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# Some Writer!: The Story Of E. B. White



## Synopsis

“SOME PIG,” Charlotte the spider’s praise for Wilbur, is just one fondly remembered snippet from E. B. White’s Charlotte’s Web. In *Some Writer!*, the two-time Caldecott Honor winner Melissa Sweet mixes White’s personal letters, photos, and family ephemera with her own exquisite artwork to tell his story, from his birth in 1899 to his death in 1985. Budding young writers 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 is the first fully illustrated biography of E. B. White and includes an afterword by Martha White, E. B. White’s granddaughter. —

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 1030 (What’s this?)

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 — See all reviews (12 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #7,178 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #5 in Books > Children’s Books > Biographies > Literary #9 in Books > Children’s Books > Education & Reference > Reading & Writing > Composition & Creative Writing #12 in Books > Children’s Books > Education & Reference > Books & Libraries

Age Range: 7 - 10 years

Grade Level: 2 - 5

## Customer Reviews

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."

I didn't realize that this book was aimed at youngsters but I am so glad I didn't because I might have missed out on this charming book about "Charlotte's Web" author E B White. This book is told almost in a scrapbook fashion and even adults will spend more time studying and admiring the pics and drawings than even reading the content. The content is good too though. You can tell that Melissa Sweet has genuine love for her subject. The story focuses on the most important parts of White's story. It is mixed well with stories about the periods he spent writing his great novels. I've read before that "Charlotte's Web" is considered the perfect children's book and I don't think that is far from the truth. For a book aimed at school aged children, I found quite a bit of insight into the author and his motivations. I liked him a lot and found parts of his life story very beautiful and almost poetic. I definitely think people should take a chance on this book. I think I need to go find another biography about him just because I want to know even more about E B White.

This is a 164 page biography for children about the writer of some beloved classic children's books which is filled with lots of photos, copies of original notes and manuscripts and original mixed-media artwork (collages) and watercolor paintings, both text and the artwork is by Melissa Sweet. As with all biographies for children it starts off with who E.B. White was as a child, what interested him in the world and about his curiosities. His childhood asthma was the reason the family began summering on lakeside cabins in Maine and it was there that White fell in love with nature and the peaceful wilderness. The text moves along at a good pace, never getting boring, for those who do care to read a biography about authors. There is plenty of information about how White started writing as a child and then how his career formed by doing what we now call freelance work and later with

regular work writing for adults at The New Yorker and other steady columns. How Stuart Little came to be written, its reception and then what spurred the idea for Charlotte's Web, and later, how The Trumpet of the Swan came to be. Here we learn of White's love of animals and his desire to tell genuine stories with basic life lessons and of his decision to speak plainly and directly to children instead of talking down to them. This biography gives us a sense of who White is as a person and what is important to him by giving quotes directly from letters and essays he wrote to various audiences (students, family members or in his published essays for adults). The inclusion of so many photographs helps us see he and his loved ones. Rated 5 stars, this book brings alive who E.B. White is. As an adult writer I found inspiration here and enjoyed the artwork and visuals.

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