

Charlotte's Web

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A Novel Study Guide

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Charlotte's Web



Name: _____

Six Story Plots Authors Use:

**Circle
Copycat
Switch
Stuck
Contest
Transformation**

The purpose of this section is to give the teacher a quick overview of six story plots authors use to write their stories. These six story plots have been written in hundreds of different ways. Learning them enables children to summarize and predict what will happen in the story with greater ease and accuracy.

Background Information About the Six Plot Patterns

1. Copycat Stories

A copycat story occurs when one character copies or emulates another's appearance, behaviour, abilities, etc. The motive behind copying may be admiration or framing someone. Copycat stories are usually subplots of novels.

Types of Copycat stories:

Emulation/Admiration/Curiosity (Little Lumpty by Miko Imai)

Framing (Something Fishy's Happening at Macdonald Hall by Gordon Korman)

2. Circle Stories

Circle stories begin and end in the same place. They involve a journey that may or may not be physical.

Types of Circle Stories:

Time Travel (2095 by J. Scieszka)

Dreams (Jacob Two-Two Meets the Hooded Fang by Mordecai Richler)

Journeys (Treasure Island by R. L. Stevenson)

Entering other worlds (The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe by C.S. Lewis)

Self-acceptance (Chrysanthemum by Kevin Henkes)

Discontentment (It's Not Easy Being a Bunny by Marilyn Sadler)

Curiosity (Peter Rabbit by Beatrix Potter)

Adventure (The Hobbit by J.R. Tolkien)

Lost and Found (Silverwing by Kenneth Oppel or The Paper Crane by Molly Bang)

3. Switch Stories

Switch stories occur when two items, people, positions, abilities, etc. are accidentally or deliberately switched. The resulting circumstances are often entertaining. Usually the story ends when things are switched back.

Types of Switch Stories:

Positions (The Prince and the Pauper by Mark Twain)

Roles (Sheila Rae the Brave by Kevin Henkes)

Jobs (The Rooster and the Weather Vane by Sharon Peters)

Objects (Babar Loses His Crown by Laurent de Brunhoff)

People / Animals (Blueberries for Sal by Robert McCloskey)

4. Contest Stories

Contest stories contain a competition usually between the protagonist and the antagonist. In most situations the protagonist wins the contest. Hero stories are one of the most popular types of contests written and made into movies.

Types of Contest stories:

Man vs. Man (The Hare and the Tortoise Aesop Fable)

Man vs. Nature (The Sun, Wind, and the Traveller by Tomie de Paola)

Man vs. Himself (Big Red by Jim Kjelgaard)

Man vs. Evil (The Lord of the Rings by J. Tolkien)

Man vs. the Gods (Arachne Greek myth)

Man vs. Death (Charlotte's Web by Elwyn Brooks)

Dares (Silverwing by Kenneth Oppel Chapters 1 and 2)

5. Stuck Stories

A stuck story is a plot pattern in which something/someone becomes stuck in a predicament and the focus of the story is how it can be removed/released. In some stuck stories the item/person that becomes lodged does so accidentally. In others, an object/person is deliberately lodged and other characters in the story attempt to remove/release the object/person. Novels may write about a character stuck in a certain viewpoint or emotion and the situations which cause him to alter his views or feelings.

Types of Stuck Stories:

Objects (Andrew's Loose Tooth by Robert Munsch)

Kidnapping (The Silver Chair by C.S. Lewis)

Emotions (Anne of Green Gables by L. Montgomery ch. 28)

Belief System (The Golden Touch (The story of Bacchus and King Midas)

Animals/People (Island of the Blue Dolphins by Scott O'Dell)

Crucial Reading Skills:

1. Understanding Motive

The driving force behind the plot structure of all stories is the motive(s) of the character(s). Motive(s) determines the events, plot, and subplots. Motive at the simplest level is what each character needs, wants or doesn't want. Needs can be physical, emotional, social or psychological. In a story, a character's motive is followed by his corresponding actions which show how he tries to get what he wants/doesn't want or needs.

A story problem is created when the character faces a "but" while trying to fulfill his motive. "Buts" are: disasters, tricks, acts of god (weather, magic, miracle), and use of force (physical or political). When the "but" is resolved, the reader learns if: the character(s) get what he wants/doesn't want/needs and if he likes/dislikes it or wants something different. Stories are a series of motives linked together. Motive(s) dictates the story action, and "but" creates the story problem.

All stories are built around motives— without them dialogue is pointless and the story action will lack clear direction. Resolution to all stories comes when the reader finds out if the central character(s) got what he wanted or needed and if he is finally satisfied.

2. Story Summarization

Once a child can locate the motive he/she can be taught to summarize by starting with what the character wants or needs, the main story complications:

*tricks

*disasters

*acts of god (weather, magic, miracles)

*use of force (physical or political)

and whether the characters achieved their motive(s) got what they needed/wanted at the end.

3. Predicting with Story Patterns

Motive helps determine the action a character undertakes to get what he wants or needs. Due to the fact that many needs and wants are shared between people and cultures around the world they create patterns when the characters attempt to fulfill them.

For example: if a character sets out on a journey he will either move somewhere and never return (linear transformation pattern) or return where he started from (journey circle pattern). Once a child grasps the fact that motive

creates corresponding actions and these matching actions cause story patterns it becomes much easier to predict what will happen next in a story. Children who perceive predicting as a wild guess with no supporting background knowledge find this type of question frustrating. I always encourage children to think about the motive and the possible patterns it could create as well as what would make the most sense to happen. It is especially important to keep in mind that the main character frequently fulfills his main motive in a novel.

Secondly, when asked to predict what will happen, the question itself often provides the reader with the possible outcomes. Here are some examples:

a. Predict whether Wilbur will win a prize at the fair.

Competing for a prize at the fair creates a contest story pattern. If Wilbur loses, it is likely that Zuckerman will butcher him which would make the story have a very sad ending. I predict that he will win a prize at the fair.

b. Predict whether Charlotte will save Wilbur's life.

Saving Wilbur's life creates a contest story pattern. I predict that Charlotte will find a way to save Wilbur's life using a trick.

c. Predict whether Templeton will become Wilbur's friend at the end of the story. Friendship is a transformation story pattern. Templeton is not friends with anyone and will only help when he receives a reward. I predict that Templeton and Wilbur will not become friends.

d. Predict whether Wilbur will be able to spin a web like Charlotte.

If Wilbur tries to spin a web like Charlotte he will be copying her which creates a copycat story pattern. Due to the fact that Wilbur's body cannot create silk, I predict that he will fail.

4. Inferencing Emotions

Inferencing emotions in novels involves interpreting facial expressions, body language, a character's speech/thoughts and his actions. For example: when Wilbur refused to eat, moped around the barnyard and wept one can inference by his actions that he was sad or lonely. For children that struggle with choosing emotions which match facial expressions, body language, speech/thoughts, and actions it is helpful to give them a list of emotions to choose from such as: happy, sad, lonely, angry, frustrated, tired, surprised, curious, or scared.

Question Words:

1. Who

*asks for a person/animal

2. Why

*asks for a reason (needed/wanted)

3. How

*the way/method something is done

*first, second, third

4. Where

*asks for a place

5. What

*object

*size

*colour

*number(amount)

*shape

*description

*age

6. When

*asks for time, time period, season

Charlotte's Web Novel Study Chapter One



1. Why did Mr. Arable have an ax?

2. What was Fern's motive?

Remember motive is what a character wants, doesn't want or needs.

3. How did Fern care for the runt?

4. What did Fern decide to call it?

5. What was Fern's brother's name?

Answers: Charlotte's Web Novel Study Chapter One

1. Why did Mr. Arable have an ax?

Mr. Arable has an ax to kill the runt pig with.

2. What was Fern's motive?

Remember motive is what a character wants, doesn't want or needs.

Fern wants to save the pig's life.

3. How did Fern care for the runt?

Fern cares for the runt by feeding it milk with a baby bottle.

4. What did Fern decide to call it?

Fern decided to call the pig Wilbur.

5. What was Fern's brother's name?

Fern's brother's name is Avery.



Charlotte's Web Novel Study Chapters Two & Three

1. Why did Wilbur have to leave Fern ?

Mr. Arable did not want the increased expense of feeding a grown pig.

2. How did Wilbur feel at the Zuckerman's (page 16)?

Wilbur felt bored and tired of living as shown by these two quotes:

"There's never anything to do around here.. I'm less than two months old and I'm tired of living."

3. Why was chapter three called "Escape"?

Circle what pattern it makes.

*copycat *contest *stuck *switch *circle *transformation

*Chapter three was called "Escape", because Wilbur was shown a loose board in his pen and escaped from it.

*This chapter was a journey circle story, because Wilbur escaped his pen, ran around and ended up back inside.

4. Describe what Mr. Zuckerman used to get Wilbur back in his pen.

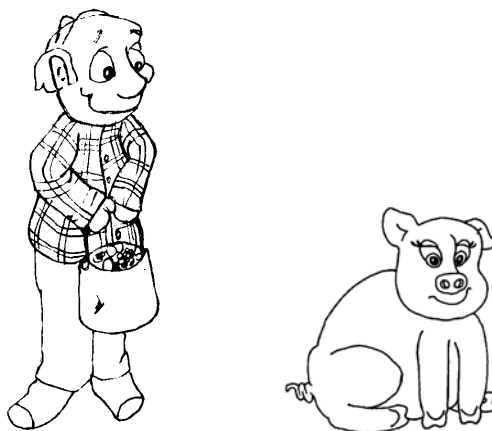
*trick

*act of god (weather, miracle, magic)

*disaster

*use of force (political, physical)

Mr. Zuckerman used a trick to get Wilbur back in his pen. The trick was luring Wilbur back into his pen with a bucket of slops.



Charlotte's Web Novel Study Chapters Four & Five

1. What did Wilbur want (page 27)?

Remember motive is what a character wants, doesn't want or needs.

2. What kind of character is Templeton? Give an example to support your opinion (pages 29 & 30).

3. Describe Wilbur's encounter with his new friend.

*heard *saw *felt *smelled

4. What bothers Wilbur about his new friend (page 41)?

Charlotte's Web Novel Study Chapters Four & Five

1. What did Wilbur want (page 27)?

Remember motive is what a character wants, doesn't want or needs.

Wilbur wanted love and a friend to play with.

2. What kind of character is Templeton? Give an example to support your opinion (pages 29 & 30).

Templeton was sneaky, clever and a thief. He was sneaky, because he told Wilbur he liked to spy on others. He was clever, because he had dug tunnels all over the farm and could go anywhere he liked without being seen. He was shown to be a thief because he ate Wilbur's breakfast.

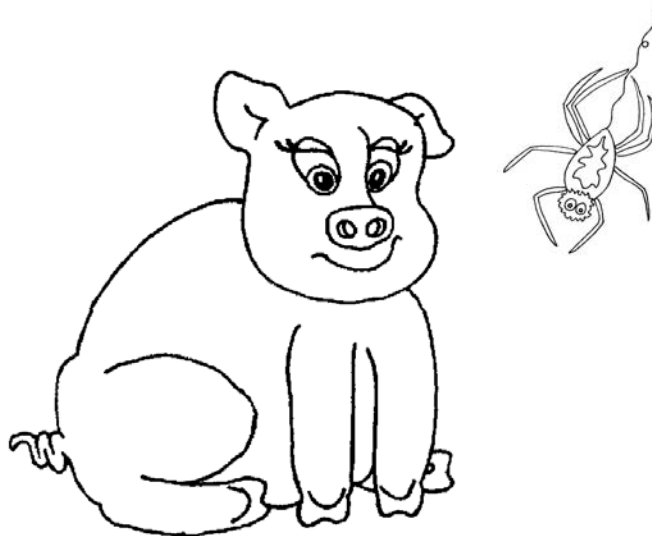
3. Describe Wilbur's encounter with his new friend.

*heard *saw *felt *smelled

Wilbur was asked several of the barnyard animals if they would like to play with him, but they all declined. When night settled, Wilbur heard a voice which offered to be his friend. The friend told Wilbur to go to sleep and they would meet in the morning.

4. What bothers Wilbur about his new friend (page 41)?

Wilbur is bothered by the fact that Charlotte is fierce, brutal, scheming, and bloodthirsty.



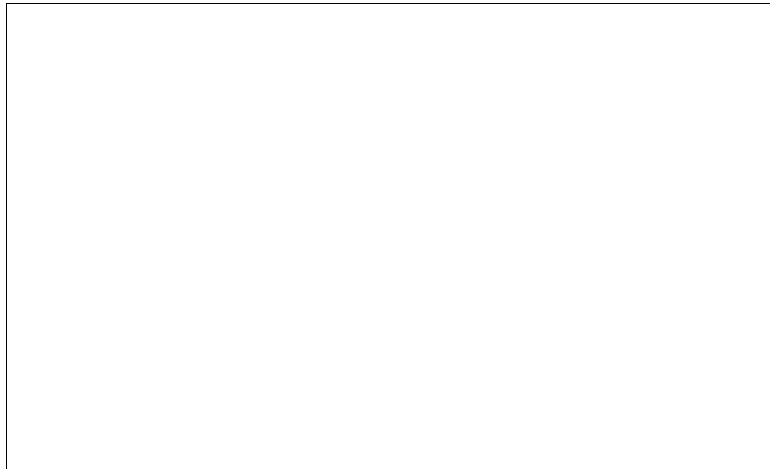
Charlotte's Web Novel Study Chapters Six & Seven

1. What happened to the geese in the middle of Chapter Six?
What story pattern is this? Circle your choice(s). Tell why.

*copycat *contest *stuck *switch *circle *transformation

2. What did Templeton want from the goose (page 45)?

Draw a picture of Templeton with what the goose gave him.

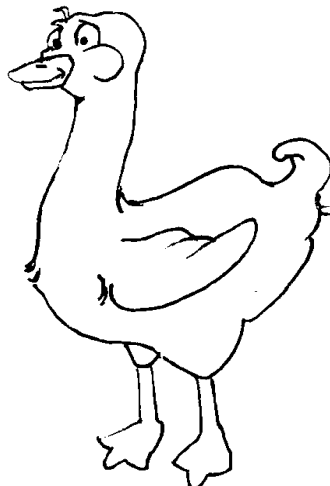


3. Why does Charlotte warn Wilbur about Templeton's egg (page 47)?

4. How does the sheep frighten Wilbur in Chapter Seven ?

5. What does Charlotte say she will do? What story pattern is this?
Circle your choice and explain why.

*copycat *contest *stuck *switch *circle *transformation



Charlotte's Web Novel Study Chapters Six & Seven

1. What happened to the geese in the middle of Chapter Six? What story pattern is this? Circle your choice(s):

*copycat *contest *stuck *switch *circle ***transformation**

In the middle of chapter six, seven goslings hatch which is a physical transformation story pattern. The hatching of the goslings is the physical transformation of the birth of a new life.

2. What did Templeton want from the goose (page 45)?

Templeton knew there had been eight eggs and he wanted to keep the egg which didn't hatch.

3. Why does Charlotte warn Wilbur about Templeton's egg (page 47)?

Charlotte warns Wilbur that if the egg breaks it will be like a stink bomb and the smell will make the barn very difficult to live in.

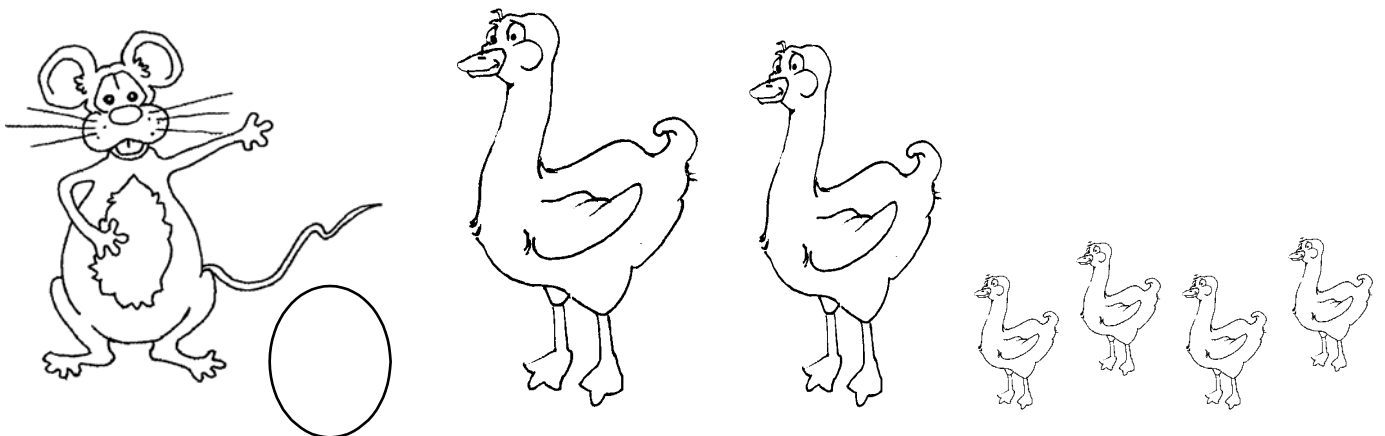
4. How does the sheep frighten Wilbur in Chapter Seven ?

In Chapter seven, the sheep frightens Wilbur by explaining to him that Farmer Zuckerman is fattening him up to butcher.

5. What does Charlotte say she will do? What story pattern is this?

*copycat ***contest** *stuck *switch *circle *transformation

Charlotte says she will save Wilbur's life. This is a man vs. man and man vs. death contest story pattern.



Charlotte's Web Novel Study Chapters Eight & Nine

1. How does Mrs. Arable feel about Fern in chapter eight?

2. Why was Chapter nine called "Wilbur's Boast"? (page 45)?

What story pattern did his boast make? Explain why.

*copycat *contest *stuck *switch *circle *transformation

3. Describe what happened when Wilbur tried to imitate Charlotte.

*trick *act of god (weather, magic, miracle)

*disaster *use of force (physical or political)

4. What did Wilbur learn?

Charlotte's Web Novel Study Chapters Eight & Nine

1. How does Mrs. Arable feel about Fern in chapter eight?

In Chapter eight Mrs. Arable is worried about Fern, because Fern is naming the animals in the Zuckerman barn and says she can understand what they are saying to each other.

2. Why was Chapter nine called "Wilbur's Boast"? (page 45)?

What story pattern did his boast make?

***copycat** *contest *stuck *switch *circle *transformation

Chapter nine was called Wilbur's Boast, because Wilbur claimed he could spin a web like Charlotte if he chose. When the pig tried to spin a web like the spider, he copied her behavior and this created a copycat pattern.

3. Describe what happened when Wilbur tried to imitate Charlotte.

*trick *act of god (weather, magic, miracle)

***disaster** *use of force (physical or political)

The first disaster happened when Wilbur leaped off the manure pile and landed with a thump. The second disaster occurred when Wilbur tied a piece of string to his leg, leaped off the manure pile and landed with a crash which hurt.

4. What did Wilbur learn?

Wilbur learned from Charlotte that because he did not have spinnerets and know-how that he would not ever be able to spin a web. He was also reminded that he had no need of spinning a web to trap food, because all of his food was provided by Mr. Zuckerman.

Charlotte's Web Novel Study Chapters Ten & Eleven

1. How did Avery try to catch the spider?

2. Describe what stopped Avery.

- *trick *act of god (weather, magic, miracle)
- *disaster *use of force (physical or political)

3. Why was Chapter eleven called "The Miracle" ?

What story pattern was this? Explain why.

- *copycat *contest *stuck *switch *circle *transformation

4. Describe Charlotte's creation.

*heard

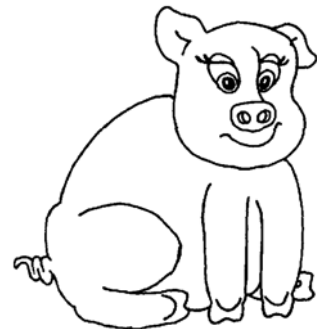
*saw

*felt

*smelled

5. What did Mr Zuckerman believe and why? What did Mrs. Zuckerman believe and why?

6. Draw a picture of Charlotte's web below.



Charlotte's Web Novel Study Chapters Ten & Eleven

1. How did Avery try to catch the spider?

Avery stuck a leg over the pigpen and lifted his stick to knock Charlotte into his candy box.

2. Describe what stopped Avery.

*trick

*act of god (weather, magic, miracle)

*disaster

*use of force (physical or political)

Avery was stopped from nabbing Charlotte when he lost his balance, landed in the pig trough which tipped over and crushed the rotten goose egg.

3. Why was Chapter eleven called "The Miracle" ?

What story pattern was this?

*copycat

*contest

*stuck

*switch

*circle

*transformation

Chapter Eleven was called "The Miracle", because Charlotte had spun words into her web which was something no human thought possible. The words in her web created a physical transformation (change). This chapter was also called "The Miracle" because it was a step towards protecting Wilbur's life by making the farmer think his pig was special. When people came from far and wide to see Wilbur it made it less likely that Farmer Zuckerman would end the pig's life.

4. Describe Charlotte's creation.

*heard

*saw

*felt

*smelled

Each thin strand of Charlotte's web and the words in it were covered in dozens of tiny water beads which made it glisten in the light like a veil.

5. What did Mr Zuckerman believe and why?

Mr. Zuckerman believed that they had a special pig, because that's what the web said.

What did Mrs. Zuckerman believe and why?

Mrs. Zuckerman believed that they had a special spider who could spin

Charlotte's Web Novel Study Chapters Twelve & Thirteen

1. On page 87 what does Charlotte request at her meeting?

2. How did the old sheep get Templeton to agree to bring Charlotte a newspaper clipping from the dump?

3. Describe the two types of thread a spider can spin and what they are used for.

4. Where did Templeton get the word "radiant" from (page 99)?

Charlotte's Web Novel Study Chapters Twelve & Thirteen

1. On page 87 what does Charlotte request at her meeting?

Charlotte wanted new ideas for what to spin in her web, because she thought the people were getting tired of reading the words "some pig".

2. How did the old sheep get Templeton to agree to bring Charlotte a newspaper clipping from the dump?

The old sheep told Templeton that if Wilbur died his trough would be empty and then Templeton wouldn't get any more scraps and might starve.

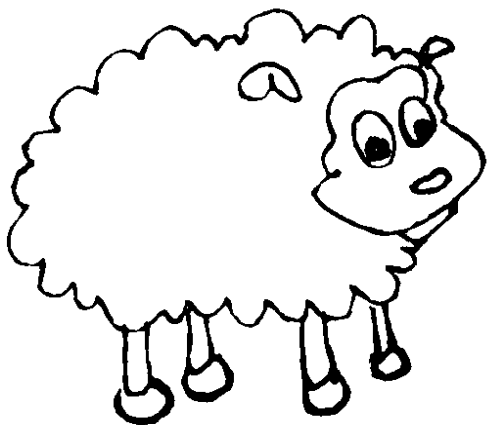
3. Describe the two types of thread a spider can spin and what they are used for.

*The first type of thread is dry, tough and used for foundation lines to create a strong web.

*The second type of thread is sticky and used to trap insects.

4. Where did Templeton get the word "radiant" from?

Templeton found the word "radiant" on a strip of paper from a package of soap flakes inside the woodshed.



Charlotte's Web Novel Study Chapters Fourteen & Fifteen

1. How did Dr. Dorian reassure Mrs. Arable that Fern was normal?

2. How did Wilbur try to appear radiant (pages 114 & 115)?

3. What worries came to Wilbur at night (page 115)?

4. Why wouldn't Charlotte promise to come to the fair with Wilbur?

Charlotte's Web Novel Study Chapters Fourteen & Fifteen

1. How did Dr. Dorian reassure Mrs. Arable that Fern was normal?

Dr. Dorian helps Mrs. Arable remember that Fern looks, eats, and sleeps well, and that it is very unlikely that she will spend her entire life in a barn cellar as children change from year to year. He also encourages Mrs. Arable that sooner or later Fern will develop new interests and even discover boys.

2. How did Wilbur try to appear radiant (pages 114 & 115)?

Wilbur tried to appear radiant by:

*turning his head and blinking his eye-lashes

*breathing deeply

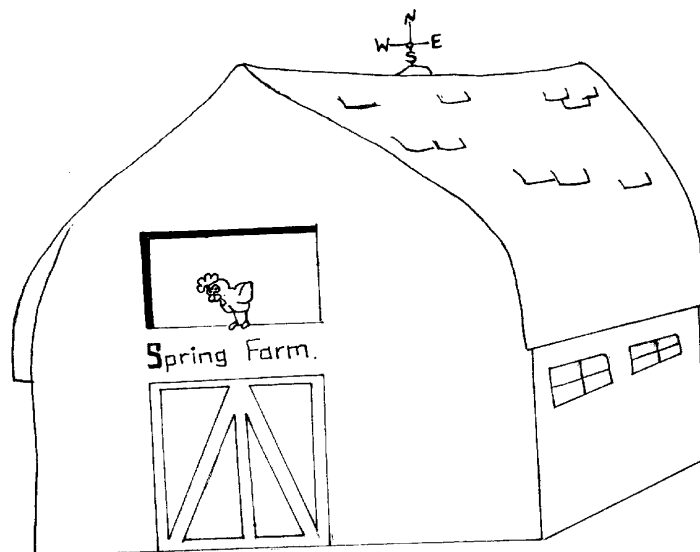
*springing into the air and doing a back flip with a half twist

3. What worries came to Wilbur at night (page 115)?

Wilbur sometimes dreamed men were coming to get him with knives and guns.

4. Why wouldn't Charlotte promise to come to the fair with Wilbur?

Charlotte wouldn't promise to go to the fair, because in a few days it would be time to build her egg sac and lay her eggs.



Charlotte's Web Novel Study Chapters Sixteen & Seventeen

1. Why did Charlotte want Templeton to accompany them to the fair?
What story pattern does going to the fair create? Explain your choice.

*copycat *contest *stuck *switch *circle *transformation

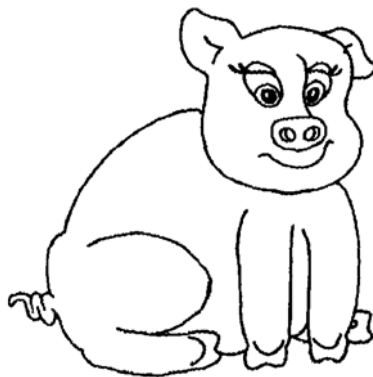
2. Describe the type of bath Mrs. Zuckerman gave Wilbur.



3. What did the pig Uncle have to do with Wilbur (page 135)?
What story pattern does this create? Explain your choice.

*copycat *contest *stuck *switch *circle *transformation

4. Why was Wilbur worried about Charlotte (page 136)?



Charlotte's Web Novel Study Chapters Sixteen & Seventeen

1. Why did Charlotte want Templeton to accompany them to the fair? What story pattern does going to the fair create?

***copycat *contest *stuck *switch *circle *transformation**

Charlotte wanted Templeton to run errands and find scraps of paper with words on them for her to write in the web for Wilbur.

2. Describe the bath Mrs. Zuckerman gave Wilbur.

Mrs. Zuckerman used a paddle to bath Wilbur with buttermilk until he was sparkling clean.

3. What did the pig Uncle have to do with Wilbur (page 135)?

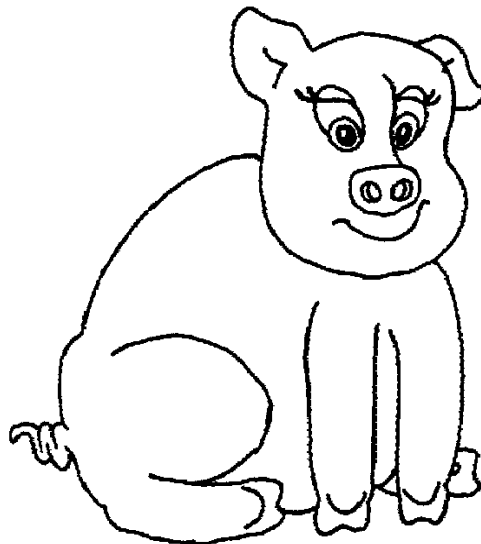
What story pattern does this create?

***copycat *contest *stuck *switch *circle *transformation**

Uncle was a spring pig competing for the same prize at the fair as Wilbur.

4. Why was Wilbur worried about Charlotte (page 136)?

Wilbur was concerned about Charlotte because she was swollen, listless and had very little energy.



Charlotte's Web Novel Study Chapters Eighteen & Nineteen

1. What does Templeton find that Charlotte thinks is perfect. Why?

2. How does Mrs. Arable feel when she sees Fern riding the ferris wheel with Henry Fussy (page 139)?

3. How does Charlotte describe morning to Wilbur (page 143)?

*heard *saw *felt *smelled

4. Describe what Charlotte made and tell why it was special.

5. Why do you think Charlotte said she wouldn't see her children (page 146)?

6. How did Templeton look after his night at the fairgrounds (page 147)?

7. How did Templeton try to hurt and scare Wilbur (page 148)?

Charlotte's Web Novel Study Chapters Eighteen & Nineteen

1. What does Templeton find that Charlotte thinks is perfect?

Templeton finds a scrap of newspaper with the word "humble" for her to write in the web for Wilbur. Charlotte thinks it's perfect, because humble has two meanings which both fit Wilbur—low to the ground and not proud.

2. How does Mrs. Arable feel when she sees Fern riding the ferris wheel with Henry Fussy (page 139)?

Mrs. Arable feels relieved and happy to see Fern having a nice time with a boy.

3. How does Charlotte describe morning to Wilbur (page 143)?

***heard** ***saw** ***felt** ***smelled**

Morning is when the first light comes into the sky and the sparrows stir and the cows rattle their chains, when the rooster crows and the stars fade, when early cars whisper along the highway.

4. Describe what Charlotte made and tell why it was special.

Charlotte made a peach-colored sac which was very strong and waterproof containing five hundred and fourteen eggs.

5. Why do you think Charlotte said she wouldn't see her children (page 146)?

Charlotte said she wouldn't see her children because she was old for a spider and in the process of dying.

6. How did Templeton look after his night at the fairgrounds (page 147)?

Templeton was swollen to twice his size and his belly was as big around as a jelly jar.

7. How did Templeton try to hurt and scare Wilbur (page 148)?

Templeton tried to hurt Wilbur's feelings by telling him that the pig uncle had already won the blue ribbon (first prize) and that Mr. Zuckerman would likely butcher Wilbur because he lost the competition.

Charlotte's Web Novel Study Chapter Twenty

1. Why was this chapter called "The Hour of Triumph" when no one even noticed Charlotte or recognized her work?

Charlotte's aim was to save Wilbur's life. When she heard the praise for Wilbur as an unusual pig and the praise for the miracle of words in a spider's web she knew that her goal had been accomplished. She had triumphed over Wilbur's circumstances and his life would be spared.

2. What kind of prize is Wilbur awarded and what is it for (page 158)?

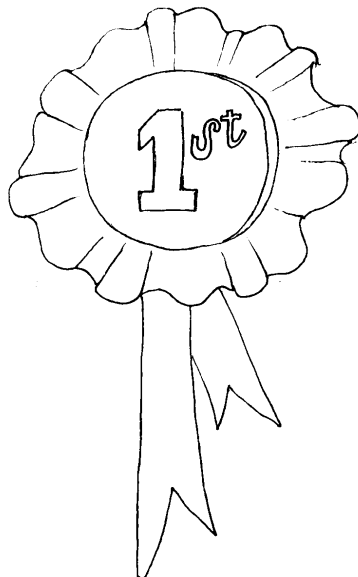
Wilbur was awarded twenty-five dollars and an engraved medal for attracting so many people to the fair by being an amazing pig.

3. Wilbur faints over all the attention. How is he awakened?

Wilbur is awakened when Templeton bites his tail.

4. How do the Zuckermans and Arables feel over winning such a prize?

The Zuckermans and Arables were filled with happiness and deep satisfaction over having won a special award in front of so many people.



Charlotte's Web Novel Study Chapter Twenty-One

1. When Wilbur asked Charlotte why she saved his life, what did she say?

2. Why wasn't Charlotte returning to the farm with Wilbur?

3. How did Wilbur get Charlotte's egg sac down from the ceiling of his pen at the fair? Where did he store it for the trip home?

4. Why is the end of this chapter so sad ?

Charlotte's Web Novel Study Chapter Twenty-One

1. When Wilbur asked Charlotte why she saved his life, what did she say?

Charlotte replied that she did it because Wilbur was her friend. Secondly, she said that life is short and by helping him it lifted her own life up in a small way.

2. Why wasn't Charlotte returning to the farm with Wilbur?

Charlotte's life span was almost finished and soon she would be unable to even move.

3. How did Wilbur get Charlotte's egg sac down from the ceiling of his pen at the fair? Where did he store it for the trip home?

Wilbur offered Templeton the best of his food when they got back to the farm in exchange for climbing the pen to its ceiling, snipping the threads which held the egg sac fast and fetching it for him. Wilbur stored the egg sac inside his mouth for the trip home, because it was waterproof.

4. Why is the end of this chapter so sad ?

The end of the chapter is so sad, because Charlotte, who saved Wilbur from death, is left alone to die in the fairgrounds.

Charlotte's Web Novel Study Chapter Twenty-Two

1. How did the author show that Wilbur's life was secure (page 172)?

2. How did the author show that Fern had grown passed listening to farm animals and into a new stage (pages 173 & 183)?

3. Describe two ways Wilbur looked after the egg sac (page 176).

4. Describe Wilbur's reaction to seeing Charlotte's children (page 177).

5. Describe what Charlotte's babies did that surprised and upset Wilbur (pages 178 & 179).

6. After crying himself to sleep, what happened the next day that filled Wilbur's heart with joy (pages 180 & 181)

7. At the beginning of Wilbur's life on Zuckerman's farm he wanted a friend more than anything. How was his desire fulfilled (page 183)?

8. Why couldn't any of Charlotte's descendants take her place in Wilbur's heart (page 184)? Give three reasons.

Charlotte's Web Novel Study Chapter Twenty-Two

1. How did the author show that Wilbur's life was secure (page 172)?

The author showed that Wilbur's life was secure in two ways:

*Mr. Zuckerman hung Wilbur's medal on a nail over the pigpen for visitors to see

*Wilbur grew very large over time and no longer worried about being losing his life

2. How did the author show that Fern had grown passed listening to farm animals and into a new stage (pages 173 & 183)?

The author showed that Fern had grown into a new stage in two ways:

*She told her brother that riding on the Ferris wheel with Henry Fussy was the most fun there is.

*Fern stopped coming regularly to the barn and avoided childish things such as sitting on the milk stool near the pigpen.

3. Describe two ways Wilbur looked after the egg sac (page 176).

Two ways Wilbur looked after the egg sac are:

*He scooped out a special place for it in the manure.

*He warmed it with his breath on cold nights.

4. Describe Wilbur's reaction to seeing Charlotte's children (pg. 177).

When Wilbur saw Charlotte's children he: squealed, raced in circles, kicked manure into the air, turned a back flip and planted his front feet.

5. Describe what Charlotte's babies did that surprised and upset Wilbur (pages 178 & 179).

One warm, windy day, the baby spiders spun balloons of fine silk and sailed away into the sky.

6. After crying himself to sleep, what happened the next day that filled Wilbur's heart with joy (pages 180 & 181)

The next afternoon, Wilbur heard three tiny voices coming from the doorway. When he looked up, he discovered three of Charlotte's daughters spinning webs at the top of the doorway.

Charlotte's Web Novel Study Chapter Twenty-Two

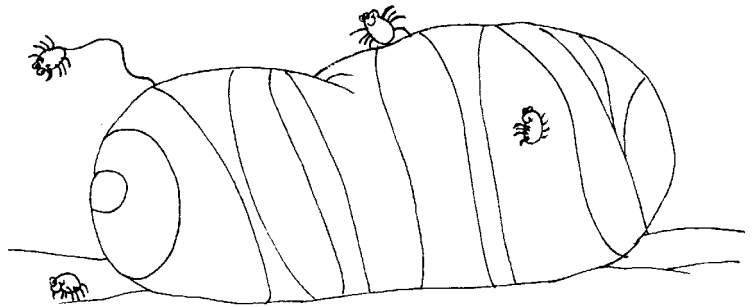
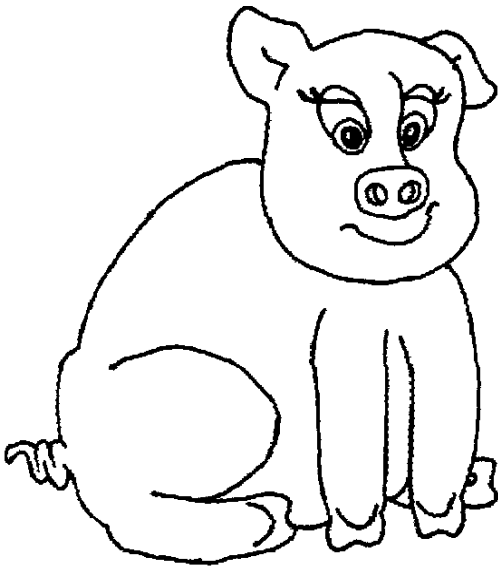
7. At the beginning of Wilbur's life on Zuckerman's farm he wanted a friend more than anything. How was his desire fulfilled (page 183)?

Throughout the years Wilbur was never without friends. Two or three of Charlotte's descendants continued to live in the doorway to keep Wilbur company. He continued to have visitors and enjoyed the company of birds, the geese, the sheep and even rats!

8. Why couldn't any of Charlotte's descendants take her place in Wilbur's heart (page 184)?

No one could ever take Charlotte's place because she:

- *had saved his life
- *been a true friend
- *been a good writer



Charlotte's Web Novel Study Culminating Activity

Summarize this book in your own words.

Use character motives, their corresponding action, the main story complications (tricks, disasters, acts of god, use of force) and be sure to include if the characters achieved their motives.

This book begins on a farm where a young girl, Fern, saves a runt pig from being butchered by her father. The pig, Wilbur, is raised and sold to Fern's uncle where it lives the rest of its life. Wilbur finds his new home lonely and wants a friend. He soon develops a friendship with a spider named Charlotte. Weeks pass and then Wilbur learns from the sheep that Farmer Zuckerman is fattening him up to butcher. Wilbur is panicked and doesn't want to die. Charlotte promises to save Wilbur's life. Over the course of several weeks, Charlotte spins words into her web which indicate that Wilbur is an amazing pig. People come from far and wide to see the miracle in the web and visit Wilbur. Farmer Zuckerman decides to take Wilbur to the fair. Charlotte and Templeton, the rat, accompany Wilbur in his crate. Charlotte spins one last word into her web for Wilbur and creates an egg sac. As a result of all the words in Charlotte's web, Wilbur wins a prize for being special and attracting so many people to the fair. The Zuckerman's are thrilled with winning a prize and Charlotte is pleased that Wilbur's life will be spared. When Wilbur returns to the farm with Charlotte's egg sac, she remains behind and dies alone in the empty fair grounds. So it was that the one who appeared fearless of death dies and the fearful one lived. The story finishes with the hatching of Charlotte's egg sac and how not only was Wilbur's life spared, but her offspring provide a lifetime of friendship for him.