

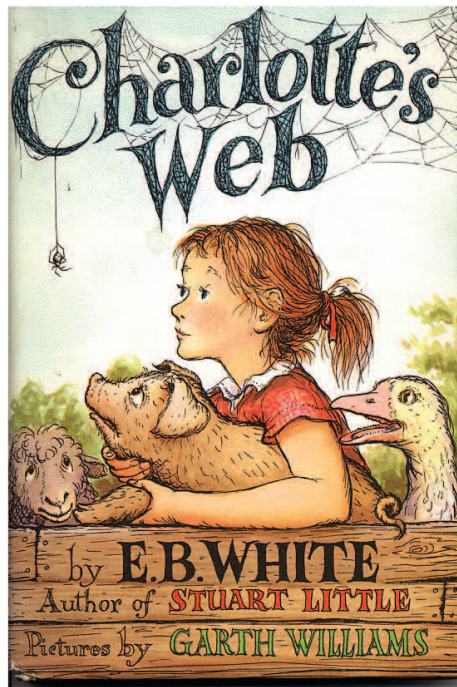
Reading ^{with} Relevance

Building INDEPENDENT READERS and THINKERS

A TEACHER'S GUIDE FOR

Charlotte's Web

A novel by E.B. White



Recommended for:
Grade Levels
3rd - 4th

A tool to inspire change

This literacy curriculum is constructed around a content-rich novel that builds students' literacy skills and supports their character development and self-confidence. Students are motivated to read because they relate to the strong, diverse, and resilient characters featured in our selected novels and because each session gives them the opportunity to connect what they've read to their own lives.

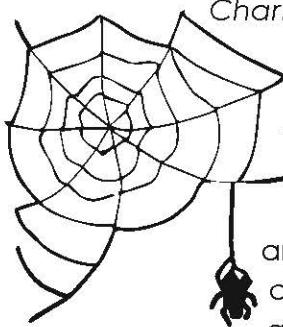
Developed, field-tested, and refined in our own tutoring and mentoring programs, this Common Core Standards curriculum has inspired persistently low-performing students to engage with literature, make meaning in their lives, and improve their English language arts skills. Now, *Reading with Relevance* is available to help you dig deep into the social, emotional, and academic needs of your students whether in your classroom, after-school program, or youth development agency!

This teacher's guide includes:

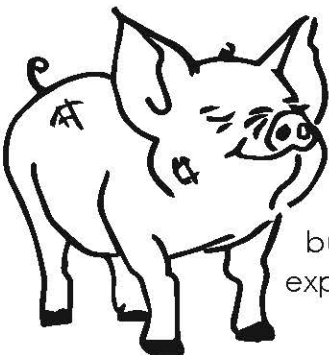
- A facilitator's guide with tips and resources for implementing the curriculum.
- A map of Common Core Standards addressed through this program.
- Fourteen individual lesson plans, including vocabulary, discussion questions, journal prompts, extension activities, and all handouts.
- Two assessments to monitor student progress.
- Regular checkpoints to help teachers assess their students' progress on ELA standards.
- A culminating essay-building unit.
- An appendix with additional teaching resources and activities to continue exploring this novel.

Why

Charlotte's Web



Charlotte's Web tells the story of Wilbur the pig, highlighting his extraordinary friendship with Charlotte the spider, and tracing her plan to save Wilbur from serving as the main course of an upcoming Christmas feast. We chose this novel for its powerful attention to some rich social and emotional themes: friendship, empathy, fear, loss, and perseverance. Students will find themselves relating to and being inspired by Wilbur's journey from fear to friendship; this curriculum will help students build connections between Wilbur's experiences and their own.



Session 8

pages 92-104

Vocabulary

astounding (pg 97):
adj., very surprising

discarded (pg 97): adj.,
thrown away

tattered (pg 97): adj.
worn to shreds

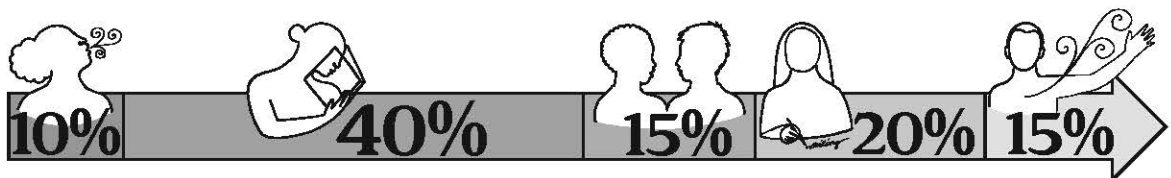
rummaging (pg 97): v.,
searching through things

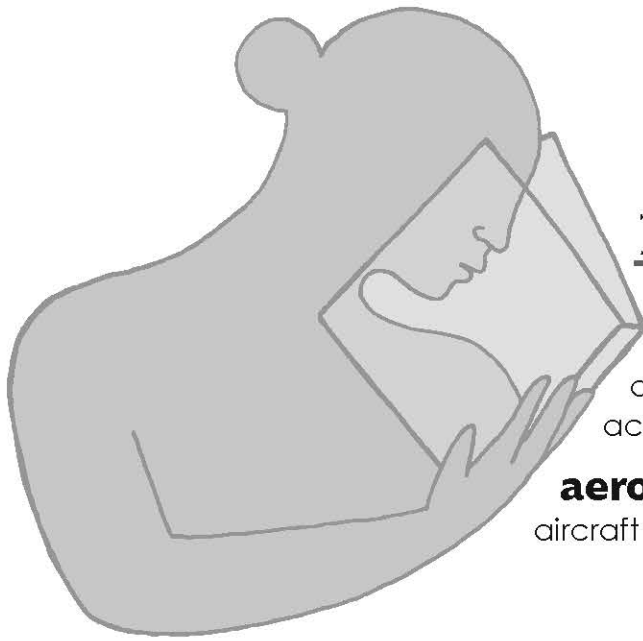
Today's Theme

Today's theme is **encouragement**. Have students think about the importance of Charlotte's encouragement of Wilbur and how good Wilbur feels when he finally thinks he is "radiant." Remind students that it's important to encourage others and themselves. Have them think about ways they can be encouraging. Have them also start to think about how they can encourage themselves—in what ways are they radiant, like Wilbur?

Session 7 Recap

Charlotte weaves "Some Pig" in her web. This causes a big commotion with the Zuckermans and the townspeople, who think it is a miracle and that Wilbur is a special pig. The barn animals have a meeting to come up with suggestions for a new phrase or word for Charlotte to weave into her next web.





During Reading

orb and radial lines (pg 92): orb lines are the lines that go around the web in a circle, and radial lines are the lines that go across the web (like the radius of a circle)

aeronaut (pg 103): a person who operates an aircraft



Discussion Questions

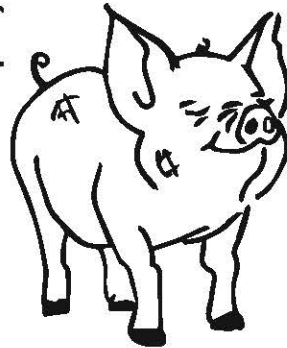
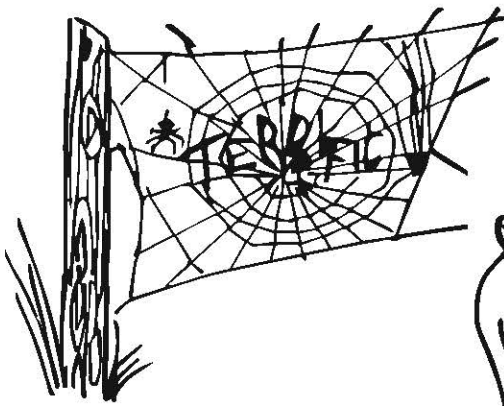
- How does Charlotte feel about making webs? Why does she feel this way?
- What does Templeton do to help save Wilbur?
- Why does Wilbur feel radiant?
- What do you learn about Charlotte's cousins?
- Before he thought he wasn't special, but now he feels radiant—why do you think Wilbur's feelings about himself have changed?

ENCOURAGEMENT

- Charlotte cheers herself on when working on her web.
Describe a time when you have been cheered on or encouraged.
 - » What happened? Who cheered you on?
 - » How did this feel?
 - » How do you encourage yourself to keep going when you are working on a hard task?

POSITIVE AFFIRMATION

- Before, Wilbur said he wasn't a special pig, but now he feels radiant!
What do you like about yourself?
 - » Make a list of at least five (non-physical) things that you like about yourself, and explain why each quality makes you feel good. For example, you can write, "I am a good friend."
 - » Why do you think it is important to be positive about yourself?



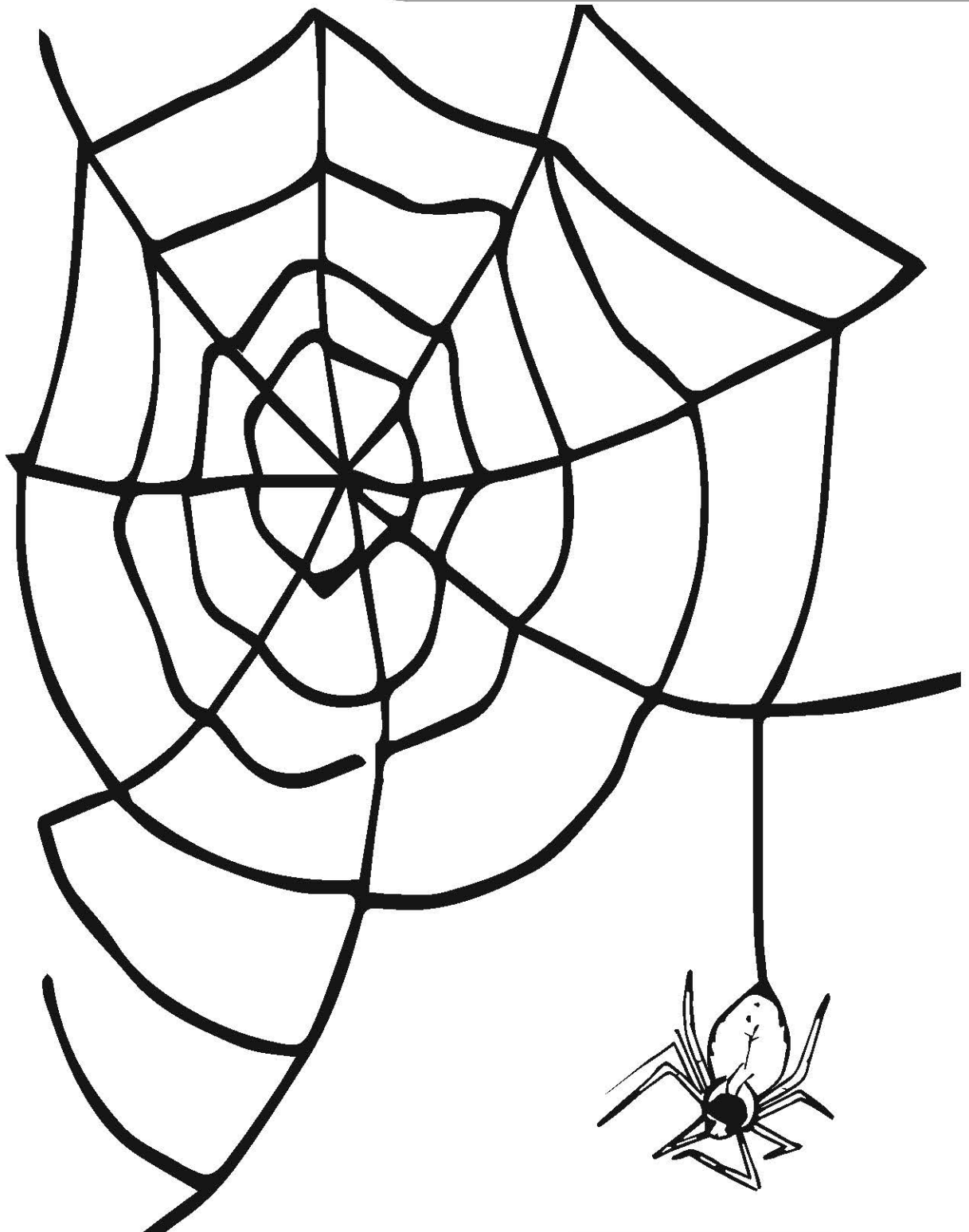
Extension Activity

Charlotte brainstormed new words and phrases that define Wilbur, and Templeton helped by finding words in magazines. Your students will decorate a web with positive words or phrases that describe themselves. Have them look through magazines and cut out words, then paste them in their webs. They can also use words from their Pig Word Banks by drawing them in the webs. If you don't have materials, students can brainstorm positive words together and draw them on the webs. Remind students to choose positive words that describe them and to look up any words they aren't sure of in a dictionary.

Materials:

- » "Some Kid!" Handout

Name: _____



Charlotte brainstormed new words and phrases that define Wilbur to weave into her web, and Templeton helped by finding words in magazines. Now it's your turn to decorate a web with positive words or phrases to describe yourself. Look through magazines and cut out words you find that describe you. You can cut out and paste these onto your web. If there are words you like from your Pig Word Bank, you can write them on your web as well.

Some Kid!

Appendix

Additional Activities

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About Us

MOVING FORWARD[™]

I N S T I T U T E

Get to Know MFI

Moving Forward Institute is a nonprofit publisher of social justice educational materials. The organization was created by the founders and staff of Moving Forward Education, a multi-generational tutoring and mentoring organization aimed at fostering academic and emotional success for underserved students in California. Since our founding in 2003, MFE has provided tutoring and mentoring services to thousands of students and has trained hundreds of young adults to enter careers in the educational field. This reading curriculum was developed by our leadership team and its advisory group, including credentialed teachers and college professors. This program has been successfully facilitated throughout California by achieving powerful and measurable results for students and schools. To learn more about our organization, or our research and data, please contact us today.

Our Purpose

At Moving Forward Institute, we know that students can be successful learners when their social and emotional needs are met.

We empower educators to meet the academic, social, and emotional needs of their students by using culturally-relevant and gender-responsive reading curricula.

Training and Professional Development Services

While lesson plans are designed to be easily facilitated by classroom teachers and after-school staff alike, our in-person training and professional development services will ensure fully effective implementation of the literacy curricula.

Additionally, we offer technical support, classroom observation, and program evaluation services to help your program be successful. Contact us for more information about these services!

Contact Us

Contact us today to learn more about how the Moving Forward Institute can support your students and staff!

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If your students liked *Charlotte's Web*...

...they might love some of our other book selections! We suggest that you check out *Bud, Not Buddy* or *Walk Two Moons*. Please visit our website today to browse our full selection of socially and emotionally rich novel-based curricula!