

## Sample Book Report on Charlotte's web

**Introduction:** Charlotte's web is a novel by E. B. White, about a pig named Wilbur who befriends an intelligent spider named Charlotte who saves him from being killed for Christmas dinner.

**Plot Summary:** Wilbur the pig is in danger of being killed and eaten at Christmas time, but he has a friend in the form of a spider called Charlotte A. Cavatica (deceased). She helps him to escape his fate and save his life by spinning words into her web that describe him as miraculous and unique. Mrs Zuckerman, owner of the farm where he lives writes down the words on paper and sends them off to be published; this makes Wilbur famous and results in more animals living at the farm and more food to be given to Wilbur and his fellow animals.

### Characters:

Wilbur the pig and the protagonist of the story.

Charlotte A. Cavatica – a large grey spider who befriends Wilbur, speaks in short riddles that have to be decoded by humans, eats flies, builds webs with words on them, dies after she spins a particularly elaborate word web telling of Wilbur's impending fate at Christmas dinner.

**Epilogue:** Charlotte has saved Wilbur from being killed for Christmas dinner but ironically becomes dinner herself after spinning her last and greatest word web which saves the life of another one of the Zuckermans' pigs named Joy whom they had initially decided to kill instead of Wilbur. Joy is taken to live on another farm where the other pigs bully her and she is mistreated until an old sheep named Maude comes along and helps Joy adapt to her new life. Wilbur visits Joy when she returns to see him and in their conversation they both admit that they

would not have done anything differently in any given situation even though it may have resulted in a happier outcome for them.

**Conclusion:** Charlotte's web is an animal fable about friendship, food, and mortality. Wilbur lives his life happy at the Zuckerman farm as long as he has his friend Charlotte by his side, but after she dies he still manages to find happiness as long as he remembers her. The plot of this story can be interpreted in multiple ways. The story of Wilbur the pig and Charlotte the spider saving each other from death is also a metaphor for how people help one another get through difficult times and if anyone involved either was removed from the situation it would not be as good as it is with all three together. People work better in combination than alone because they support one another, which was evident when Wilbur showed up at his pen mate Joy's new home to see how she was doing and made her feel welcome into their family. While there he reminded her that although Charlotte may no longer be around, she did save him and their friendship will never die, which becomes obvious when after some time passed Joy returned to visit Wilbur on his farm and they became pen mates. This story can also be interpreted as a metaphor for life and death. Wilbur the pig is representative of people in their lives, Charlotte represents death or a struggle in life that must be overcome no matter what, and Joy represents a rebirth after something has died or been lost.

**Jargon:**

Spider – an eight legged invertebrate usually found living in webbing from which it obtains its food by trapping insects by ensnaring them with sticky threads ejected from its abdomen

*Fable* – a short fictional account featuring animals behaving like humans who are representative of certain human traits and characteristics; often demonstrating a principle of conduct through the use of animal examples; convey ethics and morality using animals to appeal to readers

*Anthropomorphic* – describing animals as if they were human, portraying them like humans in terms of their thoughts and emotions.

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