A White Heron



A White Heron: Exploring Sarah Orne Jewett's Timeless Tale

Are you captivated by stories that explore the delicate balance between nature, innocence, and morality? Then Sarah Orne Jewett's "A White Heron" is a must-read. This blog post delves deep into the symbolism, themes, and lasting impact of this classic short story. We'll unpack the narrative, analyze the characters, and examine why this seemingly simple tale continues to resonate with readers over a century later. Prepare to explore the enduring power of "A White Heron" and its relevance in today's world.

The Enthralling Narrative of "A White Heron"

"A White Heron" unfolds in the picturesque setting of rural Maine. We meet Sylvia, a young girl living with her grandmother, a character defined by her quiet strength and connection to the land. Sylvia's life is intimately entwined with the natural world; she understands its rhythms, its secrets, and its silent language. The arrival of a sophisticated ornithologist, a hunter seeking the elusive white heron, disrupts this peaceful existence, introducing a stark contrast between the untamed wilderness and the encroaching world of ambition and scientific pursuit.

The Allure of the White Heron

The white heron itself acts as a powerful symbol throughout the story. It's not just a bird; it represents the pristine beauty and untouched wildness that Sylvia cherishes. The heron embodies the untamed spirit of nature, a spirit that Sylvia fiercely protects. Its rarity and elusiveness heighten its symbolic significance, making it a powerful representation of the preciousness of the natural world.

Sylvia's Moral Dilemma: Nature vs. Human Desire

The central conflict of the story lies in Sylvia's moral dilemma. She is torn between her affection for the hunter, who offers her a reward for leading him to the heron, and her unwavering loyalty to the bird and the natural world she calls home. This internal struggle reveals the profound connection Sylvia has with nature, a connection that overrides societal expectations and the lure of material rewards. Her final decision underscores the story's overarching theme: the ethical responsibility we have to protect the natural world.

Symbolism and Themes in "A White Heron"

Jewett masterfully employs symbolism to convey deeper meanings. The heron's whiteness symbolizes purity and innocence, contrasting sharply with the hunter's encroaching pursuit. The tall pine tree, where Sylvia observes the heron, represents the interconnectedness of all living things, and its height reflects the spiritual elevation Sylvia achieves through her connection with nature.

Themes of Innocence and Experience

"A White Heron" poignantly portrays the transition from innocence to experience. Sylvia's initial naiveté gradually gives way to a more mature understanding of the complexities of the human world and her own moral compass. This transition is not about losing innocence but gaining a deeper appreciation for the ethical choices that define our lives.

The Conflict Between Nature and Civilization

The story also presents a powerful critique of the conflict between the natural world and the encroaching influence of human civilization. The hunter, representing the forces of scientific

exploration and human ambition, stands in direct opposition to Sylvia and her deep connection with the natural world. This contrast highlights the destructive potential of unchecked human intervention and the importance of preserving natural habitats.

The Enduring Legacy of "A White Heron"

"A White Heron" continues to resonate with readers because of its timeless themes and its evocative portrayal of the human relationship with the natural world. The story's enduring power lies in its ability to stir emotions, spark discussions about environmental conservation, and provoke reflection on personal ethics. It remains a powerful reminder of our responsibility to protect the fragile beauty of the natural world, a responsibility that transcends generations.

Conclusion

Sarah Orne Jewett's "A White Heron" is more than just a charming tale; it's a poignant exploration of nature, morality, and the enduring power of innocence. Through its evocative imagery, compelling characters, and profound themes, the story leaves a lasting impression, reminding us of the importance of preserving the natural world and making ethical choices in the face of temptation. The legacy of "A White Heron" is a testament to the power of literature to inspire reflection and promote a deeper understanding of our relationship with the environment.

Frequently Asked Questions

- O1: What is the main conflict in "A White Heron"?
- A1: The main conflict is Sylvia's internal struggle between her desire to please the hunter and her deep-seated loyalty to the white heron and the natural world. She must choose between a potential reward and her ethical responsibility to protect the bird.
- Q2: What does the white heron symbolize in the story?
- A2: The white heron symbolizes purity, innocence, and the untamed beauty of the natural world. It represents the preciousness of nature and the importance of preserving it from exploitation.
- Q3: What is the significance of the setting in "A White Heron"?
- A3: The rural Maine setting is crucial. It emphasizes Sylvia's intimate connection with nature and contrasts sharply with the hunter's sophisticated, urban world, highlighting the conflict between

nature and civilization.

Q4: How does Sylvia's character develop throughout the story?

A4: Sylvia undergoes a transformation from innocent child to someone with a more profound understanding of ethical choices and the importance of protecting the natural world. Her decision regarding the heron reveals her maturity and moral strength.

Q5: What is the overall message or theme of "A White Heron"?

A5: The story emphasizes the importance of protecting nature, highlighting the ethical responsibility we have to preserve the environment and make choices that align with our values, even when facing external pressures.

a white heron: *A White Heron* Sarah Orne Jewett, 2005 This beloved short story - a classic coming-of-age tale by the author of The Country of the Pointed Firs is gloriously illustrated with pencil drawings by Maine artist Douglas Alvord. Sylvia, a city girl more at home with animals than with people, has come to the Maine Woods to live with her grandmother. One summer afternoon in the late 1800s, her life is changed forever when she meets an attractive young ornithologist searching for birds to snare, stuff, preserve, and display.

a white heron: A White Heron Sarah Orne Jewett, 1886

a white heron: A White Heron Sarah Orne Jewett, 1891

a white heron: Better Birding George L. Armistead, Brian L. Sullivan, 2016 Better Birding reveals the techniques expert birders use to identify a wide array of bird species in the field—quickly and easily. Featuring hundreds of stunning photos and composite plates throughout, this book simplifies identification by organizing the birds you see into groupings and offering strategies specifically tailored to each group. Skill building focuses not just on traditional elements such as plumage, but also on creating a context around each bird, including habitat, behavior, and taxonomy—parts so integral to every bird's identity but often glossed over by typical field guides. Critical background information is provided for each group, enabling you to approach bird identification with a wide-angle view, using your eyes, brain, and binoculars more strategically, resulting in a more organized approach to learning birds. Better Birding puts the thrill of expert bird identification within your reach. Reveals the techniques used by expert birders for quick and easy identification Simplifies identification with strategies tailored to different groupings of birds Features hundreds of photos and composite plates that illustrate the different techniques Fosters a wide-angle approach to field birding Provides a foundation for building stronger birding skills

a white heron: The Voyage of François Pyrard of Laval to the East Indies, the Maldives, the Moluccas and Brazil François Pyrard, 1888

a white heron: Great Short Stories by American Women Candace Ward, 2012-03-01 Choice collection of 13 stories includes Life in the Iron Mills by Rebecca Harding Davis, Zora Neale Hurston's Sweat, plus superb fiction by Kate Chopin, Willa Cather, Edith Wharton, many others.

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- a white heron: White Heron and Other American Short Stories(Penguin Readers Audio Pac Sarah Orne Jewett, 1999-01-01
- a white heron: Tell Me Again how the White Heron Rises and Flies Across the Nacreous River at Twilight Toward the Distant Islands Hayden Carruth, 1989 Tell Me Again... offers a wide variety of poems written in Hayden Carruth's inimitably eloquent and precise style.
- a white heron: Desire for Development Barbara Heron, 2007-12-04 In Desire for Development: Whiteness, Gender, and the Helping Imperative, Barbara Heron draws on poststructuralist notions of subjectivity, critical race and space theory, feminism, colonial and postcolonial studies, and travel writing to trace colonial continuities in the post-development recollections of white Canadian women who have worked in Africa. Following the narrative arc of the development worker story from the decision to go overseas, through the experiences abroad, the return home, and final reflections, the book interweaves theory with the words of the participants to bring theory to life and to generate new understandings of whiteness and development work. Heron reveals how the desire for development is about the making of self in terms that are highly raced, classed, and gendered, and she exposes the moral core of this self and its seemingly paradoxical necessity to the Other. The construction of white female subjectivity is thereby revealed as contingent on notions of goodness and Othering, played out against, and constituted by, the backdrop of the NorthSouth binary, in which Canada's national narrative situates us as the "good guys" of the world.
 - a white heron: A White Heron and Other Stories Sarah Orne Jewett, 2007-09-04
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 - $\textbf{a white heron: A White Heron and Other Stories} \ \mathsf{Sarah} \ \mathsf{Orne} \ \mathsf{Jewett}, \ 2007\text{-}09\text{-}04$
 - a white heron: White Heron and Other Stories Sarah Orne Jewett, 1999-12-01
- a white heron: A White Heron, and Other Stories (Classic Reprint) Sarah Orne Jewett, 2015-07-11 Excerpt from A White Heron, and Other Stories The woods were already filled with shadows one June evening, just before eight o'clock, though a bright sunset still glimmered faintly among the trunks of the trees. A little girl was driving home her cow, a plodding, dilatory, provoking creature in her behavior, but a valued companion for all that. They were going away from whatever light there was, and striking deep into the woods, but their feet were familiar with the path, and it was no matter whether their eyes could see it or not. There was hardly a night the summer through when the old cow could be found waiting at the pasture bars; on the contrary, it was her greatest pleasure to hide herself away among the huckleberry bushes, and though she wore a loud bell she had made the discovery that if one stood perfectly still it would not ring. About the Publisher Forgotten Books publishes hundreds of thousands of rare and classic books. Find more at www.forgottenbooks.com This book is a reproduction of an important historical work. Forgotten Books uses state-of-the-art technology to digitally reconstruct the work, preserving the original format whilst repairing imperfections present in the aged copy. In rare cases, an imperfection in the

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- a white heron: Don't Bring Home a White Boy Karyn Langhorne Folan, 2010-02-02 Folan encourages readers to look beyond common generalizations and stereotypes about race and gender in interracial relationships. In Don't Bring Home a White Boy, writer Karyn Langhorne Folan debunks the myths and common preconceptions about interracial relationships: Is a black woman who dates white men a traitor to her race? And is America's history of black oppression a factor? Drawing on real-life testimonials, she boldly tackles this difficult subject with warmth, humor, and understanding, as she explores stereotypes of black female sexuality and white male perspectives on black female beauty. Folan goes beyond statistics and offers firsthand insights on her own interracial relationship and attempts to tap into a woman's desire to have all that they deserve instead of restricting themselves, simply because they want a "good black man." Frank, authoritative, and universally relevant, her message to women is to look beyond skin color, accept themselves for who they are, and seek a man who truly loves them, regardless of race.
- **a white heron: Editha** William Dean Howells, 1993-09 A girl with a romantic concept of war has her beliefs challenged when her fiance goes off to fight.
- a white heron: The Crane Wife CJ Hauser, 2022-07-12 A memoir in essays that expands on the viral sensation "The Crane Wife" with a frank and funny look at love, intimacy, and self in the twenty-first century. From friends and lovers to blood family and chosen family, this "elegant masterpiece" (Roxane Gay, New York Times bestselling author of Hunger) asks what more expansive definitions of love might offer us all. A BEST BOOK OF THE YEAR: TIME, THE GUARDIAN, GARDEN & GUN Hauser builds their life's inventory out of deconstructed personal narratives, resulting in a reading experience that's rich like a complicated dessert—not for wolfing down but for savoring in small bites. —The New York Times "Clever, heartfelt, and wrenching." —Time "Brilliant." —Oprah Daily Ten days after calling off their wedding, CJ Hauser went on an expedition to Texas to study the whooping crane. After a week wading through the gulf, they realized they'd almost signed up to live someone else's life. What if you released yourself from traditional narratives of happiness? What if you looked for ways to leave room for the unexpected? In Hauser's case, this meant dissecting pop culture touchstone, from The Philadelphia Story to The X Files, to learn how not to lose yourself in a relationship. They attended a robot convention, contemplated grief at John Belushi's gravesite, and officiated a wedding. Most importantly, they mapped the difference between the stories we're asked to hold versus those we choose to carry. Told with the late-night barstool directness of your wisest, most bighearted friend, The Crane Wife is a book for everyone whose path doesn't look the way they thought it would; for everyone learning to find joy in the not-knowing and to build a new sort of life story, a new sort of family, a new sort of home to live in.
- a white heron: A White Heron and Other Stories Sarah Orne Jewett, 2007-06-15 a white heron: Seeing Things in Black and White Antoine K. Stroman, 2020-05-20 Perception is reality in this semi coming to afar piece about a young black man, living in a world of racial and economic inequities. Inspired in part by Gil Scott Heron's track "B Movie", the story takes readers on a journey beginning in the mid 90's into the present day, chronicling many of the real issues faced by young black men, and the role of their white counterparts. Follow our protagonist as he views the world, "in black and white."
- a white heron: A White Heron and Other Stories Sarah Orne Jewett, 2007-06-15 a white heron: A White Heron and Other American Stories Sarah Orne Jewett, Kate Chopin, O. Henry, Mark Twain, Edgar Allan Poe, 1999 Retells stories by such authors as Kate Chopin, Mark Twain, Sarah Orne Jewett, William Sydney Porter, and Edgar Allan Poe.
- **a white heron: Posthumanist Perspectives on Literary and Cultural Animals** Krishanu Maiti, 2021-09-11 This book offers Posthumanist readings of animal-centric literary and cultural texts. The contributors put the precepts and premises of humanism into question by seriously considering the animal presence in texts. The essays collected here focus primarily on literary and

cultural texts from varied theoretically informed interdisciplinary perspectives advanced by critical approaches such as Critical Animal Studies and Posthumanism. Contributors select texts that cut across geographical and period boundaries and demonstrate how practices of close reading give rise to new ways of thinking about animals. By implicating the "animal turn" in the field of literary and cultural studies, this book urges us to problematize the separation of the human from other animals and rethink the hierarchical order of beings through close readings of select texts. It offers fresh perspectives on Posthumanist theory, inviting readers to revisit those criteria that created species' difference from the early ages of human civilization. This book constitutes a rich and thorough scholarly resource on the politics of representation of animals in literature and culture. The essays in this book are empirically and theoretically informed and explore a range of dynamic, captivating, and highly relevant topics. Comprising over 15 chapters by a team of international contributors, this book is divided into four parts: Contestation over Species Hierarchy and CategorizationAnimal (Re)constructionsInterspecies RelationalitiesIntersectionality- Animal and Gender This book will be essential reading for students and researchers of Critical Animal Studies and Environmental Studies.

a white heron: The Rain Heron Robbie Arnott, 2021-02-09 Astonishing...With the intensity of a perfect balance between the mythic and the real, The Rain Heron keeps turning and twisting, taking you to unexpected places. A deeply emotional and satisfying read. Beautifully written. --Jeff VanderMeer, author of Borne. One of LitHub's Most Anticipated Books of 2021. A gripping novel of myth, environment, adventure, and an unlikely friendship, from an award-winning Australian author Ren lives alone on the remote frontier of a country devastated by a coup d'état. High on the forested slopes, she survives by hunting, farming, trading, and forgetting the contours of what was once a normal life. But her guiet stability is disrupted when an army unit, led by a young female soldier, comes to the mountains on government orders in search of a legendary creature called the rain heron—a mythical, dangerous, form-shifting bird with the ability to change the weather. Ren insists that the bird is simply a story, yet the soldier will not be deterred, forcing them both into a gruelling quest. Spellbinding and immersive, Robbie Arnott's The Rain Heron is an astounding, mythical exploration of human resilience, female friendship, and humankind's precarious relationship to nature. As Ren and the soldier hunt for the heron, a bond between them forms, and the painful details of Ren's former life emerge—a life punctuated by loss, trauma, and a second, equally magical and dangerous creature. Slowly, Ren's and the soldier's lives entwine, unravel, and ultimately erupt in a masterfully crafted ending in which both women are forced to confront their biggest fears—and regrets. Robbie Arnott, one of Australia's most acclaimed young novelists, sews magic into reality with a steady, confident hand. Bubbling with rare imagination and ambition, The Rain Heron is an emotionally charged and dazzling novel, one that asks timely yet eternal questions about environment, friendship, nationality, and the myths that bind us.

a white heron: The Heron Dance Book of Love and Gratitude Ann O'Shaughnessy, 2005-02 This second edition has a new cover, trim size and page count. Living with love and gratitude is at the center of the well-lived life. Heron Dance celebrates the open heart and the beauty and mystery that surround us with this book of poetry, book and interview excerpts. Included are 48 watercolors by Rod MacIver and selections from the written works of Helen Keller, Rachel Naomi Remen, Katharine Hepburn, Albert Einstein, Pablo Casals, Joseph Campbell, Dostoevsky, and Henry Miller, among many others. Introduction by Heron Dance editor Ann O'Shaughnessy.

a white heron: Animal Speak Ted Andrews, 2010-09-08 Open your heart and mind to the wisdom of the animal world. Animal Speak provides techniques for recognizing and interpreting the signs and omens of nature. Meet and work with animals as totems and spirit guides by learning the language of their behaviors within the physical world. Animal Speak shows you how to: Identify, meet, and attune to your spirit animals Discover the power and spiritual significance of more than 100 different animals, birds, insects, and reptiles Call upon the protective powers of your animal totem Create and use five magical animal rites, including shapeshifting and sacred dance This beloved, bestselling guide has become a classic reference for anyone wishing to forge a spiritual connection with the majesty and mystery of the animal world.

- a white heron: Sarah Orne Jewett Margaret Roman, 1992-01-30 This comprehensive study effectively demonstrates the many ways by which Jewett's fiction subverts conventional gender dichotomies. -- Choice
- **a white heron: A White Heron** Sarah Orne Jewett, 1990 A nine-year-old New England girl has to decide whether or not she will help the ornithologist who is searching for the rare white heron.
- a white heron: "A White Heron" and the Question of Minor Literature Louis A. Renza, 1984
- a white heron: The Oxford Book of American Short Stories Joyce Carol Oates, 1992 This volume offers a survey of American short fiction in 59 tales that combine classic works with 'different, unexpected gems', which invite readers to explore a wealth of important pieces by women and minority writers. Authors include: Amy Tan, Alice Adams, David Leavitt and Tim O'Brien.
- a white heron: Of Mice and Men John Steinbeck, 2018-11 Of Mice and Men es una novela escrita por el autor John Steinbeck. Publicado en 1937, cuenta la historia de George Milton y Lennie Small, dos trabajadores desplazados del rancho migratorio, que se mudan de un lugar a otro en California en busca de nuevas oportunidades de trabajo durante la Gran Depresión en los Estados Unidos.
- a white heron: A Country Doctor Sarah Orne Jewett, 2021-05-21 A brilliant and ambitious woman is eager to establish her career as a doctor but is forced to choose between her occupation and married life. This timely tale presents an internal conflict facing women in the nineteenth century and beyond. Nan is a bright young woman who grows up under the tutelage of the widowed physician, Dr. Leslie. She became interested in medicine at an early age and decides to pursue it as an adult. Unfortunately, her desire to start a career goes against the social conventions of the day. Women are expected to prioritize marriage and children over any profession. Yet, Nan struggles to desert her goals to appease others. It's a trying dilemma that pits her against her family, friends and local residents. A Country Doctor is a semiautobiographical story influenced by the author's personal path to independence. The novel explores the many limitations women encounter when attempting to establish a career. It's a forward-thinking tale and source of encouragement for those seeking professional growth. With an eye-catching new cover, and professionally typeset manuscript, this edition of A Country Doctor is both modern and readable.
- a white heron: A White Heron Scholar's Choice Edition Sarah Orne Jewett, 2015-02-08 This work has been selected by scholars as being culturally important, and is part of the knowledge base of civilization as we know it. This work was reproduced from the original artifact, and remains as true to the original work as possible. Therefore, you will see the original copyright references, library stamps (as most of these works have been housed in our most important libraries around the world), and other notations in the work. This work is in the public domain in the United States of America, and possibly other nations. Within the United States, you may freely copy and distribute this work, as no entity (individual or corporate) has a copyright on the body of the work. As a reproduction of a historical artifact, this work may contain missing or blurred pages, poor pictures, errant marks, etc. Scholars believe, and we concur, that this work is important enough to be preserved, reproduced, and made generally available to the public. We appreciate your support of the preservation process, and thank you for being an important part of keeping this knowledge alive and relevant.
- a white heron: Herons, Egrets and Bitterns Neil McKilligan, 2005-03-02 This is the first book to deal exclusively with the Australian members of the Family Ardeidae (herons, egrets and bitterns). It gives a comprehensive, easy-to-read account of their origins, classification and biology, and explains the features that distinguish them from other birds. The book devotes a major chapter to the 14 Australian species, covering their distribution and movements, feeding, breeding, population dynamics and conservation. Some of Australia's herons have become very scarce in the southern half of the continent and are at risk of national or local extinction. In northern Australia heron habitats and resources are largely pristine and consequently this region accommodates large numbers of certain species. A final chapter on population and conservation provides a useful

summary of the present status of the Australian herons, some of whom are thriving and others who are in a very precarious position.

- a white heron: A White Heron and Other Stories Sarah Orne Jewett, 2012-08-28 Wonderfully descriptive prose from distinguished regionalist writer includes 10 tales dealing with female friendships, poverty, and compassion: The Town Poor, Miss Peck's Promotion, The Passing of Sister Barsett, and seven more.
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- a white heron: Gil Scott-Heron: Pieces of a Man Marcus Baram, 2014-11-11 Best known for his 1970 polemic The Revolution Will Not Be Televised, Gil Scott-Heron was a musical icon who defied characterization. He tantalized audiences with his charismatic stage presence, and his biting, observant lyrics in such singles as The Bottle and Johannesburg provide a time capsule for a decade marked by turbulence, uncertainty, and racism. While he was exalted by his devoted fans as the black Bob Dylan (a term he hated) and widely sampled by the likes of Kanye West, Prince, Common, and Elvis Costello, he never really achieved mainstream success. Yet he maintained a cult following throughout his life, even as he grappled with the personal demons that fueled so many of his lyrics. Scott-Heron performed and occasionally recorded well into his later years, until eventually succumbing to his life-long struggle with addiction. He passed away in 2011, the end to what had become a hermit-like existence. In this biography, Marcus Baram--an acquaintance of Gil Scott-Heron's--will trace the volatile journey of a troubled musical genius. Baram will chart Scott-Heron's musical odyssey, from Chicago to Tennessee to New York: a drug addict's twisted path to redemption and enduring fame. In Gil Scott-Heron: Pieces of a Man, Marcus Baram puts the complicated icon into full focus.
- a white heron: The Man and the Snake Ambrose Bierce, 2024-06-13 »The Man and the Snake« is a short story by Ambrose Bierce, originally published in 1893. AMBROSE BIERCE [1842-1914] was an American author, journalist, and war veteran. He was one of the most influential journalists in the United States in the late 19th century and alongside his success as a horror writer he was hailed as a pioneer of realism. Among his most famous works are The Devil's Dictionary and the short story »An Occurrence at Owl Creek Bridge.«
 - a white heron: A White Heron Sarah Orne Jewett, 1897
- a white heron: Young House Love Sherry Petersik, John Petersik, 2015-07-14 This New York Times bestselling book is filled with hundreds of fun, deceptively simple, budget-friendly ideas for sprucing up your home. With two home renovations under their (tool) belts and millions of hits per month on their blog YoungHouseLove.com, Sherry and John Petersik are home-improvement enthusiasts primed to pass on a slew of projects, tricks, and techniques to do-it-yourselfers of all levels. Packed with 243 tips and ideas—both classic and unexpected—and more than 400 photographs and illustrations, this is a book that readers will return to again and again for the creative projects and easy-to-follow instructions in the relatable voice the Petersiks are known for. Learn to trick out a thrift-store mirror, spice up plain old roller shades, hack your Ikea table to create three distinct looks, and so much more.

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to make of it. Sometimes in pleasant weather it was a consolation to look upon the cow's pranks as an intelligent ...

White - Wikipedia

White objects fully (or almost fully) reflect and scatter all the visible wavelengths of light. White on television and computer screens is created by a mixture of red, blue, and green light. The color white can be given with white pigments, especially titanium dioxide. [3]

White Paint Colors | Popular Whites | Sherwin-Williams

Clean and bright, white paints can add lightness to any space. Perfect for modern interiors, white is also the most common color for doors and trims. Be sure to compare different white paint colors and their various undertones to discover which work best in your space.

White | Color Description, Etymology, & Facts | Britannica

Unlike the colors of the spectrum, white lacks hue, so it is considered an achromatic color. Pigments for white come from lead, lime, titanium dioxide, zinc oxide, and artificial chemical compounds.

WHITE Definition & Meaning - Merriam-Webster

The meaning of WHITE is having the color of new snow or milk; specifically : of the color white. How to use white in a sentence.

WHITE | definition in the Cambridge English Dictionary

white adjective (PEOPLE) B1 belonging to the group of people with skin that is pale in color, who come from or whose family originally came from Europe:

WHITE Definition & Meaning | Dictionary.com

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Meaning of the Color White: Symbolism, Common Uses, & More

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