

Teacher Guide

Grades 3–4

Charlotte's Web

E.B. White

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CHARLOTTE'S WEB

by
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Teacher Guide

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Note

The Harper Trophy paperback edition of the book was used to prepare this guide. The page references may differ in the hardcover or other paperback editions.

Please note: Please assess the appropriateness of this book for the age level and maturity of your students prior to reading and discussing it with your class.

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Skills and Strategies

Thinking

Brainstorming, classifying and categorizing, evaluating, analyzing details, visualizing, synthesizing ideas, K-W-L strategy, comparing and contrasting

Literary Elements

Character, setting, plot development, story map, conflict, theme, suspense, imagery

Vocabulary

Synonyms/antonyms, classification

Comprehension

Predicting, sequencing, cause/effect, inference, make judgements, compare information from more than one source

Writing

Narrative, expository

Listening/Speaking

Participation in discussion and cooperative groups, entertain others with dramatic activities

Chapter V: "Charlotte" — Pages 32-41

Vocabulary

clashers 32	decent 32	motionless 33	appropriate 34
disgust 34	objectionable 35	salutations 35	blundered 37
furiously 37	horror 38	detested 38	midges 39
miserable 39	inheritance 39	wit 40	numerous 40
innocent 40	fierce 41	reputation 41	scheming 41

Vocabulary Activity

Complete the synonym chains.

decent - respectable - adequate - satisfactory - passable
 appropriate - suitable - proper - fitting -
 blunder - mistake - error -
 furious - angry - raging -
 detest - hate - despise -
 wisdom - mind - sense - understanding -

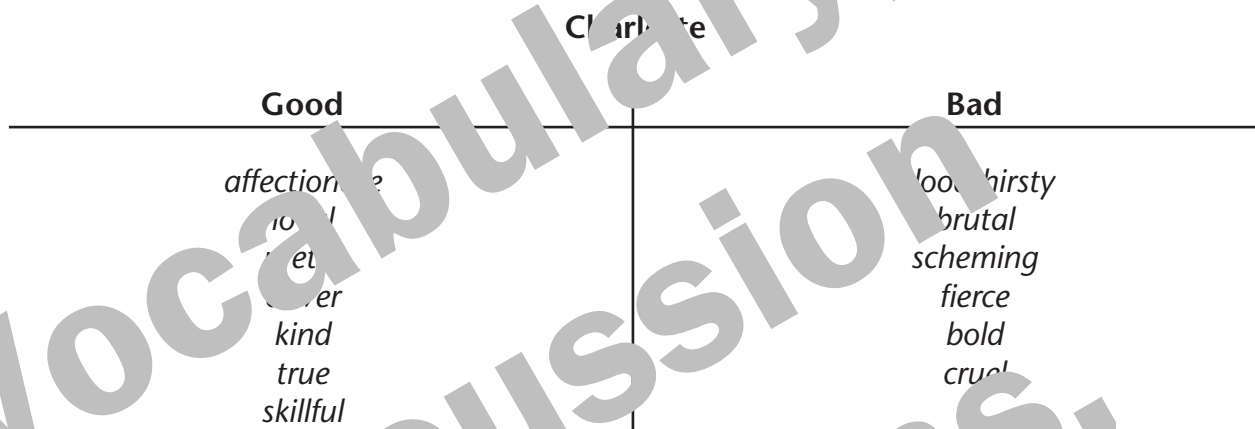
Discussion Questions and Activities

- How did Wilbur find his new serious friend? (Page 34, he called out, "Will the party who addressed the audience last night kindly make hisself or herself known by giving an appropriate sign or signal!")
- Wilbur was shocked and disgusted with Charlotte's eating habits. Make a comparison of what Charlotte and Wilbur ate. Would you rather share a meal with Charlotte or Wilbur?

Charlotte	Wilbur
crickets, flies, grasshoppers, centipedes, beetles, gnats, mosquitoes, cockroaches, midges	meat, crusts, potato skins, doughnuts, custard

- What did Charlotte learn from her family? (page 39, trapper's instinct—how to find things to eat and stay alive)
- Why did Charlotte say it was good that spiders eat bugs? (Page 40, "...if I didn't catch bugs and eat them, bugs would increase and multiply and get so numerous that they'd destroy the earth...")

- Why did the goose say Wilbur was an innocent little pig? (page 40, because Wilbur didn't know that Mr. Zuckerman and Lurvy were plotting to kill him)
- Wilbur said friendship is a gamble because there are bad characteristics, as well as good characteristics, in every individual. List all of Charlotte's good points, as well as her bad points, on a T-diagram.



- Begin an attribute web for Charlotte and Wilbur.

Predict

What do you think Templeton will do with the egg? What do you think will happen to the egg?

Writing Activity

Write a letter to Wilbur giving him some advice about making good and accepting friends as they are, and getting along with friends.

Art Activities

- Make a spider web design using yarn or string.
- Create a shoebox diorama of the barn.

Research Activity

Complete the Farm Animal Chart on the following page.

