

## E.B. WHITE

“Sailors...say the weather is a great bluffer. I guess the same is true of our human society - things can look dark, then a break shows in the clouds, and all is changed.”



E. B. White (1899-1985) was born in Mount Vernon, New York, and graduated from Cornell University. His work appeared for many years in *The New Yorker* magazine. He received the Laura Ingalls Wilder Award for his children's books *Charlotte's Web*, a Newbery Honor Book, and *Stuart Little*. *The Trumpet of the Swan* also won several awards. Mr. White, the author of seventeen books of prose and poetry, was elected to the American Academy of Arts and Letters in 1973.

Born July 11, 1899, in Mount Vernon, NY Education: Cornell University, A.B., 1921. Memberships: National Institute of Arts and Letters, American Academy of Arts and Sciences (fellow), American Academy of Arts and Letters, Phi Beta Kappa, Phi Gamma Delta.

## **Charlotte's Web**

**By E.B. White**

### About This Book

An affectionate, sometimes bashful pig named Wilbur befriends a spider named Charlotte, who lives in the rafters above his pen. A prancing, playful bloke, Wilbur is devastated when he learns of the destiny that befalls all those of porcine persuasion. Determined to save her friend, Charlotte spins a web that reads "Some Pig," convincing the farmer and surrounding community that Wilbur is no ordinary animal and should be saved. In this story of friendship, hardship, and the passing of time, E.B. White reminds us to open our eyes to the wonder and miracles often found in the simplest of things.

### **Discussion Questions:**

1. How does Fern convince her father not to kill the smallest pig -- the "runt" -- of the litter? What does she do to help raise the little pig?
2. When Wilbur moves to the Zuckerman farm, he meets many animals, but is still lonely until he meets Charlotte. What is different about Charlotte that makes her become Wilbur's friend?
3. When Wilbur first meets Charlotte, he wonders if he will ever learn to like someone who is so "brutal" and "bloodthirsty," yet Charlotte soon becomes his best friend. Have you ever changed your opinion about someone after you got to know them better? Are first impressions always reliable?
4. In the book, we see both Charlotte and Templeton the Rat do things for Wilbur which help to save his life. Do they both help him for the same reasons? How is Templeton convinced to help? Why does Charlotte make sacrifices for Wilbur? What does Wilbur do to return the favors?
5. Can you remember which words Charlotte wove into her web? (SOME PIG, TERRIFIC, RADIANT, and HUMBLE) How did the appearance of these words save Wilbur's life? What other words can you think of that Charlotte might have used?
6. The humans in this book are very easily influenced by the messages in Charlotte's web. Would they impress you?

Resources referenced:

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And MPL Staff.