

# Swara the Snow White Swan

by Elizabeth Trach

Swara was a swan. Her feathers were as white as snow. She lived at the lake with her friends, the ducks and turtles.

All the ducks liked to splash and swim. Some even liked to dive head-first into the water and kick their orange feet into the air. The turtles were also good swimmers. They were fast in the water.

Swara did not like to swim. She liked to study the ants in the grass. She also liked to sit quietly and watch the clouds float across the sky. Swara liked to make pictures out of the fluffy clouds.

"Want to play, Swara?" asked Denny. Denny was a brown duck with a green head.

"No, thank you." Swara was looking at the ground, where a line of ants dug into the sand near the lake.

"Why not? Don't you feel well?" asked Denny.

"I'm fine, thank you," said Swara. "I just like to play by myself."

Denny kicked his feet under the water. "But you have to play with other people to have fun," said Denny. "Being alone is, well, lonely!"

Swara looked up at Denny. "I don't think so," she said. She stepped out of the lake and followed the line of ants up into the grass. Her long neck was bent toward the ground so she could see better.

Denny watched Swara walk away. He thought that being alone all the time must feel very sad. But Swara didn't look sad. She looked very interested and alert.

Denny hopped out of the lake and followed Swara. He also looked at the ground. "I never noticed so many ants!" Denny cried.

"Shh," said Swara. "If you're loud, you'll scare them away. You get to see all kind of things when you're quiet."

Denny tried to be quiet. He usually played loudly in the lake with the other ducks, but he wanted to keep looking at new things. Even though they weren't talking, it was nice just to walk near Swara. It felt very friendly.

"I thought you were lonely, but it looks like you have a lot of friends in the grass," Denny said.

Swara smiled. "You can watch them with me. I'd like that."

So, the duck and the swan spent a quiet day together, learning all about ants. And Denny learned that being alone doesn't have to be lonely.



**Questions**

1. What does Denny look like?
2. What does Swara like to do at the lake?
3. What does Denny learn by being with Swara?
4. Do you like to spend time alone, or do you prefer to play with friends? Why?

This passage includes words that students should learn to recognize on sight. We've highlighted 12 of these words below, from the Dolch sight word list for Pre-K through 1st, 2nd and/or 3rd grade. Tip: Read through the passage once with your student. Read a second time, but pause on the sight word and ask your student to say the word.

### Sight Word List

1. can
2. look
3. make
4. play
5. the
6. you
7. but
8. must
9. ask
10. just
11. sit
12. keep

Print and cut-out the flash cards below. Show each sight word to your student and ask them to say the word.

**can**

**look**

**make**

**play**

**the**

**you**

**but**

**must**

**ask**

**just**

**sit**

**keep**