When is a “Swann” Not a Swan?

“Swann Memorial Fountain”
(1924)
By artist Alexander Stirling Calder
Logan Circle
Benjamin Franklin Parkway

Did you know that the “Swann Memorial Fountain” isn’t simply named for the swans that you see spurting water from their mouths?

This fountain was actually named for Dr. Wilson Cary Swann, president and founder of the Philadelphia Fountain Society. At a time when water wasn’t available to all parts of the city, Dr. Swann helped to build fountains to provide fresh water for everyone. This fountain is a memorial to him.

The swans in the “Swann Memorial Fountain” are a kind of pun. A pun is a joke or type of wordplay in which two words sound alike but have different meanings, like “Swann” and “swan.”

Draw your own swans here, and color them in!