

CHARLOTTE'S WEB by E.B. White

Lesson 3

Chapter 14 – Dr. Dorian and Chapter 15 – The Crickets

Vocabulary

- “Charlotte never fibs.” – What is a ‘fib’?
- Define ‘incessant’.
- What does ‘monotonous’ mean?
- What is an orchard?
- Define ‘modest’.
- What does ‘versatile’ mean?

Infer

- Why would Mrs. Arable hope that Fern would go and play with the other children instead of sitting with the animals in the barn?
- How can you tell that Mrs Arable has a close relationship with the Dr Dorian? Use an example from the text to support your answer.
- Why do you think the crickets’ song about summer was a sad one?
- ‘Good food and regular hours were showing results. Wilbur was a pig any man would be proud of.’ – What does this tell us about Wilbur’s appearance now?
- ‘Wilbur was modest; fame did not spoil him.’ – What does this tell us about Wilbur’s personality?
- Explain what made Wilbur feel happy and confident.
- Why might Charlotte ‘keep quiet about her worries’?
- Why do you think Wilbur was so desperate for Charlotte to go with him to the Fair?

Predict

- What do you think will happen to Wilbur at the County Fair?

Explain

- Explain how Dr Dorian convinced Mrs Arable not to worry about Fern.

Retrieve

- Who did Charlotte’s mother pay a visit to?
- Which animals sang a song about summer?
- What new word had Charlotte written in her web?
- Name one way Wilbur tried to show he was radiant.
- What bad dream did Wilbur keep having?
- Why did Charlotte say she couldn’t go to the fair?

Summarise

- Summarise how Mrs Arable is feeling about Fern in one word and explain your choice.

Chapter 16 – Off to the Fair

Vocabulary

- What is a Ferris wheel?
- Find out what a Navajo blanket is.
- What is a stowaway?
- What is a 'tussle'?

Infer

- 'The night before the County Fair, everybody went to bed early.' – What do you think was the reason for this?
- Why do you think Mrs. Zuckerman didn't use water to bathe Wilbur?
- How did Charlotte convince Templeton to go to the fair? Why?

Predict

- If Wilbur wins prizes at the County Fair, do you think they will still want to kill and eat him?

Explain

- Explain why the Zuckerman and Arable family went to great lengths to wash, dress in their best clothes and polish the car on the day of the County Fair.

Retrieve

- What time did Fern and Avery go to bed the night before the County Fair?
- What did Mrs Zuckerman dream that she got from the County Fair?
- What did the animals plan to do on the morning of the County Fair?
- What colour was Fern's dress?
- What did Mrs Zuckerman bathe Wilbur in?
- Who was going with Wilbur to the fair?
- Why did Wilber faint?

Summarise

- Choose a word to describe how the Zuckerman and Arable family were feeling about going to the County Fair.

Chapter 17 – Uncle and Chapter 18 – The Cool of the Evening

Vocabulary

- 'She ascended slowly...' - What does 'ascend' mean?
- What does it mean to be humble?
- What is a 'schemer'?

Infer

- How do you think Fern and Avery felt, being allowed to go and explore the fair on their own? Explain your thinking.
- How can you tell that the adults were worried about them? Find an example from the text to support your answer.
- Why were Charlotte and Wilbur nervous about Uncle?
- 'The least thing tires me these days.' - Why do you think that Charlotte was becoming less energetic than she once was?
- "I shall be writing tonight for the last time." – Why do you think this will be the last time Charlotte writes a word in her web?
- Why do you think Henry Fussy bought Fern a ticket and invited her to join him on the Ferris wheel?
- Why was Templeton enjoying himself so much at the Fair?

Predict

- Do you think that Wilbur could win against Uncle? Why?
- What do you think Charlotte's masterpiece is going to be?

Explain

- '...I feel like the end of a long day.' – Explain what you think is meant by this and what you think the author is trying to tell us about Charlotte here.

Retrieve

- What did Fern and Avery want money for?
- What did Mr Zuckerman do to look at in the fair?
- Who was 'Uncle'?
- What did Charlotte ask Templeton to do?
- What word did Charlotte write in her web?
- Why did nobody notice Charlotte spinning her web?
- Why didn't Wilbur feel lonely when the family went home?

Summarise

- Describe Uncle in one word.

Chapter 19 – The Egg Sac

Vocabulary

- Find out what a 'magnum opus' is.
- What does 'nifty' mean?
- Define 'languishing'.
- What is 'dew'?
- "What a night of carousing." – What does 'carousing' mean?
- "I guess you're licked, Wilbur." – What does Templeton mean by this?
- '...she felt peaceful and contented.' – What does 'contented' mean?

Infer

- Why did it look as though Charlotte had shrunk?
- 'Wilbur and Charlotte were glad to be rid of him [Templeton] for a while.' – Why was this?
- How do you think the family were feeling when they arrived at the Fair and saw Charlotte's web?
- How did they feel when they saw the blue tag on Uncle?

Predict

- What 'special award' do you think will be given to the Zuckermans for Wilbur?

Explain

- Explain why Charlotte felt happy and content.

Retrieve

- What had Charlotte produced in the night?
- How many eggs were in there?
- Why was Charlotte feeling sad?
- What did the blue tag on Uncle mean?
- What announcement was made on the loud speaker?

Summarise

- Describe Zuckerman in one word.

Chapter 20 – An Hour of Triumph and Chapter 21 – Last Day

Vocabulary

- What is a 'pail' another word for?
- "What ails you Lurvy?" – what does this mean?
- Define 'forlorn'.

Infer

- Why was Wilbur feeling 'happy but dizzy' when he approached the judging ring to receive his special award?
- Do you think Mrs Arable is happy that Fern wants to spend time with Henry Fussy? Why?
- 'Charlotte could hear everything that was said on the loud speaker. The words gave her courage.' – What do you think she needed courage for?
- Find an example in the text to show that Charlotte and Wilbur have a loving friendship.
- 'For a moment Charlotte said nothing. The she spoke in a voice so low Wilbur could hardly hear the words.' – What does this tell us about how Charlotte was feeling?

Predict

- What do you think will happen with Charlotte's egg sac?

Explain

- "This was her hour of triumph." – Explain why this was Charlotte's hour of triumph.
- There is more than one reason why chapter twenty-one was called 'Last day'. Explain what they are.
- Explain how the author makes the reader feel at the end of chapter twenty-one and how they do it.

Retrieve

- How much money did Mrs Arable give to Fern?
- Where did fern run off to?
- What was the prize awarded to the Zuckerman/Arable family?
- Why did Wilbur faint?
- Why was everyone laughing at Avery?
- Why did Charlotte say she wasn't going back home to the farm?
- What was Wilbur determined to take home to the farm with him?
- What deal did Wilbur make with Templeton?

Summarise

- Choose three words to summarise Templeton's behaviour in these chapters.

Chapter 22 – A Warm Wind

Vocabulary

- What is a 'pasture'?
- What is a 'retort'?
- Define 'shrill'.
- "...you have chosen a hallowed doorway in which to string your webs." – What does 'hallowed' mean and why do you think Wilbur chose this word to describe the doorway to the barn?
- What does 'garrulous' mean?

Infer

- How did Wilbur feel when he got home?
- Why did all the animals stay in the barn around Christmas time?
- 'For Wilbur, nothing in life was so important as this small round object – nothing else mattered.' - Why was the egg sac so important to Wilbur?

Predict

- The final chapter is called 'A Warm Wind'. What do you think this chapter could be about? What could wind symbolise?

Explain

- 'Life is always a rich and steady time when you are waiting for something to happen or to hatch.' – Explain what you think is meant by this statement.

Retrieve

- What did Mr Zuckerman hang up in the barn for everyone to see?
- What was in the barn that reminded Wilbur of Charlotte?
- What came at Christmas that Wilbur had never seen before?
- What did the baby spiders do after they were born?
- How many spiders stayed with Wilbur and what were their names?

Summarise

- Describe how the reader feels at the end of the book in one word.
-

HOMEWORK:

Write a **sequel** to *Charlotte's Web*.

OR

What **lessons do we learn** from the book?