

CHARLOTTE'S WEB by E.B. White

Lesson 1

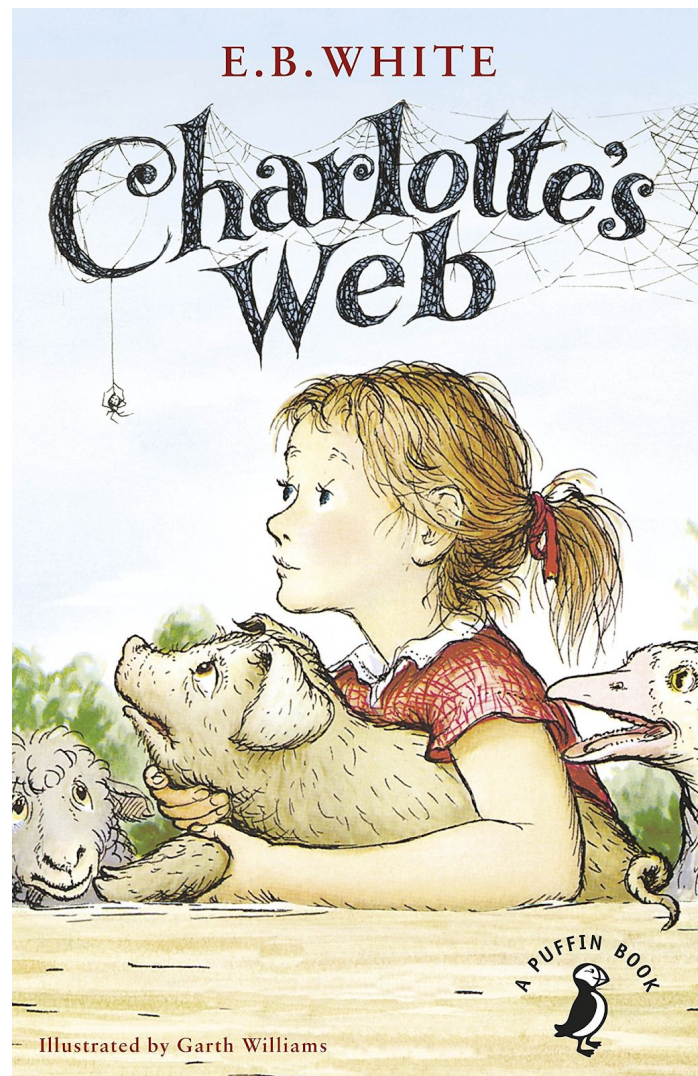
Before reading...

Look at the front cover.

- What do you think the book will be about?
- What things can you see on the front cover?
- What sort of story will it be?
- Who might enjoy it?

Now read the blurb...

- Were any of your predictions correct?



Chapter 1 – Before Breakfast

Vocabulary

- What is a 'runt'?
- What does it mean if someone is described as a weakling?
- Define 'injustice'
- What does 'distribute' mean?

Infer

- Why do you think that Mr. Arable decided it was best to kill the pig?
- What do you think Mr. Arable meant by saying "The weaklings make trouble."?
- What do we know about Fern from reading the first chapter?

Predict

- Do you think Wilbur will grow up healthily? Or will it 'not amount to anything' like Fern's mother said? Explain your predictions.

Explain

- "One of the pigs is a runt. It's very small and weak and will never amount to anything. So, your father has decided to do away with it." – Do you think it is okay to kill an animal if it is a 'runt'? explain your opinion.

Retrieve

- How old is Fern?
- What is Fern's brother's name?
- What animal was Fern's new pet?
- Why wasn't Fern's brother allowed a pet too?
- What did Fern eat for breakfast?
- What did Fern name her new pet?

Summarise

- Summarise the first chapter in one word.

Chapter 2 - Wilbur

Vocabulary

- What does it mean if Wilbur looked at Fern with 'adoring eyes'?
- What does it mean to be 'enchanted' by something?
- What is a brook?
- Find out what manure is and what it is used for.

Infer

- Find and copy evidence to show that Fern and Wilbur had developed a close relationship.
- Why would Mr Arable have to sell his pigs when they get to a certain size?

Predict

- What do you think Wilbur's life will be like at the Zuckerman's?
- Do you think Wilbur will always be a runt?

Explain

- Explain why it is unusual for a child to have a pig for a pet.

Retrieve

- What did Fern do every morning?
- Where did Mr Arable build Wilbur a home?
- How did Wilbur keep warm in his new home?
- What is a spring pig?
- How much did they sell Wilbur for?
- Where did Wilbur go to live?

Summarise

- Choose a word which sums up Fern and Wilbur's relationship.

Chapter 3 - Escape

Vocabulary

- What is perspiration?
- What is a scythe and what is it used for?
- What does it mean to feel 'queer'?

Infer

- Based on the description of the Zuckerman's barn, do you think that the Zuckerman's barn was a nice place? Why do you think this?
- Why do you think Mr Zuckerman did not allow Fern to get into the pig pen or to take Wilbur out?
- Why was Wilbur 'tired of living'?
- Why would Wilbur feel 'queer' being outside of his fence?
- Why was Mrs Zuckerman distressed to see Wilbur out of the barn?
- 'Whenever a creature broke loose...the event was of great interest to the others.' – Why do you think this was?

Predict

- This chapter is called 'Escape'. Who do you think will be escaping and why?

Explain

- Why do you think that the author makes the goose repeat itself when speaking?

Retrieve

- Who was the barn owned by?
- Where was Wilbur's new home?
- Why was a manure pile the best place to keep a young pig?
- Why did the animals in the barn trust Fern?
- Who told Wilbur about the loose fence?
- What are slops made up of?

Summarise

- Summarise Wilbur's feeling after being chased around the barn all afternoon.

Chapter 4 - Loneliness

Vocabulary

- What are eaves?
- What is a trough?
- What is hominy?
- Define a 'glutton'.
- What does the word 'stealthily' tell you about how Templeton moved?
- Define 'dejected'.

Infer

- Find and copy an example of sarcasm on page 28. Why do you think sarcasm is used here?
- Why do you think nobody wanted to play with Wilbur?
- Why was this the 'worst day of Wilbur's life'?
- "You'll see me in the morning." - Why does the author finish the chapter without explaining who this new character is?

Predict

- Who do you think has offered to be a friend to Wilbur?

Explain

- Explain how the weather in the opening of this chapter could be representative of Wilbur's feelings.

Retrieve

- What is the rat's name?
- What did Wilbur plan to do between eight and nine in the morning?
- Why didn't Fern come to visit Wilbur?
- What was the goose sitting on?
- What does the rat prefer to spend his time doing, rather than playing?
- What did the farmers force Wilbur to swallow?

Summarise

- Summarise Templeton's character in a single sentence.

Chapter 5 - Charlotte

Vocabulary

- '...there is always something stirring.'- What does this mean?
- 'Why must he spend all night grinding his clashers?' – What does the word 'clashers' represent in this sentence?
- Define 'objectionable'.
- 'He lay down meekly...' what does tell you about how he was feeling?
- What does 'blundered' mean?
- What does it mean to 'detest' something?

Infer

- "Wilbur's stomach was empty and his mind was full." – Why would this make it hard to sleep?
- Why did Wilbur blush when he called out and his new friend did not respond?
- Why do you think the author made a point of saying 'All spiders are nice-looking'?

Predict

- How do you think Charlotte will 'prove to be loyal and true to the end'?

Explain

- Explain why Wilbur feels conflicted about being friends with Charlotte.

Retrieve

- What was Templeton doing in the night?
- Why couldn't the goose sleep?
- What are salutations?
- What animal was Charlotte?
- What did Charlotte do to the fly?
- Name three things that Charlotte eats.
- What would happen if spiders didn't eat bugs?

Summarise

- Describe Charlotte in one word.
-

HOMEWORK:

Imagine you are **Fern** and **write a diary entry** from the **day you first met Wilbur**.

OR

How does E.B. White make the reader **curious** in the **opening chapters**?