

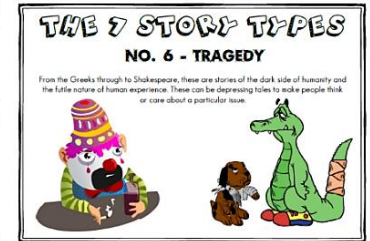
BOOK KNOWLEDGE ORGANISER – CHARLOTTE’S WEB BY E.B. WHITE

Important Information

Plot	Charlotte's Web is the story of Wilbur the pig and his friendship with Fern, the little girl who adopts him, and his barnyard friends but most importantly, Charlotte the spider.
Themes	The Natural World, Words and Language, Life Vs Death, Time Passing and Friendship.
Setting	Settings include Fern's House, Zuckerman's Farm and the County Fair. Although much of the book is set on the 44-acre farm in Maine (U.S.A.), travelling to the County Fair air is a hotly anticipated event. The animals return from their journey changed in some way.

Characters

Templeton	He is a crafty and selfish rat who lives under Wilbur's trough.
Lamb	This young and insensitive lamb refuses to play with Wilbur.
Goose	A trouble maker who encourages Wilbur to escape.
Lurvy	Zuckerman's hired man who works very hard and looks after Wilbur
Mr Homer Zuckerman	Antagonist - Mr Zuckerman is Avery and Fern's uncle and the owner of a farm near the Arable's. He raises pigs and buys Wilbur for six dollars.
Mr Arable	Fern's father sells Wilbur at five weeks old.
Fern	Loving and innocent daughter of Mr Arable who wants her father to save the life of Wilbur when he is young. Enjoys time at Mr Zuckerman's farm.
Avery	Fern's elder brother who is boisterous and aggressive.
Wilbur	Protagonist - He is a sensitive pig who is saved from an untimely death by Fern. In the barn, he builds a strong relationship with Charlotte.
Gander	Brave, strong and threatens Templeton if he goes near his goslings.
Charlotte	Calm, skilled spider who is the artist of the novel and, through her creativity, manages to manipulate the events that take place
Mrs Arable	She can't understand how her daughter thinks that animals talk.
Mrs Edith Zuckerman	Her domestic life encapsulates what life was like for women in the 50s.
Minister	He is the first person that Mr Zuckerman tells about the writing in the web.
Charlotte's Children	Joy, Aranea and Nellie stay with Wilbur in the barn after their siblings leave to find homes for themselves.
Henry Fussy	An ordinary boy who is friends with Fern.
Dr Dorian	A doctor who says Fern may well be right about speaking animals.



Name of Book: Charlotte's Web
 Date Published: 1952
 Author: E.B. White
 Reading 'Reconsidered' Spine: Archaic Text
 Genre: Fantasy / Realistic Fiction

What Can the Book Teach Us?

Be loyal to your friends.
 Death is inevitable.
 Determination and perseverance are noble traits to have.
 Being kind to others should be an altruistic act.

Quotes

"I never looked at it that way."
 "It's unfair... The pig couldn't help being born small, could it? If I had been very small at birth, would you have killed me?"
 "People believe almost anything they see in print."

Key Vocabulary

adrift	without guidance or purpose
bandstand	an outdoor platform on which a band performs
carousing	drunken merrymaking
crochet	needlework done by forming and weaving loops in a thread with a hooked needle
doily	a small ornamental mat, usually of lace or linen
forlorn	feeling sad and lonely because of being left alone
frolic	to play around happily
gnaw	to wear something away by biting and chewing with teeth
gullible	easily deceived / fooled into doing or thinking something
idiosyncrasy	a way of behaving / thinking, characteristic of a person
languish	to become weak or waste away
listless	too tired or uninterested to do something
magnum opus	means 'great work' and refers to artist achievement
monotonous	unchanging and boring
pummel	to pound or beat something
runt	an unusually small animal or person
sedentary	not migrating / moving from one place to another (settled)
slops	liquid food
untenable	when inhabiting somewhere becomes impossible

Context - Author E.B. White bought a farm in Maine (U.S.A.) where he lived for many years and raised all kinds of animals. A spider lived in his barn and he used to spend hours just watching her, the way that Fern watched the animals in *Charlotte's Web*. Wilbur, the pig, was also inspired by a pig that E.B. White was raising on his farm. The barn in which Avery and Fern swing on the rope swing is also real and is still standing—and the rope swing is still there! E.B. White wrote *Charlotte's Web* because he loved animals and enjoyed life on his farm. He advocated respect for animals and simple living. For women in the 1950s, life was centred on the family and domestic duties. Women who had held wartime jobs were expected to stop their careers in order to provide employment for men returning from war. The story is set during this post-war time.