



# Charlotte's Web

by E.B. White

Teacher's Guide

Written By Kathy Sammis

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## Synopsis

### Chapter 1: Before Breakfast

Eight-year-old Fern Arable is horrified when her farmer father prepares to kill a newborn runt pig. Moved by Fern's pleas, Mr. Arable allows her to bottle-feed the tiny piglet through its first weeks of life. Fern adores her new pet, whom she names Wilbur.

### Chapter 2: Wilbur

In the following weeks, Fern comes to love everything about Wilbur. The pig returns her devotion, following her everywhere. When Wilbur is five weeks old, he begins to eat scraps of food, and Mr. Arable insists he must be sold, in spite of Fern's weeping. Mrs. Arable has a solution: Fern sells Wilbur to her uncle, Homer Zuckerman, whose farm is just down the road.

### Chapter 3: Escape

Wilbur moves to the Zuckerman's big old barn, where he lives in the comfortable basement, next to the warm and delightful manure pile. Fern comes to visit Wilbur every day. Mr. Zuckerman doesn't allow Fern to take Wilbur out or to go into his pen. So Fern sits on a stool in the sheepfold next to the pig's pen, "thinking and listening and watching Wilbur." One June afternoon when Wilbur is about two months old, he wanders out into his small yard, feeling lonely and bored with his very limited existence. Following the advice of a barnyard goose, Wilbur gets out of his yard, then is terribly confused and frightened by the hubbub of the farm people's pursuit of him. He happily returns to his comfy pen, lured by Mr. Zuckerman's appealing pail of slops.

### Chapter 4: Loneliness

The next day is rainy and dark, and Wilbur is assaulted with feelings of deep loneliness. He has no friends, no one to play with. The goose is sitting on eggs, the lamb won't have anything to do with a pig, and Templeton the rat is out only for himself. Wilbur sobs with loneliness—and then a small voice in the dark night barn tells him, "I'll be a friend to you."

### Chapter 5: Charlotte

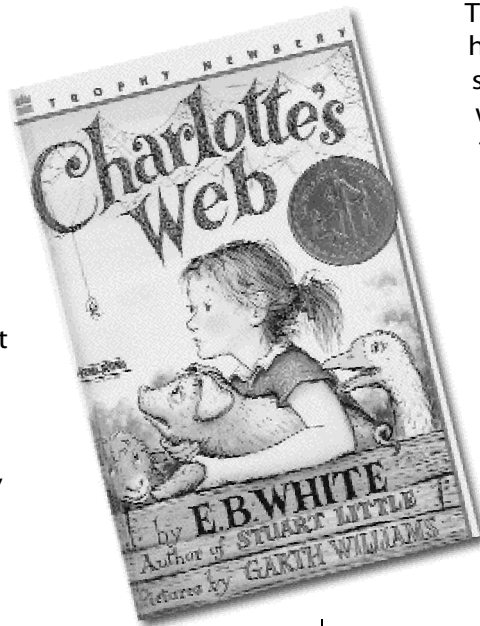
The next morning, Wilbur eagerly looks for his new friend. Finally, she announces herself: She is Charlotte, the large grey spider who has spun a fine web in the corner of the cellar doorway. Wilbur is thrilled—but then horrified as Charlotte demonstrates and explains how she traps, kills, and sucks blood from her insect prey. Charlotte matter-of-factly explains that this is what spiders must do in order to eat and live. Wilbur likes having a friend, but worries about Charlotte's fierce and brutal nature.

### Chapter 6: Summer Days

Early summer days, lyrically described, come to the farm. The goose and gander have hatched out seven fine goslings. One egg didn't hatch, and Templeton the rat rolls it off to his collection of unusual objects in his lair under Wilbur's trough. The narrator tells us that all of the farm animals dislike Templeton, because he has "no morals, no conscience, no scruples, no decency," no anything.

### Chapter 7: Bad News

Wilbur grows large on three fine meals a day. But then the old sheep reveals the truth to him: The farm people are fattening Wilbur up because they are going to kill him for his meat around Christmastime. Wilbur is devastated and wails, "I don't want to die!" But Charlotte promises that she will save him, somehow.



## Chapter 8: A Talk at Home

Fern matter-of-factly tells her parents what the farm animals are talking about and doing; Mrs. Arable is alarmed about Fern's state of mind.

## Chapter 9: Wilbur's Boast

Wilbur comically attempts to spin a web from a piece of string tied to his tail. Charlotte tells Wilbur how much she enjoys staying put in her web, waiting for what comes, and thinking while she waits. She promises she will think of a plan to save Wilbur, and tells Wilbur to stay calm, gain weight, and sleep well.

## Chapter 10: An Explosion

One day in mid-July, Fern and her brother Avery play in the Zuckermans' barn. Avery spots Charlotte in her web and prepares to capture her, but he falls onto Wilbur's trough instead. The rotten goose egg in Templeton's lair breaks, the disgusting smell fills the barn, and Avery hastily retreats. Meanwhile, Charlotte has thought of a plan—she will play a trick on Zuckerman, which she thinks should be easy to do, since people are not very smart. That night, Charlotte reworks her web.

## Chapter 11: The Miracle

The next morning, Charlotte's web gleams in the morning dew. In its center is a clear message: SOME PIG. The Zuckermans and their hired man, Lurvy, are awed. They see this as a miracle that clearly reveals Wilbur's special status. The local minister agrees. Soon scores of people flock to the farm to admire the wondrous pig.

## Chapter 12: A Meeting

Charlotte calls a meeting of the farm's animals to come up with a new slogan for her web. She accepts the goose's suggestion of "terrific." Wilbur blushes and protests that he's not terrific, but Charlotte replies sweetly that he's terrific as far as she's concerned.

## Chapter 13: Good Progress

After a night of Charlotte's hard work, her web next morning clearly states TERRIFIC. Wilbur stands under the web, feeling decidedly terrific. Once again, the farm people are deeply impressed with Wilbur, who is now getting special treatment. Later, bribed by promises of ample food, Templeton brings scraps of advertising copy to Charlotte, who chooses RADIANT as her next web word.

## Chapter 14: Dr. Dorian

Mrs. Arable consults the family physician, Dr. Dorian, about Fern's strange behavior of spending hours with the farm animals and her strange reports of the animals talking. Dr. Dorian calmly responds that children, who pay more attention than adults, might well be able to hear animals talk. He notes that Fern's interest in animals is natural for her age, and that in the course of time, her interests will shift elsewhere, for instance to boys. The doctor also notes that a spider's ability to weave a web instinctively is miraculous in and of itself, beside the phenomenon of weaving words into a web.

## Chapter 15: The Crickets

As the summer winds down, crowds of people continue to admire Wilbur at the farm, especially when he stands under the web word RADIANT, looking quite radiant. The pig remains modest in spite of all the attention. Mr. Zuckerman has decided to exhibit Wilbur at the County Fair. Wilbur begs Charlotte to come to the Fair with him, but she says she may have to stay home, make an egg sac, and lay her eggs.

## Chapter 16: Off to the Fair

Charlotte decides to go to the Fair, in case Wilbur needs her help. Templeton agrees to go along and run errands for Charlotte after the old sheep tells him how much discarded food lies around a fairgrounds at night. Templeton and Charlotte stow away in Wilbur's crate, which is loaded into the Arables' truck on a hot summer morning. The Arables and the Zuckermans and the animals drive off to the Fair.

## Chapter 17: Uncle

At the Fair, Fern and Avery happily run off to the midway. Wilbur happily settles in to his new pigpen, while Charlotte leaves the crate and climbs to a post underneath the roof of Wilbur's shed. From there, she reports the bad news that a rival pig in the adjoining pen, called Uncle, is enormous. She also says that she'll spin a new web in the afternoon, if she's not too tired. "The least thing tires me these days," she admits. "My age, I guess." Wilbur worries; Charlotte looks swollen and seems listless.

**Chapter 18: The Cool of the Evening**

That evening, Charlotte sends Templeton out for a written word and declares, "I shall be writing tonight for the last time." The rat returns with the ideal word, humble, and then goes out to scavenge the Fair. Fern rides on the Ferris wheel with Henry Fussy, and then the people go home for the night. Wilbur realizes that Charlotte's presence is saving him from feeling lonely and homesick. But tonight Charlotte isn't in her web; she's up in a back corner of the shed, making something for herself, "my masterpiece." Back home, Fern gushes that she has had "the best time I have ever had anywhere or any time in all of my whole life" at the Fair.

**Chapter 19: The Egg Sac**

The next morning, Wilbur sees Charlotte's masterwork: a beautiful egg sac. The spider weakly clings to the sac which, she tells Wilbur, contains five hundred and fourteen eggs. She says she feels sad because she won't ever see her children; Wilbur doesn't understand. She diverts his attention to her new web, which clearly spells out HUMBLE. The returning people admire this latest miracle, and the miraculous pig. However, the pig Uncle has won the blue ribbon; the Arabes and Zuckermans are crushed. But then they are summoned to bring their "famous pig" to the grandstand to receive a special award. Charlotte crouches above, unseen, feeling weary and old but peaceful and contented because she is now sure that she has saved Wilbur's life.

**Chapter 20: The Hour of Triumph**

In the special pen in front of the grandstand, Mr. Zuckerman wins a cash prize and Wilbur wins a bronze medal. The loudspeaker voice heaps praise on Wilbur for being radiant, terrific, and humble, while declaring that these words certainly didn't come from the spider. Modest Wilbur, overcome by the praise, faints; Templeton revives him by biting his tail, hard.

**Chapter 21: Last Day**

Alone in the pigpen, Charlotte tells Wilbur that she will be dead in a day or two. Wilbur sobs, heaves, grunts in desolation. Then he has a saving idea: he will take Charlotte's egg sac home with him. He bribes Templeton to retrieve the sac by promising always to let the rat eat from his trough first at every meal. Wilbur carries the strong, waterproof sac on his tongue as he is shoved into his crate and

the families drive away. Next day, Charlotte dies in the deserted Fair Grounds. "No one was with her when she died," are this chapter's heartbreaking final words.

**Chapter 22: A Warm Wind**

All winter, Wilbur watches over Charlotte's precious egg sac. In the spring, the tiny baby spiders emerge, each one waving at Wilbur just as Charlotte used to do. Wilbur is thrilled to have so many new friends, but then is desolated a few days later when they blow away in the spring wind to new homes. He sorrowfully cries himself to sleep. When he wakes up, he makes a wonderful discovery—three of Charlotte's children have decided to stay and be Wilbur's friends, spinning their webs in Charlotte's doorway. In the pleasant years of barn life that follow, some of each generation of Charlotte's descendants live in the doorway, providing friends for Wilbur in place of Charlotte and Fern, who is growing up and seldom visits the barn any more. But none of the other spiders ever quite take Charlotte's place in Wilbur's heart.

**Timeline**

- spring** Fern saves the newborn piglet Wilbur and bottle-feeds him.
- 5 weeks later** Wilbur moves to the Zuckermans' barn.
- June** Lonely Wilbur is delighted to become friends with Charlotte the spider.
- early summer** The goslings hatch; Templeton the rat takes one unhatched egg.
- summer** Wilbur learns that the Zuckermans plan to butcher him in the late fall; Charlotte promises to save him.
- mid-July** The rotten goose egg saves Charlotte from Avery. Charlotte writes SOME PIG in the middle of her web.
- days later** Charlotte writes TERRIFIC in her web.
- Saturday** Mrs. Arable consults with Dr. Dorian.
- late summer** Charlotte writes RADIANT in her web. The Arabes, the Zuckermans, Wilbur, Charlotte, and Templeton go to the County Fair. Charlotte writes HUMBLE in her web. Wilbur wins a special medal. Charlotte makes her egg sac, lays her eggs in it, and dies. Wilbur brings the egg sac home with him to the barn.

# Charlotte's Web E.B. White

<b>fall, winter</b>	Wilbur grows to a great size, saved from butchering by the special status Charlotte created for him. He guards the egg sac carefully.
<b>spring</b>	Charlotte's children emerge, hundreds of them, but then float away. Three daughters remain, to be Wilbur's new friends.
<b>later years</b>	Generation after generation of Charlotte's descendants live in the barn with Wilbur.

## Author Sketch

E. B. White was a renowned essayist who set the style and tone for *New Yorker* magazine and who also wrote three children's books, the first two of which have become classics. He was born in July 1899 and grew up in Mount Vernon, New York, the youngest of six children in a comfortably well-off family. He won scholarships and attended Cornell University, where he edited the college's daily paper. After graduation, White worked at various jobs in New York and on the West Coast. In 1927 he joined the staff of the recently founded *New Yorker*; he remained associated with the magazine throughout his career.



White's essay style became the *New Yorker's* trademark: witty, ironic, somewhat detached, pithy, deceptively simple, superbly crafted. In 1929 White married Katharine Angell, a *New Yorker* editor and divorced mother of two; they had a son in 1930. In 1938 the Whites moved to their farm in North Brooklin, Maine, and from there White continued to write for the *New Yorker* and also contributed a monthly column to *Harper's* magazine. White published his first children's book, *Stuart Little*, in 1945, a picaresque tale of a tiny mouse-like creature. White drew on the rural farm life he lived and loved for the classic tale *Charlotte's Web* (1952). His final children's book, *The Trumpet of the Swan*, appeared in 1970.

Besides his children's books, White published a number of essay collections. He received many honors for his work, notably the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1963, the National Medal for Literature in 1971, and a special Pulitzer Prize in 1978. In his later years, White suffered from Alzheimer's disease; he died in Maine in 1985.

## Critic's Corner

*Charlotte's Web* is recognized as a classic of children's literature, beloved by millions of readers over the generations since the book was first published. Eudora Welty, reviewing the book on its first publication for *The New York Times Book Review*, wrote, "The book has liveliness and felicity, tenderness and unexpectedness, grace and humor and praise of life, and the good backbone of succinctness that only the most highly imaginative stories seem to grow. . . . As a piece of work, it is just about perfect, and just about magical in the way it is done." The *Chicago Sunday Tribune* agreed: "Witty and wise, lively and tender, it possesses the sort of fantasy that any sensible reader will find irresistible." The *New York Herald Tribune* noted the appeal of *Charlotte's Web* to readers of all ages: "Such tangible magic is the proper element of childhood and any grown up who can still dip into it—even with only so much as a toe—is certain at least of dying young even if he lives to be ninety." Critical admiration for White's accomplishment in *Charlotte's Web* has only grown over the years.

## Works by E. B. White

### For Children

*Stuart Little*, illustrated by Garth Williams (1945)  
*Charlotte's Web*, illustrated by Garth Williams (1952); audiobook version, Listening Library, narrated by E. B. White (1976)  
*The Trumpet of the Swan*, illustrated by Edward Francino (1970)

### Selected Other Works

*Is Sex Necessary?* with James Thurber (1929)  
*Quo Vadimus? or, The Case for the Bicycle* (1939)  
*One Mans' Meat* (1942, 1944, 1982)  
*Here Is New York* (1949)  
*The Second Tree from the Corner* (1954) (includes the essay "Death of a Pig")  
*The Elements of Style*, by William Strunk, Jr.; E. B. White editorial supervisor and contributor (1959, 1979)  
*An E. B. White Reader*, William W. Watt and Robert W. Bradford, eds. (1966)  
*Letters of E. B. White*, Dorothy Lobrano Guth, ed. (1976)  
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## Internet Sites for E. B. White

- E. B. White  
[en.wikipedia.org/wiki/E.\\_B.\\_White](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/E._B._White)
- E. B. White  
[www.penguin.co.uk/nf/Author/AuthorPage/0,,0\\_1000051117,00.html](http://www.penguin.co.uk/nf/Author/AuthorPage/0,,0_1000051117,00.html)
- E. B. White's Biography  
[books.scholastic.com/teachers/authorsand-books/authorstudies/authorhome.jsp?authorID=2008&collateralIID=7921&displayName=Biography](http://books.scholastic.com/teachers/authorsand-books/authorstudies/authorhome.jsp?authorID=2008&collateralIID=7921&displayName=Biography)
- E(lwyn) B(rooks) White (1899-1985)  
[www.kirjasto.sci.fi/ebwhite.htm](http://www.kirjasto.sci.fi/ebwhite.htm)
- Personal History: Andy (by stepson Roger Angell):  
[www.newyorker.com/fact/content/?050214fa\\_fact#top](http://www.newyorker.com/fact/content/?050214fa_fact#top)

## General Objectives

1. To examine the nature of friendship and the importance of friendship in our lives.
2. To learn about forms of the animal tale genre.
3. To think about the beautiful aspects of nature and our surroundings and what they contribute to our lives.
4. To learn about the cycle of farm life through the changing seasons.
5. To think about the cycle of life, the never-ending circle of birth, life, and death.
6. To become familiar with the characteristics of the various creatures that live on a farm.

## Specific Objectives

1. To identify elements of the novel that are realistic, and elements that are fantasy.
2. To recognize the ways in which Fern and Charlotte secure salvation for Wilbur.
3. To identify the interactions among the farm's animals.
4. To trace the ways in which both Wilbur and Fern grow and change in the course of the novel.
5. To understand the ways in which Charlotte acts as a mother figure and/or mentor to Wilbur.
6. To analyze the roles that Templeton the rat plays in the tale.
7. To identify the ways in which the author uses suspense throughout the novel.
8. To understand the importance of the birth of Charlotte's children as related to the death and rebirth theme of the book.

9. To discuss the ways in which the author portrays the adults in this novel.

## Literary Terms and Applications

To enhance students' appreciation and understanding of the novel, present them with these terms.

**Animal story:** a fictional account of events in the lives of animals. In an animal story, the animals may act like animals, they may act like animals but are able to talk to each other, or they may behave and talk like human beings. This novel is the second type, with the animals talking to each other yet with individual animals behaving according to the nature of their species.

**Climax:** the moment in a novel when the action reaches its greatest intensity and a crisis is resolved. In this novel, the climax occurs when Charlotte dies alone at the fairgrounds. This is followed by the falling action, when Wilbur cares for the egg sac all winter and thrills with the emergence of the baby spiders that spring.

**Epilogue:** a concluding section of a book that briefly outlines subsequent events involving the characters, as in the final chapter of this novel where we learn that Wilbur lives for many years, enjoying his friendships with members of each succeeding generation of Charlotte's offspring.

**Fantasy:** a fictional work that departs radically from a realistic depiction of the world as we know it. Animal tales that use talking animals are part of the fantasy genre, even though the animals may also behave realistically in animal ways and the settings may be depicted very realistically.

**Foreshadowing:** hints or suggestions about events that come later in a novel. E. B. White often uses foreshadowing in this book, as at the end of Chapter 5, which ends, "...she was to prove loyal and true to the very end."

## The Importance of Setting

*Charlotte's Web* reads as a hymn of praise to country life and the beauties of the natural world. Lyrical descriptions of nature and the barn recur

often. The main setting is the cellar and environs of the Zuckerman's big old barn, which is warm in the winter and cool in the summer. Wilbur lives happily in his pen, which includes a constantly replenished manure pile, in the barn's cellar, where Charlotte also lives in the doorway and spins words into her web. The barn and barnyard are crisscrossed with Templeton the rat's many tunnels. A secondary setting is the Arables' home and farm just up the street from the Zuckermans. Wilbur is born here, and spends his first five weeks of life in mutual adoration with Fern as she bottle-feeds and plays with him. The other major setting is the County Fair. Wilbur settles happily into his comfortable pen at the fairgrounds; Fern and Avery delight in exploring the midway; Wilbur receives his special award in front of the grandstand; and Charlotte makes her egg sac, lays her eggs, and dies in Wilbur's shed.

## Cross-Curricular Sources

### Fiction

*Anansi The Spider* folklore tales  
Nina Bawden, *The Peppermint Pig*  
Larry Callen, *Pinch*  
Shirley Climo, *Someone Saw a Spider*  
Roald Dahl, *Fantastic Mr. Fox*  
Kenneth Grahame, *The Wind in the Willows*  
Donald Hall, *The Farm Summer*  
Russell Hoban, *The Mouse and His Child*  
Randall Jarrell, *The Bat Poet*  
Dick King-Smith, *Ace: The Very Important Pig; Babe: The Gallant Pig; The Fox Busters; Pigs Might Fly*  
Patricia MacLachlan, *All the Place to Love*  
Robert C. O'Brien, *Mrs. Frisby and the Rats of NIMH*  
Robert Newton Peck, *A Day No Pigs Would Die*  
Tor Seidler, *A Rat's Tale*  
George Selden, *The Cricket in Times Square*  
Mary Stoltz, *Quentin Corn*  
William Taylor, *Agnes the Sheep*

### Nonfiction

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Jill Bailey, *How Spiders Make Their Webs*

Eric Carle, *The Very Busy Spider*

Ned Halley, *Farm*

Karen Jacobsen, *Farm Animals*

Dick King-Smith, *All Pigs Are Beautiful*

Jonathan London, *Dream Weaver*

Alexandra Parsons, *Amazing Spiders*

### **CD-ROM/Laserdisc**

*Encyclopedia of Animals: Insects and Spiders* (laserdisc, Pioneer)

*Eyewitness: Encyclopedia of Nature* (CD-ROM, DK Multimedia)

*Masterpiece Series: Charlotte's Web* (laserdisc, Silver Burdett Ginn)

*Zoology Zone: Spiders* (CD-ROM, Blackstone Multimedia)

### **Internet**

Backyard Spiders  
[www.backyardnature.net/spiders.htm](http://www.backyardnature.net/spiders.htm)

Charlotte's Web Movie  
[www.charlotteswebmovie.com/site/index.php](http://www.charlotteswebmovie.com/site/index.php)

A Kid's Guide to Basic Pet Rat & Mouse Care  
[www.afrma.org/kidsguide.htm](http://www.afrma.org/kidsguide.htm)

Meet a Farm Kid Journal  
[www.pork4kids.com/kids/meetFarmKid.asp](http://www.pork4kids.com/kids/meetFarmKid.asp)

Pigs as Pets Association  
[www.pigsaspets.org/index.html](http://www.pigsaspets.org/index.html)

Pigs Peace Sanctuary  
[www.pigspace.org/main/faq.html](http://www.pigspace.org/main/faq.html)

RatCam  
[web1.oms.edu/visit/life/lab/ratcam](http://web1.oms.edu/visit/life/lab/ratcam)

All About Rats  
[web1.oms.edu/visit/life/lab/ratcam/rats.cfm](http://web1.oms.edu/visit/life/lab/ratcam/rats.cfm)

Spiders  
[www.spiderzrule.com/](http://www.spiderzrule.com/)

Spiders In and Around the House  
[ohioline.osu.edu/hyg-fact/2000/2060.html](http://ohioline.osu.edu/hyg-fact/2000/2060.html)

The Spider Web  
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Welcome to SpiderRoom.info  
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Charlotte's Web  
[www.factmonster.com/spot/charlotte1.html](http://www.factmonster.com/spot/charlotte1.html)

Juvenile Books Author of the Month: E. B. White  
[www.yourlibrary.ws/childrens\\_webpage/j-author72000.htm](http://www.yourlibrary.ws/childrens_webpage/j-author72000.htm)

Letter from E. B. White  
[www.teachervision.fen.com/authors/letters-and-journals/1734.html](http://www.teachervision.fen.com/authors/letters-and-journals/1734.html)

Meet the Author: E. B. White  
[www.eduplace.com/kids/tnc/mtai/white.html](http://www.eduplace.com/kids/tnc/mtai/white.html)

### **Video/DVD**

*Babe* (MCA Universal)

*Bug City: Spiders & Scorpions* (Schlessinger Media)

*Charlotte's Web* (animated) (Paramount, 1972)

*Charlotte's Web* (live action) (Paramount, scheduled release, 2006)

*Spiders in Perspective: Their Webs, Ways and Worth* (Educational Images)

## **Themes and Motifs**

A study of the central issues and situations in *Charlotte's Web* should include these aspects.

### **Themes**

- change
- lifecycle
- salvation
- growth
- loneliness
- nature
- rural life
- sacrifice
- power of the printed word

### **Motifs**

- cyclical nature of life
- seasons and change
- importance of friendship in happiness
- importance of nurturing in infancy
- the gullibility of humans
- sacrificing for friends
- food and gluttony

## Meaning Study

Below are words, phrases, or sentences that have a particular meaning in the novel. Explain each as it relates to the book. Use the chapter and page numbers given in parentheses to reread the term in context if you wish.

1. "One of the pigs is a runt." (Ch. 1, p. 1)  
*(A runt is an animal that is unusually small for its kind; the term is especially used for the smallest of a litter of pigs. Fern is horrified that her father plans to kill the newborn piglet that is a runt.)*
2. Lurvy, the hired man (Ch. 3, p. 18)  
*(A hired man is a person who is paid to do work on a farm. Lurvy is a typical traditional New Englander who expresses himself in few words.)*
3. a bucket of slops (Ch. 3, p. 19)  
*(Slops are food waste that is fed to animals, especially pigs. Wilbur revels in the slops he is given, and E. B. White revels in giving us detailed lists of the food in various installments of Wilbur's slops.)*
4. "My name is ... Charlotte A. Cavatica." (Ch. 5, p. 37)  
*(Charlotte is a barn spider, *Araneus cavaticus* [formerly *cavatica*], an orange and tan spider with darkly banded legs that rebuilds its orb [circular] web every evening. E. B. White enjoyed observing the spiders in his Maine barn, and one of the first three of Charlotte's daughters who stay in the barn with Wilbur names herself *Aranea*.)*
5. "Arable arrives with his .22 ..." (Ch. 7, p. 49)  
*(The sheep is describing Fern's father's .22 rifle, a shoulder-fired gun capable of very accurate fire within a short effective range and with light recoil. This is horrible news for Wilbur—not only do the Zuckermans plan to slaughter him, but also Fern's father will do the killing.)*
6. "A miracle has happened on this farm." (Ch. 11, p. 80)  
*(A miracle is something wonderful or amazing that can't be explained by the laws of nature and science. Charlotte is right about the gullibility of human beings: they read the words in her*

*web, which are the real miracle, and see them as a miracle revealing Wilbur's special status.)*

7. She loved to weave and she was an expert at it. (Ch. 13, p. 92)  
*(Weaving is the art of interlacing threads or yarns to create fabric—or, in Charlotte's case, using spider silk to create spider webs.)*
8. "Radiant you shall be." (Ch. 13, p. 101)  
*(Radiant is defined as brightly shining, or beaming. Charlotte isn't so sure that the word exactly applies to Wilbur, but after performing for the spider to show if he is in fact radiant, Wilbur declares that he feels radiant. This is fine with Charlotte.)*
9. an egg sac (Ch. 15, p. 116)  
*(A sac is a pouch or pouch-like structure. In Charlotte's case [and those of other spiders], the sac is the structure she creates and then deposits her eggs into. They will hatch from here in the spring.)*
10. "Coasting is the most fun there is." (Ch. 22, p. 173)  
*(Avery is talking about sliding downhill on a sled. This passage shows how Fern's interests have moved away from Wilbur and the other farm animals. She answers Avery by saying that the most fun there is, is being on the Ferris wheel with Henry Fussy, an event that has stayed in her mind since the Fair, while Wilbur has not.)*

## Comprehension Study

Answer the following questions in your own words. There is not always a right answer. Your judgment is important, and you should be ready to defend your answers by referring to passages in the book.

### Literal Level (Questions 1-3)

1. How do Fern and, later, Charlotte save Wilbur?  
*(Fern successfully persuades her father to change his mind about killing the newborn Wilbur because he's a runt. Fern devotes herself to feeding and caring for the baby pig until he is five weeks old and goes to the Zuckermans' farm. Charlotte promises Wilbur that she will save him from butchering. She does this by*



weaving words about Wilbur into her web—  
 “Some Pig,” “Terrific,” “Radiant,” and “Humble.”  
 People are awed by this “miracle.” Wilbur  
 becomes famous and wins a special prize at the  
 fair. The Zuckermans would no longer dream of  
 turning this special pig into bacon and ham.)

2. Describe the barn where Wilbur lives and  
 which he loves.  
*(The barn is big and old. It has many smells that  
 Wilbur finds delightful, including smells of  
 manure, and sweaty horses, and cow breath,  
 and grease, and grain. Above is a hay loft. On  
 the main floor are stalls for horses and tie-ups  
 for cows. Below the main floor are the sheepfold  
 and the pigpen, plus the manure pile where  
 Wilbur loves to sleep, and lots of farm tools.  
 Swallows fly in and out; spiders weave webs;  
 rats are present but mostly unseen. It's warm in  
 winter, cool in summer.)*
3. What animals besides Wilbur and Charlotte  
 live in the barn? How do they interact with  
 Wilbur?  
*(Work horses and cows live there, but they don't  
 interact with Wilbur, who lives in the cellar. The  
 geese live with the sheep, and the geese are  
 gabbling, repetitive, and scatterbrained, and  
 give Wilbur some advice on escaping and sur-  
 viving. The sheep include an old one who tells  
 Wilbur he's destined for slaughter and lambs  
 who want nothing to do with a pig. Templeton  
 the rat lives in his system of tunnels and run-  
 ways, and he scorns interaction with any of the  
 other farm animals.)*

**Interpretive Level (Questions 4-7)**

4. In what ways do Wilbur and Fern grow and  
 change in the course of the novel?  
*(When Wilbur first lives at the Zuckermans'  
 barn, he is insecure, vulnerable, frightened,  
 naïve, very immature, very lonely, and not at all  
 self-sufficient. With Charlotte's considerable  
 help, Wilbur grows into a confident, trusting,  
 outgoing young pig who knows how to be a  
 good friend and how to accept the life cycle of  
 death and renewal. Fern starts as an eight-year-  
 old girl absorbed utterly in the life of the barn  
 animals, especially Wilbur, and the world of  
 nature in general. By the novel's end, she has  
 mostly withdrawn from the barn scene and is  
 taking steps away from childhood and toward*

*adolescence by becoming fascinated with experi-  
 encing the County Fair on her own and with  
 Henry Fussy.)*

5. What adjectives would you use to describe  
 Charlotte? In what ways does she act as a  
 mother-figure and/or mentor to Wilbur?  
*(Appropriate adjectives would include ingen-  
 ious, wise, practical, patient, hard-working, self-  
 less, intelligent, skillful, rational, strong-willed,  
 clear-minded, reliable, considerate, competent,  
 loyal, well-spoken, kind, and motherly. Charlotte  
 acts as a mother-figure by singing lullabies,  
 telling bedtime stories, teaching manners, and  
 helping Wilbur to stand on his own for the day  
 when she will no longer be there for him. As a  
 mentor, she tells him about the hard realities of  
 existence, such as the fact that spiders kill other  
 creatures and drink their blood, and that death  
 is a part of the cycle of life and is not to be  
 feared.)*
6. How does Templeton play the roles of both  
 villain and hero in the novel?  
*(Templeton is a villain in his gleeful embrace of  
 his essential rat nature, which disgusts and  
 repels the other barn animals. He delights in  
 “eating, gnawing, spying, and hiding.” He has no  
 interest in being friendly with any of the other  
 farm animals, and acts only in his own self-  
 interest. His devotion to himself allows him to  
 act in the role of hero. Promises of personal  
 interest persuade him to bring bits of printed  
 writing to Charlotte to weave into her web, and  
 to retrieve Charlotte's web sac for Wilbur to  
 bring back to the farm. In a twist of irony,  
 Templeton's nasty temperament leads him to  
 save the unhatched goose egg which, when  
 Avery falls and breaks it, saves Charlotte  
 through the rotten egg stench.)*
7. What elements of both fantasy and reality do  
 you find in this novel?  
*(The fantasy revolves around talking animals,  
 and the fact that Fern the human girl can hear  
 and understand them. The reality is the very real  
 depiction of farm animals and their basic char-  
 acteristics and behaviors, plus the realistic  
 human-action parts of the plot. The interesting  
 blur between fantasy and reality is that Fern,  
 through her careful, quiet observation of the  
 farm animals can understand what all the crea-  
 tures are saying to each other, but there is never*

any dialogue between Fern and the animals she is listening to.)

### Critical Level (Questions 8-11)

8. How does the author use suspense to keep the attention and interest of readers?  
*(The first six words of the novel grab us: "Where's Papa going with that ax?" We are instantly desperately concerned about the fate of Wilbur the runty pig—will Fern save him now? Next, we worry about Wilbur's sad feelings when he starts life at the Zuckerman's farm—how can he become happy? Then the old sheep tells Wilbur he will be killed in the fall—how will Charlotte save him? Now we worry along with Charlotte about ideas to make the save, and then worry if her plans will work, including at the Fair when the enormous pig Uncle seems sure to take the prize that was hoped for Wilbur. Then, we worry about Charlotte's hints about her decline. Nothing ever seems certain as the plot's events unfold; we are hopeful about Wilbur's fate but never sure about this.)*
9. Why is the birth of Charlotte's children an important part of the novel?  
*(Death and rebirth is a deep theme of this book. The book presents to children [and adults] the natural cycle of death and rebirth, which is especially evident on a farm. For younger readers, the birth of Charlotte's children, protected and nurtured by Wilbur, softens the effect of Charlotte's death. Charlotte's legacy and memory live on in her children. Wilbur's happiness with friendship and love continue through his connections with Charlotte's offspring through many generations, even though each generation dies off in its term.)*
10. How does this novel depict adults?  
*(White shows the adults as alternately loving, full of pride, practical, and gullible. The farmers assume their complete control over their farm animals, whom they regard as their property to do what they want with, with no consideration of any possible animal feelings or thoughts [as Fern, the child, is able to enter into]. This is practical and also blind to the animal point of view that the novel so well exposes. The adults lack imagination—only Doctor Dorian is able to accept fully the possibility of Fern hearing animals talking and to recognize the miracle of a*

*spider's ability to weave a web. The adults are ridiculously gullible—whatever words Charlotte weaves into her web, people believe are totally part of Wilbur's character, and the adults revere the words and Wilbur both. Adults give a prize for Wilbur, and Wilbur's adult people are wildly proud of receiving the prize. But no adults have any idea just why Wilbur is special, and his farm people have had nothing to do with Charlotte's web words that have created his fame.)*

11. What is the significance of the family's name of Arable, and of the girl's name of Fern?  
*(Arable means "fit for or used for the growing of crops." So the name underscores the fact that the Arables are farmers, and by extension their relatives the Zuckermans, and also reinforces the book's theme of the value of rural life. Fern links the girl to her rural life and her love of nature, especially since ferns are among the oldest of earth's plant types.)*

### Creative Level (Questions 12-15)

12. In your opinion, what do Garth Williams's illustrations add to the book?
13. Think of other words that you think would have been just right for Charlotte to weave into her web to describe Wilbur.
14. Imagine that Charlotte could have made a journal—maybe electronic—during her last few days of life. Write some entries for this journal.
15. Write a letter from Wilbur to Charlotte's children (and later generations) telling about Charlotte's outstanding qualities.

## Across the Curriculum

### Science

1. Research and report on spiders—spider lore, behavior, structure, and so on. Be sure to include a particular focus on *A. cavaticus*.
2. Research and report on the natural behavior of pigs, and on different types of pigs. How natural do you find Wilbur's behavior in terms of what a real pig would do?

3. The old sheep announces that winter has ended because he or she has “heard the frogs today”—the voices of hundreds of little frogs. What are these frogs? Why and where do they announce the coming of spring?
4. Research what typical rat behavior is. Then explain in what ways Templeton does or does not act in ways that rats typically behave.
5. Create a report on the Ferris wheel. Tell about its invention, and explain the structure of a Ferris wheel and how it works.

## Art

1. Create an image, or a model, of the barn where Wilbur lives.
2. Create a map of the Zuckermans' farm.
3. Find images on the Internet or in books of spider webs glowing in different times of day, and create a class display of striking spider webs.
4. Create beautiful illustrations of, or create a display of, beautiful and fascinating spiders.
5. Find other books that Garth Williams illustrated, and talk with classmates about how Williams used similar and different styles to illustrate different types of books.

## Language Arts

1. Discuss with classmates other books you have read about animals that talk or do not talk. What similarities do you find among these books? What differences? Do you think that it is possible that animals can “talk” with one another?
2. Research and then write a biography of Garth Williams, the illustrator of this book. (Also Art)
3. Take another look at E. B. White's many lists in the novel, for example the description of the many food treasures Templeton can expect to find at the Fair, or the various containers of slops that Wilbur delights in. Then write your own descriptive list of foods that Templeton or Wilbur might find and savor.

4. *Charlotte's Web* was a Newbery Honor book for the year that it was first published. What book won the Newbery Medal that year? Read it, and then explain why you think which book was deserving of the medal.
5. Learn about anthropomorphism. Then explain in what ways *Charlotte's Web* does and does not show animals acting in human ways and acting as the animals that they are.
6. Write newspaper articles about the “miracle” of Wilbur and the spider web words, and/or about Wilbur at the County Fair. You could choose to admire the “miracle” for your readers, or be skeptical about the “miraculous” nature of this happening.
7. Find folktales about spiders, and act them out with classmates.
8. Describe someplace you are very familiar with, or a place you have gone to like a fair, with a focus on its smells and sounds.
9. Identify several of your favorite passages from the novel that describe nature and farm life in a lyrical way. Then write your own lyrical description of a natural scene.

## Social Studies

1. Research and report on the history of ballooning. For example, which people pioneered ballooning? How did ballooning develop and grow? What are the scientific principles that propel ballooning? How are spiders balloonists?
2. Learn about the Greek myth of Arachne, and relate this to arachnids.
3. Create a class display of images of the cars of the early 1950s that people drive to the Zuckermans' farm, mentioned on pages 83 and 84 of the book.
4. Find images of the Queensborough Bridge on the Internet. How would this resemble a spider's web?

# Charlotte's Web

E.B. White

## Music

Find or write some music for Charlotte's lullaby for Wilbur in Chapter 13. Then, on your own or with some classmates, sing and/or record this lullaby.

## Mathematics

1. Convert the Roman numerals of this book's chapters into our usual numerals.
2. Create a chart of how much Wilbur would weigh at the various points of his life. You could also create a chart of how Uncle, the prize pig at the Fair, grew so much bigger during these same phases of life.
3. Calculate how much the Fair prize of twenty-dollars would be worth in today's money. Also, figure out how much the money Fern and Avery's parents give them to enjoy the Fair would buy you in entertainment at a fair today, in today's dollars.

## Student Involvement Activities

1. Have you ever talked to animals? Has an animal ever talked to you? Describe this.
2. Search for spiders in your home and outside your home. Study them, take photos of them, and find out what kind of spiders they are. Compare your findings with classmates' findings. Create a class display of the photos.
3. Wilbur becomes very bored soon after he moves to the Zuckermans' barn. Have you ever been bored with your living situation? Why? What did you or have you done about this?
4. Discuss with classmates the importance of friendship. Why do we need friends? What makes a good friend? How do you think you are a friend to others? How do you and others make friends?
5. Wilbur's "slop" meals are leftover foods from the Zuckermans' meals. Describe in specific detail what meals a pig's slop meals would include as they came from your family's breakfast, lunch, and dinner ingredients.

6. Visit a working farm. Take photos of the animals, observe their behavior, and explain this all in a class report/display.
7. Visit a local/county/state fair. Record the fabulous attractions of the midway. Ride a Ferris wheel, record your feeling about the ride, and take photos from the very top.
8. Visit a working barn. Describe its smells vividly. List the farm items you see, and ask what their purpose is on the farm.
9. Templeton ties knots called half hitches. Learn how to tie this kind of knot, and demonstrate to classmates.
10. Discuss with classmates either or both of these issues from the novel: Charlotte says, "If I can fool a bug, I can surely fool a man. People are not as smart as bugs." And/or: Mrs. Arable says, "I don't understand it, and I don't like what I don't understand."

## Alternate Assessment

1. Draw up a detailed character list for the novel, both human and animal. List each character's name (for characters with specific names), tell what kind of creature each animal character is, give a brief character description, and tell what role she or he plays in the events of the novel.
2. Identify each occurrence of foreshadowing in the novel. For each, explain what future event or incident it is hinting at.
3. Trace the shifts through the novel between human and animal points of view.
4. Trace the novel's events as they occur through the cycle of nature's seasons.

## Vocabulary

Match each underlined word with its meaning listed below. Write the letter of the meaning in the space next to the sentence number.

- |              |                           |                    |                   |
|--------------|---------------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| a. calm      | f. made a loud, sharp cry | k. with no energy  | p. sullen, crabby |
| b. confusion | g. in a gloomy way        | l. secret planning | q. high up        |
| c. uproar    | h. stopped until later    | m. out and about   | r. holy, sacred   |
| d. hated     | i. give up, or leave      | n. sounding rough  | s. greedy eater   |
| e. lower     | j. moved into action      | o. play happily    | t. over-talkative |

- \_\_\_ 1. "Do away with it?" shrieked Fern.
- \_\_\_ 2. Poor Wilbur was dazed and frightened by this hullabaloo.
- \_\_\_ 3. "Well," said Wilbur, "it means to have fun, to frolic, to run and skip."
- \_\_\_ 4. "I am a glutton but not a merrymaker," replied Templeton.
- \_\_\_ 5. Usually the rat slept during the daytime and was abroad only after dark.
- \_\_\_ 6. Flies spent their time pestering others. The horses detested them.
- \_\_\_ 7. "There's a regular conspiracy around here to kill you at Christmastime."
- \_\_\_ 8. "It pays to save things," said Templeton in his surlly voice.
- \_\_\_ 9. Charlotte sat moodily in her web. After a while she bestirred herself.
- \_\_\_ 10. A look of complete bewilderment came over Mrs. Zuckerman's face.
- \_\_\_ 11. "I'll appeal to Templeton's baser instincts, of which he has plenty."
- \_\_\_ 12. "Maybe you're right," Templeton said gruffly.
- \_\_\_ 13. "The meeting is now adjourned."
- \_\_\_ 14. "She stands on her head, lets out a lot of line, and is carried aloft on the wind."
- \_\_\_ 15. "I knew you wouldn't forsake me just when I need you most," said Wilbur.
- \_\_\_ 16. Wilbur looked at Charlotte. She looked rather swollen and she seemed listless.
- \_\_\_ 17. Wilbur walked drearily to the doorway, where Charlotte's web used to be.
- \_\_\_ 18. "Welcome to the barn cellar. You have chosen a hallowed doorway from which to string your webs."
- \_\_\_ 19. Many more happy, tranquil days followed.
- \_\_\_ 20. This warm delicious cellar, with the garrulous geese, was the best place to be, thought Wilbur.

## Comprehension Test A

### Part I: Matching (20 points)

Read each description. In the list below, find the character who matches the description. Write the letter of the character in the space next to the description number. You will use each name only once.

- |              |                  |               |
|--------------|------------------|---------------|
| A. Wilbur    | E. Mr. Arable    | H. Lurvy      |
| B. Fern      | F. Mrs. Arable   | I. Templeton  |
| C. Charlotte | G. Mr. Zuckerman | J. Dr. Dorian |
| D. Avery     |                  |               |

- \_\_\_ 1. Likes to bring home frogs and snakes.
- \_\_\_ 2. Worries about how much time Fern spends with the animals.
- \_\_\_ 3. Says that Charlotte's web is the real miracle.
- \_\_\_ 4. Works as a hired hand on the farm where Wilbur lives.
- \_\_\_ 5. Shifts her focus from farm animals to rides on the Ferris wheel.
- \_\_\_ 6. Shows his famous pig at the County Fair.
- \_\_\_ 7. Eats, gnaws, spies, and hides.
- \_\_\_ 8. Wins a special award at the County Fair.
- \_\_\_ 9. Acts like a mother to Wilbur in the barn.
- \_\_\_ 10. Sets out to kill the runt piglet.

### Part II: Multiple Choice (30 points)

Underline the choice that correctly completes each of these sentences.

1. Wilbur lives almost all of his life at the farm of the (Arables, Fussys, Zuckermans, Whites).
  2. The person who created the pictures for this book is (Garth Williams, Beatrix Potter, E. B. White, William Steig).
  3. The events of this novel begin in (summer, fall, winter, spring).
  4. This farm animal coaches Wilbur to leave his pen for the great outside: (sheep, rat, goose, cow).
  5. Wilbur loves his meals of (grains, slops, kibble, straw).
  6. On a rainy day, young Wilbur tries to find a (friend, meal, prize, father).
  7. Charlotte's last name is (Araneus, Arable, Cavatica, Avery).
  8. Charlotte lives on this food: (grains, blood, insect legs, nectar).
  9. Wilbur is quite sure he can make a (trough, tunnel, nest, web).
  10. The first message that Charlotte creates in her web is (RADIANT, HUMBLE, TERRIFIC, SOME PIG).
  11. Wilbur loves to sleep in soft (straw, manure, slops, goose down).
  12. People think the words in Charlotte's web are a(n) (natural event, computer trick, miracle, illusion).
  13. The crickets sing the end of (summer, fall, winter, spring).
  14. Fern is excited to spend time at the Fair with (Henry Fussy, Wilbur, Avery Zuckerman, Charlotte).
  15. Wilbur protects this all winter long: (goose egg, spider web, his medal, egg sac).
- 
-

## Comprehension Test A (Page 2)

### Part III: True/False (20 points)

Mark the following statements either T for true or F if any part is false.

- \_\_\_ 1. Templeton agrees to play with lonely Wilbur.
- \_\_\_ 2. Charlotte plans to save Wilbur by playing a trick on the Zuckermans.
- \_\_\_ 3. The old sheep helps Wilbur feel safe and happy at the farm.
- \_\_\_ 4. A spider's web is easily broken.
- \_\_\_ 5. Charlotte accepts web-word suggestions from the other animals.
- \_\_\_ 6. Wilbur faces the news of his upcoming death very bravely.
- \_\_\_ 7. Charlotte dies after laying her eggs.
- \_\_\_ 8. Charlotte's web words are a big benefit for Wilbur.
- \_\_\_ 9. All the fame makes Wilbur stuck up and vain.
- \_\_\_ 10. Wilbur lives a long and happy life.

### Part IV: Essay (30 points)

Choose two and answer in complete sentences.

- 1. How does Fern's relationship with Wilbur change over time?
  - 2. How do the adults view Wilbur at the beginning of the story? How have they changed their views by the end of the story?
  - 3. What accomplishments does Charlotte achieve during the story?
- 
-

## Comprehension Test B

### Part I: Matching (20 points)

Read each quotation. Find the character who speaks the words in the list below. Write the letter of the character in the space next to the quotation number. You will use each name only once.

- |              |                  |                  |
|--------------|------------------|------------------|
| A. Wilbur    | E. Mr. Arable    | H. the old sheep |
| B. Fern      | F. Mrs. Arable   | I. Templeton     |
| C. Charlotte | G. Mr. Zuckerman | J. Dr. Dorian    |
| D. Avery     |                  |                  |

- \_\_\_\_ 1. "Fern spends entirely too much time in the Zuckermans' barn. It doesn't seem normal."
- \_\_\_\_ 2. "They're fattening you up because they're going to kill you."
- \_\_\_\_ 3. "Do you want a friend, Wilbur? I'll be a friend to you."
- \_\_\_\_ 4. "I'm making a trip to the dump tomorrow. I'll bring back a magazine clipping if I can find one."
- \_\_\_\_ 5. "He's got to go, Fern. You have had your fun raising a baby pig, but Wilbur is not a baby any longer."
- \_\_\_\_ 6. "This is the most terrible case of injustice I ever heard of."
- \_\_\_\_ 7. "Hey, look at that big spider! It's tremenjus."
- \_\_\_\_ 8. "We have received a sign, Edith—a mysterious sign."
- \_\_\_\_ 9. "I don't want to be killed. I don't want to die."
- \_\_\_\_ 10. "Let Fern associate with her friends in the barn if she wants to."

### Part II: Multiple Choice (30 points)

Underline the choice that correctly completes each of these sentences.

- Fern's last name is (**Zuckerman, Arable, Cavatica, Fussy**).
  - The author of this book is (**Garth Williams, Kenneth Grahame, Brian Jacques, E. B. White**).
  - Charlotte's children emerge from the egg sac in the (**fall, winter, spring, summer**).
  - Wilbur is sold to the Zuckermans when he is this old: (**two months, three months, five weeks, three weeks**).
  - Wilbur's first real friend in the barn is a (**spider, goose, sheep, rat**).
  - "Salutations" are (**apologies, health advice, goodbyes, greetings**).
  - Charlotte is mostly (**orange, grey, black, brown**).
  - Baby geese are called (**piglets, chicks, goslings, lambs**).
  - Avery fails to capture Charlotte because of a(n) (**rotten egg, police officer, angry goose, stinging wasp**).
  - Charlotte's last web message is (**RADIANT, HUMBLE, SOME PIG, TERRIFIC**).
  - Wilbur's crate for the County Fair reads that Wilbur is a (**Terrific Pig, Smart Pig, Famous Pig, Wonder Pig**).
  - Charlotte's web is best described as a(n) (**square, pentagon, oval, orb**).
  - Charlotte's masterpiece is her (**web messages, egg sac, best web, fair prize**).
  - Fern's favorite attraction at the Fair is the (**pig judging, Ferris wheel, sheep contest, bumper cars**).
  - Wilbur brings this home from the County Fair: (**egg sac, goose egg, spider web, fifty dollars**).
- 
-



## Comprehension Test B (Page 2)

### Part III: True/False (20 points)

Mark the following statements either T for true or F if any part is false.

- \_\_\_ 1. Young Wilbur loves his escape from his pen and wants to stay out.
- \_\_\_ 2. Wilbur tries to create his own "pig" web.
- \_\_\_ 3. Wilbur always worries about Charlotte's blood-sucking and insect-killing.
- \_\_\_ 4. Most people realize that the real miracle is the creation of the words in the spider web.
- \_\_\_ 5. Wilbur remains modest in spite of his fame.
- \_\_\_ 6. Fern loses interest in the farm animals.
- \_\_\_ 7. Wilbur is a big failure at the County Fair.
- \_\_\_ 8. Wilbur doesn't understand that Charlotte is dying until the very end of the Fair.
- \_\_\_ 9. Most of Charlotte's children stay at the barn with Wilbur.
- \_\_\_ 10. Charlotte is quite sure that insects are smarter than human beings.

### Part IV: Essay (30 points)

Choose two and answer in complete sentences.

1. In what ways does Charlotte help Wilbur?
  2. Describe Wilbur's relationship with the various other farm animals.
  3. What happens to Fern, Wilbur, Templeton, and Charlotte at the County Fair?
- 
-

# Answer Key

## Vocabulary

- |      |       |       |       |
|------|-------|-------|-------|
| 1. F | 6. D  | 11. E | 16. K |
| 2. C | 7. L  | 12. N | 17. G |
| 3. O | 8. P  | 13. H | 18. R |
| 4. S | 9. J  | 14. Q | 19. A |
| 5. M | 10. B | 15. I | 20. T |

## COMPREHENSION TEST A

### Part I: Matching (20 points)

- |      |       |
|------|-------|
| 1. D | 6. G  |
| 2. F | 7. I  |
| 3. J | 8. A  |
| 4. H | 9. C  |
| 5. B | 10. E |

### Part II: Multiple Choice (30 points)

- |                   |                 |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| 1. Zuckermans     | 9. web          |
| 2. Garth Williams | 10. SOME PIG    |
| 3. spring         | 11. manure      |
| 4. goose          | 12. miracle     |
| 5. slops          | 13. summer      |
| 6. friend         | 14. Henry Fussy |
| 7. Cavatica       | 15. egg sac     |
| 8. blood          |                 |

### Part III: True/False (20 points)

- |      |       |
|------|-------|
| 1. F | 6. F  |
| 2. T | 7. T  |
| 3. F | 8. T  |
| 4. F | 9. F  |
| 5. T | 10. T |

### Part IV: Essay (30 points)

Answers will vary.

## COMPREHENSION TEST B

### Part I: Matching (20 points)

- |      |       |
|------|-------|
| 1. F | 6. B  |
| 2. H | 7. D  |
| 3. C | 8. G  |
| 4. I | 9. A  |
| 5. E | 10. J |

### Part II: Multiple Choice (30 points)

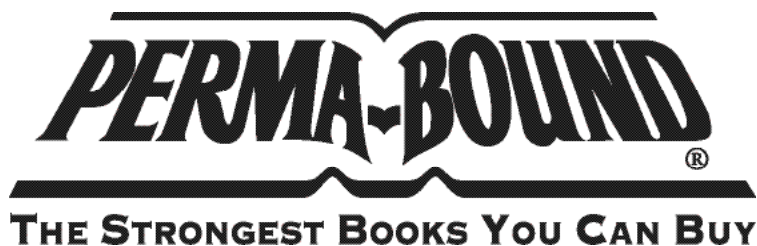
- |                |                  |
|----------------|------------------|
| 1. Arable      | 9. rotten egg    |
| 2. E. B. White | 10. HUMBLE       |
| 3. spring      | 11. Famous Pig   |
| 4. five weeks  | 12. orb          |
| 5. spider      | 13. egg sac      |
| 6. greetings   | 14. Ferris wheel |
| 7. grey        | 15. egg sac      |
| 8. goslings    |                  |

### Part III: True/False (20 points)

- |      |       |
|------|-------|
| 1. F | 6. T  |
| 2. T | 7. F  |
| 3. F | 8. T  |
| 4. F | 9. F  |
| 5. T | 10. T |

### Part IV: Essay (30 points)

Answers will vary.



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