

CHARLOTTE'S WEB by E.B. White

Lesson 2

Chapter 6 – Summer Days

Vocabulary

- Define 'swathes'.
- What does it mean to haul something?
- What does 'gratified' mean?
- Define 'unremitting'.
- What is a 'dud'?
- What is a 'gander'?
- Define 'compunction'.

Infer

- 'Everywhere you look is life.' – explain what is meant by this.
- Why was the hatching of the goose eggs 'an important event in the barn cellar'?
- 'Everyone watched for him, for he was not well liked, not trusted.' – Why do you think the barn animals did not like/trust Templeton?

Predict

- What do you think will happen with the egg Templeton took?

Explain

- In your own words, explain why the early summer days are 'the happiest and the fairest' days of the year?

Retrieve

- What does the white-throated sparrow say?
- How did the goose know her eggs were going to hatch?
- What is a baby goose called?
- How many baby geese were there?
- What happened to the eighth egg?
- Who took the eighth egg?

Summarise

- Describe the baby goose in one word.

Chapter 7 – Bad News and Chapter 8 – A Talk at Home

Vocabulary

- Define 'loathed'.
- What is an anaesthetic?
- What is a conspiracy?
- What are 'hysterics'?
- What is a slingshot?

Infer

- How can you tell that they didn't like flies on the farm? Find evidence to support your answer.
- "Arable arrives with his 22, shoots the..." – What is a 22?
- "That remains to be seen." – What does this expression mean?
- Look at page 52. Why did Mrs Arable gaze at her daughter with a 'queer, worried look'?

Predict

- This chapter is called 'Bad News'. What do you think the bad news will be?

Explain

- 'Her campaign against insects seemed sensible and useful.' Explain what this means.

Retrieve

- Who was putting on weight?
- When did they say Wilbur would be killed?
- Why did they trust what the old sheep was telling them?
- Who was going to save Wilbur?
- What news did Fern tell her mother at breakfast?

Summarise

- Summarise the bad news in one word.

Chapter 9 – Wilbur’s Boast

Vocabulary

- What does it mean to ‘boast’?
- ‘...she was truly fond of Wilbur.’ – What does ‘fond’ mean?
- What does it mean to ‘summon’ someone or something?
- Define ‘neglected’.

Infer

- Why do you think Templeton collected random items?
- ‘Swallows passed on silent wings...’ – What does this mean?
- Look at page 63. Do you think that Charlotte had a plan yet?
- Something Charlotte says to Wilbur in this chapter could be described as a ‘motto’. Find and copy it then explain your choice.

Predict

- What might Wilbur have to boast about?

Explain

- Explain how you know Wilbur was determined.

Retrieve

- Why does a spider’s web get torn every day?
- When did Charlotte like to do her weaving?
- How many sections are there on a spider’s legs?
- What did Wilbur use to try and create a web?
- What is the name of the bridge Charlotte told Wilbur about?
- What does sedentary mean?
- Where would Wilbur rather be?

Summarise

- Summarise the ‘strange event’ that Fern saw in one word.

Chapter 10 – An Explosion

Vocabulary

- Define 'discouraged'.
- "That's a mercy," – What does this mean?
- What does it mean to 'straddle' something?
- Define 'bestirred'.

Infer

- What does the phrase 'going a mile a minute' tell you about the speed of the swing?
- How can you tell that Fern and Avery enjoyed visiting Zuckerman's farm?
- Why did Fern and Avery have purple tongues?
- Why was the goose 'delighted that the egg never hatched'?
- Why was Templeton boasting?

Predict

- Predict what will happen in this chapter based on its title.
- What do you think Charlotte was working on in her web?

Explain

- Explain what the phrase 'Shadows lengthened' tells you about the time of day it was in the story.

Retrieve

- What does 'gullible' mean?
- What did Avery have in his hand when he came to the farm?
- What did Mr Zuckerman have that was the 'best in the country'?
- What did Fern have inside her dress?
- What was in a raspberry that Fern ate?
- What did Avery threaten to do to Charlotte?

Summarise

- Summarise why the chapter was called 'The Explosion' in one sentence.

Chapter 11 – The Miracle and Chapter 12 – A Meeting

Vocabulary

- 'He walked solemnly.' – What does this tell us about how Mr Zuckerman walked?
- Define 'bewilderment'.
- What is a 'sermon'?
- What is a 'notion'?
- Define 'idiosyncrasy'.
- What are 'baser instincts'?
- Define 'adjourned'

Infer

- Why do you think Lurvy started praying when he saw the message on Charlotte's web?
- Why do you think Charlotte chose these words to put onto her web?
- How did Charlotte's message change people opinion of the pig?
- Why might the minister have told Mr Zuckerman not to tell anyone about the web?
- Why do you think Mr Zuckerman and Lurvy started to dress smartly since the web was getting so much attention?
- Why was the church so full on Sunday?
- Because of the message on charlotte's web, the Zuckerman's believe that Wilbur is an unusual pig. Do you think there is something special about him? Why?

Predict

- What miracle do you think will happen in this chapter?
- Do you think that Charlotte's words will save Wilbur from being eaten?

Explain

- How has the author used the weather to enhance the setting in chapter 11?

Retrieve

- What message was written on Charlotte's web?
- Who found the message?
- Who did Mr Zuckerman go and see, to explain about the 'miracle'?
- What happened when word got out about Charlotte's web?
- Why didn't Fern like being on the farm anymore?
- Why did Charlotte call a meeting?
- What did the animals want Templeton to do?

Summarise

- Summarise what the miracle was in chapter 11, in a single sentence.

Chapter 13 – Good Progress

Vocabulary

- Define 'terrific'. Why do you think they chose this particular word to put on Charlotte's web?
- Define 'astonishing'.
- What are 'noble qualities'?
- What does 'radiant' mean? Do you think this is a good word to describe Wilbur?
- Find out what manure is and what it is used for.
- Define 'merciless'.
- What is a 'romp'?

Infer

- Why does a spider produce different types of thread?
- Why do you think Mr. Zuckerman decided to take Wilbur to the County Fair?
- Why would Mr Zuckerman want Wilbur's crate to be painted green with gold lettering?
- Why do you think Templeton is reluctant to help?

Predict

- Do you think the people will continue to be interested in Charlotte's web? Will she save Wilbur? Explain your thinking.

Explain

- "I'm in this thing pretty deep now – I might as well go to the limit." – Explain what Charlotte means by saying this.

Retrieve

- What was Charlotte doing whilst the other animals slept?
- What can a spider produce several kinds of?
- Why did Charlotte use 'double lines' to thread the lettering?
- What word had Charlotte put on the web?
- Why were they making a crate for Wilbur?
- What word did Templeton bring back from the dump?

Summarise

- Choose one word to summarise Charlotte's character. Explain your choice.
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HOMEWORK:

Create a **new character** on the farm! Think about **what their name would be, what they would look like** and **how they would act.**

OR

Who is your **favourite character** and **why?**