



# **Charlotte's Web**

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## Characters


Charlotte 

Wilbur 

Rat 

Goose 

Lurvy 

Fern 

Fern's mother 

Fern's father



Mr. Zuckerman (Fern's uncle)



Mrs. Zuckerman



Avery (Fern's brother)



Dr. Dorian



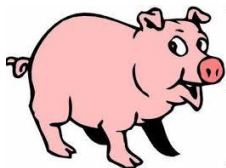
Henry Fussy



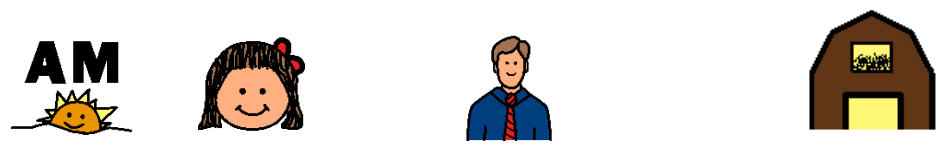
Minister



Uncle



# Chapters 1-3



One morning, Fern sees father walking to the barn with an



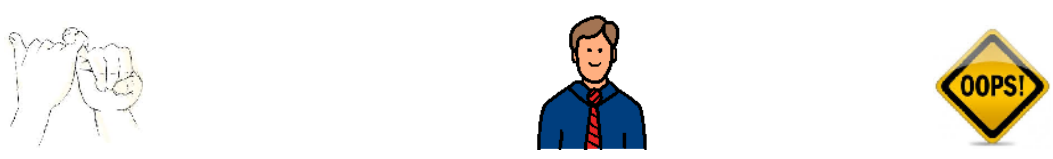
ax. Fern asks her mother why. Mother says a runt was born in



the night. The pig is too small and weak. Fern runs to the barn



and begs father to let her keep it. At first he says no, but Fern



promises to take care of it. Father thinks it is a mistake, but he



says yes .



To Fern the tiny pig is perfect. She names him Wilbur. She



feeds him milk from a bottle. She takes him for strolls in a baby



carriage. She even puts a box of straw in the yard for Wilbur to



sleep in. Every day is a happy day and every night is peaceful.

When Wilbur grows big enough to sell, Fern's uncle, Mr.



Zuckerman, buys him. Mr. Zuckerman's farm is nearby



so Fern can visit. Wilbur likes the farm but misses Fern.



One day Wilbur finds a loose board in the fence.



He pushes it open and goes for a walk.



Mr. Zuckerman sees Wilbur out of the barn. He gets a pail



of slops and puts the slops in the barn. When Wilbur smelled



the delicious food, he returns to the barn to eat. Wilbur is very



tired from the walk. Wilbur decides he is too young to go into



the world alone and takes a nap.



## Chapters 4-5



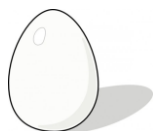
Wilbur is lonely and bored. Fern is at school all day and



does not visit much. Wilbur needs a new friend. He asks the



goose to play, but the goose cannot play. She is busy sitting on



her eggs to keep them warm.



Next Wilbur asks the lamb to play. The lamb will not play.



The lamb does not play with pigs. Then Wilbur asks rat to



play. Rat is too busy to play. He is on his way to eat the



breakfast Wilbur, did not eat that morning.



Suddenly, Wilbur hears a pleasant voice. The voice says



she will be Wilbur's friend. Wilbur wants to meet his new friend



now, but the voice says she will see him in the morning .



Wilbur is so excited he cannot sleep. The next morning,



Wilbur wakes everyone in the barn looking for his new friend.



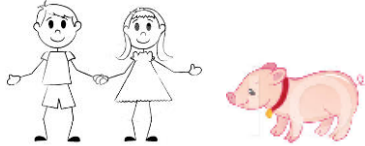
Finally, he meets her. She is a spider named Charlotte.



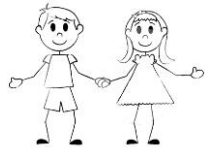
Charlotte is very pretty and clever, but she eats the blood of



insects that get caught in her web. Wilbur is not sure he likes



his new friend. Wilbur will soon know the truth - that Charlotte



is a good and loyal friend.

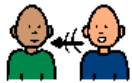
## Chapters 6-7



It is early summer. Now that school is over, Fern visits



almost every day. She sits on a stool and listens to the animals



talk to each other.

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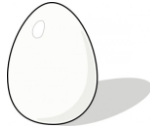


One day seven new goslings are born. Charlotte is the first

to see them from her high perch. She announces the news to



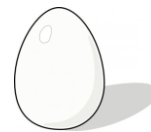
everyone in the barn and congratulates the goose and gander.



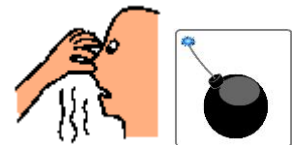
All of the eggs hatched but one. The goose says it is a dud. They



give the dud to rat, because he collects all sorts of odd things.



Charlotte warns him to be careful with the egg. If it breaks, the



smell will be awful. Rotten egg is the worst sort of stink bomb.



Wilbur likes Charlotte more and more. She eats lots of



insects in the barn. That is good because the insects bother the



animals. Wilbur eats a lot, too. He grows bigger and bigger. The



old sheep tells Wilbur they are fattening him up to kill him



around Christmastime.



Wilbur starts to cry. He does not want to die. He asks



Charlotte if it is true. Will they really kill him? Charlotte says the



sheep is probably right. She is old and has seen many things



over the years. Charlotte tells Wilbur not to worry. She will

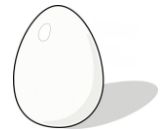
think of a way to save him.



## Chapters 8-10



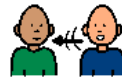
School is out for the summer. Fern spends a lot of time in



the barn. She tells mother about the new goslings and the egg



that did not hatch. Mother is worried about Fern. She thinks it



is strange that Fern can hear the animals talk. Father tells



mother to stop worrying. Fern is fine.



One night, Wilbur is watching Charlotte fix her web. He



thinks of death again and is afraid. He does not want to die.



Charlotte tells him not to worry. She is working on a plan to

save him. He can help by staying healthy.



One day, Fern and her brother, Avery, are playing in the



barn. When Avery sees Charlotte (for she was a big gray spider),



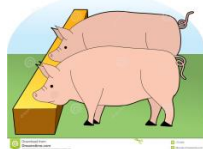
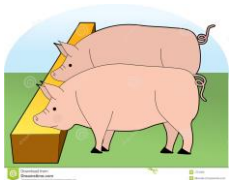
he wants to keep her. He gets a long stick and a box. He is going



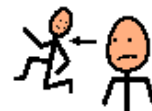
to use the stick to force Charlotte into the box. Just as he is



about to jab Charlotte with a stick, he falls on top of Wilbur'



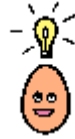
trough. The trough tips over and the rotten egg under it breaks.



Charlotte is safe because the stink sends everyone running



away from the barn.



That night Charlotte has an idea about how to save



Wilbur. As everyone sleeps, she works on her plan.

## Chapters 11-13



It is foggy the next morning. Charlotte's web glistens with



tiny drops of water. When Lurvy, the man who works on the



farm, brings Wilbur's breakfast, he sees Charlotte's web. In the



**word**

middle of the web are the words "SOME PIG".



Lurvy tells Mr. Zuckerman. Mr. Zuckerman says it is a



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miracle. The words are a sign that Wilbur is a special pig.



Mr. Zuckerman tells the minister and soon everyone knows.



Many people come to see Wilbur. At first, they are



amazed. Then, people tire of seeing the words "SOME PIG" in



the web. Charlotte asks the animals for some new words. The



goose suggests the word “terrific.” That night, Charlotte weaves



a new word into her web.



The next morning, Lurvy sees Wilbur in the barn. Over him



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is the word “TERRIFIC”. It is a new miracle. Mr. Zuckerman is so



excited, he decides to take Wilbur to the fair.



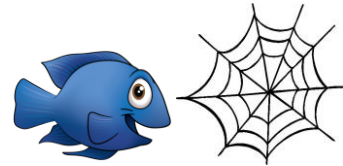
The news that Wilbur is a special pig spreads quickly.



## Chapters 14-15



Charlotte is a great storyteller. Charlotte tells Wilbur



stories about her cousins. One cousin caught a fish in her web.



Another made balloons and sailed through the air. Fern sits



quietly on her stool and listens to Charlotte's stories, too.



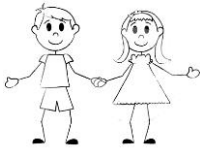
Fern tells mother about Charlotte's stories. Mother thinks



Fern is making up the stories. She is still worried that Fern



spends too much time in the barn. Mother wants Fern to make



new friends.



Mother goes to Dr. Dorian for advice. Dr. Dorian tells



mother not to worry. Fern is sleeping well and eating



well. Dr. Dorian tells mother that soon Fern will be interested in



other things like boys.



The crickets announce the end of summer. Charlotte spins



a new word, "RADIANT" in her web. When people come to see



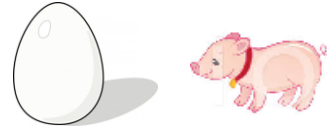
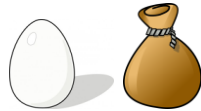
him, Wilbur does his best to glow.



It is almost time for the county fair. Wilbur asks Charlotte



to come with him. The fair comes at a bad time for her. She will



be busy making her egg sac and filling it with eggs. Wilbur is so



disappointed that Charlotte agrees to go if she can.

## Chapters 16-17



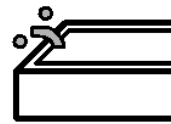
The night before the fair everyone goes to bed early. Fern



dreams about the swings. Avery dreams about the Ferris



wheel. Mr. Zuckerman dreams of Wilbur winning a big prize.



Early the next morning, Wilbur gets a buttermilk bath. He



is clean and pretty. Then, Mr. Zuckerman loads Wilbur into his



**word**

new pigpen. It is green with the words “ZUCKERMAN’S



FAMOUS PIG” in gold letters. Charlotte and rat hide inside the



crate. They are going to the fair with Wilbur.



As soon as they get to the fair, Fern and Avery ask to go



the midway. The midway is full of rides and games. Fern



wants to win a doll at the spinning wheel game.



Avery wants to buy a cheeseburger and some soda pop.



Mr. Zuckerman gives them some money and tells them to have



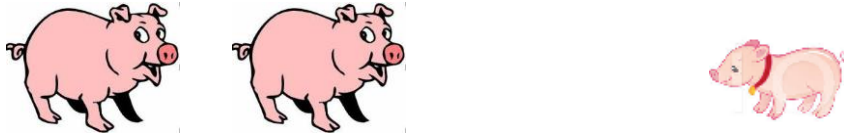
fun. Mrs. Zuckerman tells them to be careful.



Charlotte scrambles out of the crate. She climbs up high



where she can see well. There is a very large pig next to Wilbur.



His name is Uncle. Uncle is much bigger than Wilbur, but not



nearly as nice. Charlotte is tired and naps until it is time to

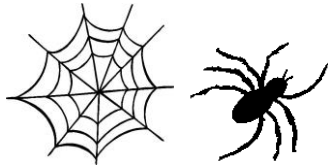


weave a new web.





Rat suggests the word for “HUMBLE” for Charlotte’s next



**2**

web. Charlotte thinks about the word. It has two meanings.

One meaning is “not proud”. The other meaning is “low to the



ground”. She decides the word “HUMBLE” is a perfect word for



Wilbur because he is both. Humble will be the last word she writes.



Later that night, mother sees Fern riding the Ferris wheel



with Henry Fussy. This makes mother (and Fern) very happy.



After the fireworks, everyone is tired. They say goodnight to



Wilbur and go home. Wilbur is glad Charlotte is with him.



Without her, he would be lonely and homesick.



Wilbur asks Charlotte to tell him a story but she is busy



making something. Wilbur is worried because Charlotte sounds



funny. She tells Wilbur he can see what she is making in the

**AM**



morning.

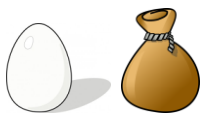
**AM**



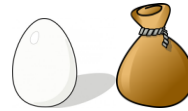
Early the next morning, Wilbur calls to Charlotte. He wants



to see what she has made. Charlotte proudly shows him her



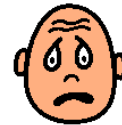
egg sac . It is her finest work. Inside are 514 eggs. The eggs will



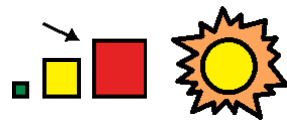
hatch in the spring. Wilbur tells her the egg sac is beautiful.



Charlotte is sad, though. She will never see them born. Wilbur

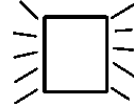
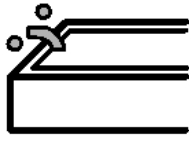


does not understand, but Charlotte tells him not to worry about



her. Today is his big day.

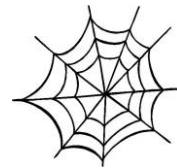
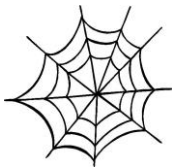
## Chapter 20-21



Wilbur gets another buttermilk bath so that he is clean



and pretty. Many people come to see Wilbur and Charlotte's



web. They all say good things about him and admire the web.



Suddenly the judges announce a special award. They ask



Mr. Zuckerman to bring his famous pig to the judges' booth.



When Wilbur arrives, everyone claps and cheers. Charlotte



hears it all from the pigpen.



Many people came to the fair just to see Wilbur.



Mr. Zuckerman gets \$25.00 dollars and Wilbur a bronze medal.



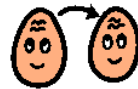
Everyone agrees Wilbur is some pig.



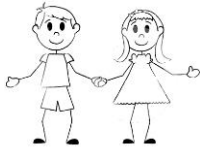
When they are alone, Charlotte tells Wilbur he is safe now.



He will enjoy a long life. Wilbur remembers that he did not like



Charlotte at first. How things have changed. She is his best



friend. She has saved his life.



Wilbur is ready to go home but Charlotte cannot go with

him. She is dying and does not have enough energy to lower



herself into his crate. Wilbur is so sad. He wants to stay with



her at the fair. Charlotte tells him he must go back to the barn.



There is no one to feed him at the fair.



Then Wilbur has an idea. He will take Charlotte's children

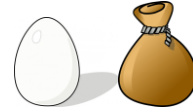
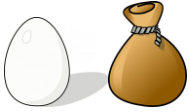


with him. Rat gets the egg sac for Wilbur (for Rat is a good



climber). Wilbur goes home with a medal around his neck and



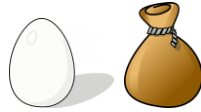


an egg sac in his mouth. Thank goodness the egg sac is



waterproof. The next day, Charlotte dies all alone.

## Chapter 22



When puts the egg sac in a safe place. Mr. Zuckerman



hangs the medal on a nail over the pigpen where Wilbur can

see it anytime he wants.



In the days the follow, Wilbur thinks of Charlotte. A few



strands of her old web hang in the doorway.



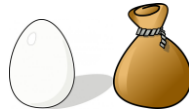
Wilbur keeps Charlotte's egg sac safe. When the days grow



cold, he breathes on it to keep it warm.



Soon it is spring. Just as the last of Charlotte's web floats



away, Wilbur sees the egg sac move. He steps closer and looks.

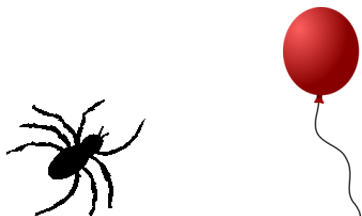


A tiny spider crawls from the egg sac. It looks just like Charlotte.



One after another, Charlotte's children are born – all 514.

They are tiny at first, but they grow fast. One day, one of



the spiders makes a balloon and sails away. Then another



spider does the same. Wilbur is frantic. All of Charlotte's

children are leaving.



One of the spiders stops to explain. They are aeronauts



and it is their moment to set forth. Wilbur asks where they are



going. The baby spider does not know. They go wherever the



wind takes them.



Wilbur is sad again. First Charlotte is gone and now her



# 3

children. Then he hears voices calling to him. Three of



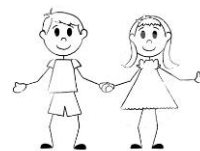
Charlotte's children have decided to stay. They like the



**3**



barn and they like Wilbur. Now Wilbur has three new friends.



He begins telling them about their mother, his best friend,



Charlotte.