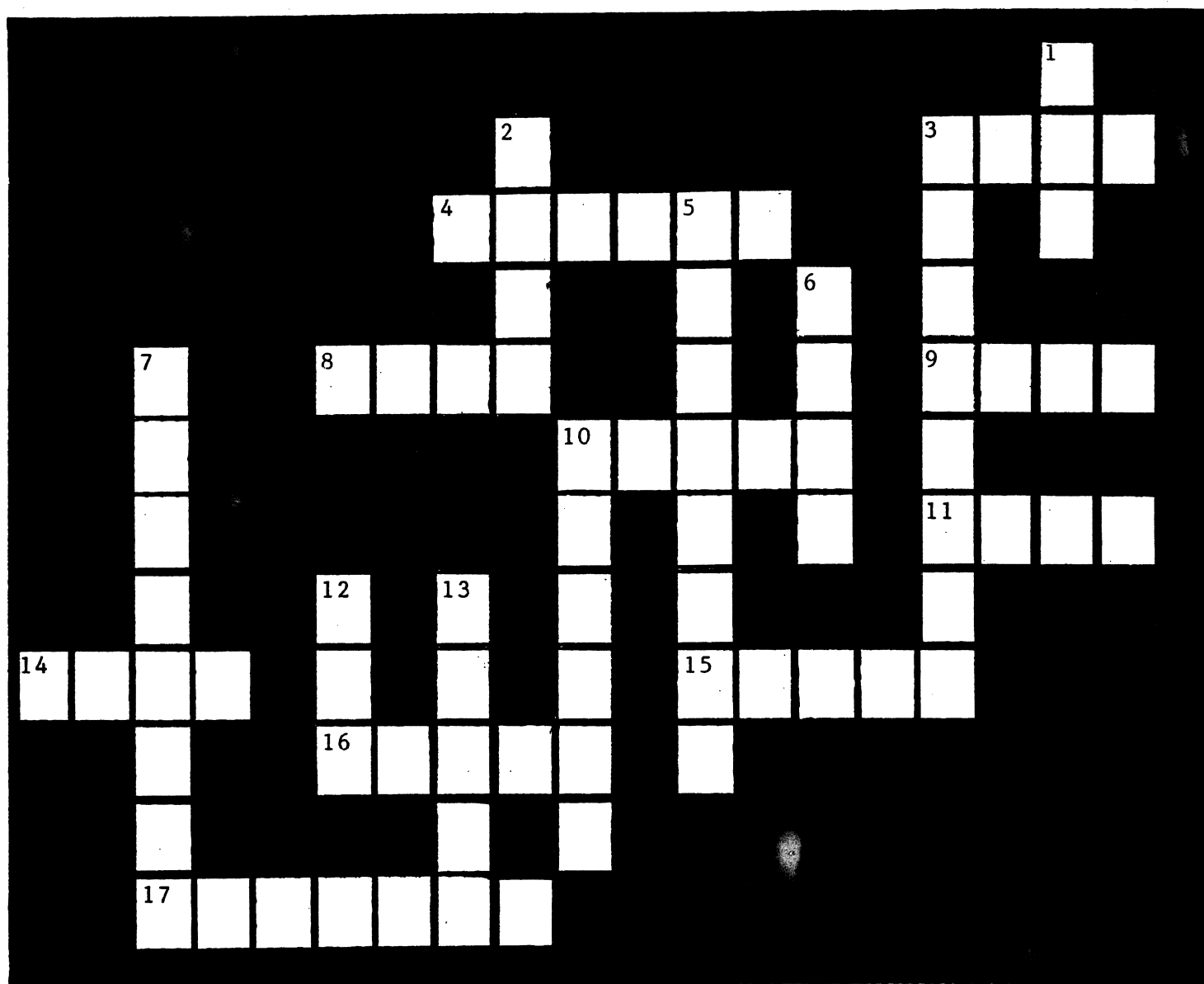
### SAILING THE SEA

#### ACROSS

3. Long spar to extend the sail's foot.
4. Allow lines to run out. (2 words)
8. Covering over the inside of a boat.
9. Bow or prow.
10. Wave or series of waves.
11. Outer edge of the deck.
14. Bow and fore part of a boat.
15. Fastening for lines.
16. Round steering device.
17. Wires and ropes for mast and sails.

#### DOWN

1. Forward part of a boat.
2. Turn the bow through the wind.
3. Spar that projects from the bow.
5. Forward part of the deck.
6. Lever or wheel for steering.
7. Lie at an angle. (2 words)
10. Sudden violent wind.
12. Go off course erratically.
13. Rear part of a boat.



## Activity Sheet 2

**Directions:** Write a short sailing story in the space below (you can also use a separate sheet of paper) using the sailing terms from the crossword puzzle on Activity Sheet 1 and the following terms. Underline each term as you use it in your story.

mast  
jib

mainsail  
halyard

jibe  
fill away

## ANSWER KEY

### Stuart Little

#### Part I

- |      |       |
|------|-------|
| 1. d | 6. k  |
| 2. e | 7. f  |
| 3. a | 8. j  |
| 4. i | 9. b  |
| 5. g | 10. l |

#### Part II

1. Wasp
2. Lillian B. Womrath
3. birchbark canoe
4. 'Twas the night before Christmas
5. mousehole
6. dogs
7. garbage scow
8. Angora
9. invisible
10. Nix on swiping anything  
*or* absolutely no being mean

#### Part III

- |      |       |
|------|-------|
| 1. b | 6. a  |
| 2. d | 7. d  |
| 3. a | 8. b  |
| 4. b | 9. c  |
| 5. c | 10. a |

#### Part IV

- |      |       |
|------|-------|
| 1. f | 6. g  |
| 2. j | 7. e  |
| 3. h | 8. b  |
| 4. c | 9. i  |
| 5. a | 10. d |

#### Part V

Scored according to teacher's judgment.

#### Activity Sheet 1 Answers

```

          B
        T   BOOM
      PAYOFF O W
        C O H W
H  DECK  R E STEM
E      SWELL P
E      Q D M RAIL
L  Y S U E  I
PROW A T A CLEAT
V  WHEEL K
E    R L
RIGGING
```



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