

Table of Contents

	Page
Chapter Summaries	1-10
Before You Read	11-12
Vocabulary	
Word Lists and Definitions	13-16
Dictionary Digs.	17-22
Silly Sentences/Spot the Antonym	23-25
Reading Assessment	
Short Answer	26-47
Objective Tests	48-72
Think, Write, Create	
Chapter Activities	73-84
Whole Book Activities	85-89
Graphic Organizers	90-102
Answer Keys	103-118

Chapter Summaries

Chapter I Before Breakfast

- One morning before breakfast, eight-year-old Fern Arable is upset that Papa has gone to the hoghouse with an ax to get rid of a runt pig born the night before.
- Fern rushes from the house into the outdoor springtime and begs her father not to kill the pig.
- Mr. Arable tells Fern she must learn to control herself. He says a weakling makes trouble.
- Fern asks her father if he would have killed her if she had been very small at birth. She characterized what her father is planning to do as a *terrible case of injustice*.
- Mr. Arable sends Fern back to the house with a promise that he will bring the runt in to her.
- Inside the carton that Fern's father puts on her chair is the newborn white pig. Fern says he's absolutely perfect. She is holding the pig when her brother Avery enters the room.
- Ten-year-old Avery criticizes Fern's pig for being no bigger than a white rat, but he asks if he can have one, too. Mr. Arable says he only gives pigs to early risers.
- Fern cannot eat until her pig has a drink of milk. She sits on the floor in the kitchen and feeds her infant.
- The school bus arrives. Mrs. Arable takes the pig and gives Fern a doughnut. By the time the bus reaches school, Fern has named her pet Wilbur.

Chapter II Wilbur

- Fern loves Wilbur more than anything. She feeds him every morning and several times more after she gets home from school. Wilbur watches Fern with adoring eyes when she warms his bottles.
- Wilbur is soon moved from his box near the stove in the kitchen to a bigger box in the woodshed. When he is two weeks old, Wilbur goes outdoors to live in a large wooden box full of straw under an apple tree. He burrows and disappears under the straw where he is comfortable and warm.
- Each morning Wilbur walks with Fern to wait for the school bus and stays to watch it vanish around the turn. He waits inside his yard until Fern comes home. He follows her everywhere.
- Fern puts Wilbur in the carriage beside her doll when he grows tired during their walks. She wheels the carriage very slowly so as not to wake her infants.
- One warm afternoon, when Fern and Avery go swimming in the brook, Wilbur amuses himself in the mud along the edge of the brook. The pig's days are happy and his nights are peaceful.
- Wilbur is a spring pig. When he is five weeks old, Mr. Arable says he must be sold like his ten brothers and sisters. Despite Fern's tears, Mr. Arable does not give in. Mrs. Arable suggests that Fern call her Uncle Homer Zuckerman who sometimes raises pigs. On the Zuckerman farm, Wilbur will be close enough for Fern to visit often.
- Mr. Arable suggests that Fern sell her pig for six dollars. The next day, Wilbur is taken from his home under the apple tree and goes to live in a manure pile in the cellar of Zuckerman's barn.

Chapter III Escape

- Homer Zuckerman's barn is very large and very old, but Wilbur's manure pile in the cellar is warm and comfortable.
- Fern visits her Uncle Homer's farm almost every afternoon to sit on a milking stool as she thinks and listens and watches Wilbur. She is not allowed to take the pig out or go into his pen. The animals get to know and trust her because she is so quiet and friendly.
- Wilbur is happy to have Fern sitting outside his pen, but he never has any fun. One afternoon in June, when he is almost two months old, Wilbur believes that he's tired of living. There was no place to go but indoors or out into his small pen.
- The goose tells Wilbur that there is a loose board in the fence. Wilbur pushes it open with his head and squeezes through. On the advice of the goose, he goes to the orchard.
- Wilbur has rooted up quite a piece of ground before Mrs. Zuckerman sees him from the kitchen window and shouts for Mr. Zuckerman and Lurvy, the hired man.

Dictionary Digs

Set One: Chapter 1 Before Breakfast—Chapter V Charlotte

Dig into your favorite dictionary to find answers to all the following questions about some challenging words from the first five chapters of **Charlotte's Web**. Write the **letters** of the correct answers in the blanks to the left.

- _____ 1. Which of the following is the best example of a **morsel**? (A) a piece of a broken chocolate chip cookie, (B) a tract of land less than one acre, (C) a cheese sandwich.
- _____ 2. A **glutton** is a person who (A) follows a strict vegetarian diet, (B) likes only one type of food and is a picky eater as well, (C) eats and drinks in excessive amounts.
- _____ 3. A synonym for the word **meekly** is (A) casually, (B) boisterously, (C) docilely.
- _____ 4. A good example of a fine **specimen** is (A) the tallest member of a basketball team, (B) a dog awarded the title of Best in Show, (C) any new technological discovery.
- _____ 5. Which of the following phrases illustrates the *best* use of the word **enchanted**? (A) an **enchanted** solution to the problem, (B) fully **enchanted** with the most modern equipment, (C) **enchanted** by the baby's smile.
- _____ 6. Which of the following words is closely associated with the term **sopping**? (A) mopping, (B) soaked, (C) sentimental
- _____ 7. The word that is an *antonym* of **detested** is (A) adored (B) abhorred, (C) ejected.
- _____ 8. Which of the following cartoons *best* illustrates the meaning of the word **dejected**?

(A)



(B)

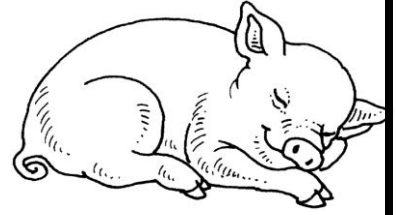


(C)

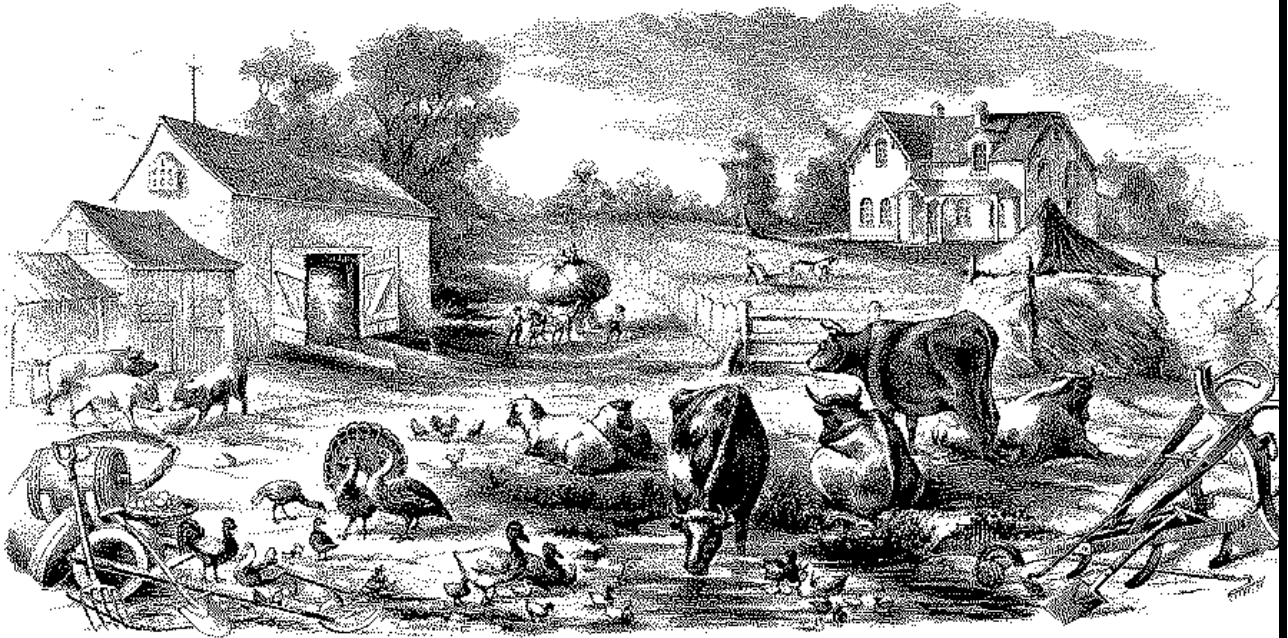


- _____ 9. Under what circumstances is a person *most likely* to use a **lure**? When he or she (A) is shopping for a bargain, (B) is fishing, (C) wants to remain anonymous.
- _____ 10. A word that does not rhyme with **trough** is (A) cough, (B) scoff, (C) rough.
- _____ 11. Which word can be substituted for **cunning** in the following sentence without changing its meaning?
*With skillful use of words and **cunning**, Mr. Hensley drew others into his scheme.*
 (A) shrewdness, (B) charisma, (C) ineptness
- _____ 12. Something that would probably **not** be part of a **hullabaloo** is (A) noise or excitement, (B) celebrations and festivities, (C) tranquility and quiet.
- _____ 13. A synonym for **blissful** is (A) euphoric, (B) dejected, (C) reproachful.

Chapter I Before Breakfast



1. How did Fern find out that her father was going to kill the runt pig?
2. How old was Fern?
3. What example did Fern give her father to prove that killing the little pig was unfair?
4. How did Fern describe her father's intention to kill the runt?
5. Where did Fern find the pig when she came downstairs from changing her sneakers?
6. What color was the pig?
7. How did Mr. Arable answer when Fern's brother asked if he could have a pig?
8. What was Fern doing when the school bus honked from the road?
9. How did Fern feel about having entire charge of a pig?
10. Why did Fern answer the teacher's question about the capital of Pennsylvania with "Wilbur"?



Chapter I: *Before Breakfast*
Pages 1-7

Write either **True** or **False** in the blank before each statement.

- _____ 1. Mr. Arable planned to kill the small new-born pig because it was sick.
- _____ 2. Mr. Arable was going to destroy the pig with an ax.
- _____ 3. Fern asked her father if he would have killed her if she had been born very small.
- _____ 4. Fern thought killing the pig was unfair and a terrible injustice.
- _____ 5. Mr. Arable brought the pig into the house so Fern could bottle feed it.
- _____ 6. When she saw the pig in the carton, Fern said he was absolutely too small for her to take care of.
- _____ 7. Avery was Fern's younger brother.
- _____ 8. Mr. Arable said Fern got the pig because she was an early riser.
- _____ 9. Fern had trouble getting the pig to drink from the baby bottle.
- _____ 10. Fern named the pig Wilbur.

Think, Write, Create

Chapter Activities

Chapter 1 Before Breakfast

Eight-year-old Fern cried and begged her father not to destroy the runt pig. She sealed the little animal's fate by asking her father if he would have killed her if she had been born very small.

- Which **two** of the following words do you think **best** describe the way Fern's father behaved during this episode? Explain your choice. Include the definitions of the words you selected in your answer.

practical

sensitive

cruel

loving

considerate

realistic

flexible

callous

compassionate

logical

- Choose **two** words from the list below that you believe **best** describe Fern's behavior. Explain why they are the appropriate words. Use the words' definitions as part of your explanation.

impulsive

compassionate

assertive

tender-hearted

hysterical

undisciplined

naive

juvenile

humane

empathetic

When Avery asked if he could have a pig, Mr. Arable told his son he only distributed pigs to early risers. Mr. Arable's words were very much like the adage "*The early bird gets the worm.*"

What do you think this old saying means both *literally* (as it applies to actual birds and worms) and *figuratively* (as it applies to people getting what they want)? A maxim that seems to contradict the *early bird* advice is "*Better late than never.*" How do you interpret this idea?

Which bit of wisdom do you believe people should follow? Are both of them valuable? Which one do you think **best** describes the way you do things?

Think carefully, and then write a composition about ***The Early Bird Gets the Worm, But Better Late Than Never.*** (See **Graphic Organizer #1**)

The objects Avery took with him when he ran to catch the bus and his attitude toward the pig are clues to his personality.

- What were the objects that Avery carried? What do they tell you about his interests?
- How was Avery's attitude toward the runt pig different from Fern's? Which child was more interested in animals and their care? How can you prove that your answer is correct?
- Do you think Avery is a bad person? Why or why not?

The collection of toys Avery carried with him to school indicate that Charlotte's story was written quite a while ago.

- Prove it to yourself by thinking about what would happen to Avery if he came to your class adorned as described in the story?
 - Do you remember a time in your school career when such a thing would have been allowed?
 - What year was ***Charlotte's Web*** written? How old is the story?
-

The Early Bird Gets the Worm, But Better Late Than Never



When Avery asked if he could have a pig, Fern's father said he only distributed pigs to early risers.

Mr. Arable's words were very much like the adage "*The early bird gets the worm.*" What do you think this old saying means both *literally* (as it applies to actual birds and worms) and *figuratively* (as it applies to people getting what they want)? A maxim that seems to contradict the *early bird* advice is "*Better late than never.*" How do you interpret this idea?

Which bit of wisdom do you believe people should follow? Are both of them valuable? Which one do you think **best** describes the way you do things? Use the thinking map below to organize your ideas and write a composition about ***The Early Bird Gets the Worm, But Better Late Than Never.***

What **literal** and **figurative** meaning do you see in the old adage "*The early bird gets the worm.*"?

What rule for living is hidden in the phrase "**Better late than never**"?

How do you feel about these ideas? Is one better than the other? Are they both valuable? Explain. . .

Which are you—an **early bird** or a **better-late-than-never** person? Explain your answer with examples. . .