



Charlotte's Web Summary

Salutations from Zuckerman's farm where a pig's "tale" hangs by a thread! This story spins into action, as poor little Wilbur the pig has his life spared from an untimely death--or is it just temporarily delayed?

A young farm girl named Fern befriends this little runt of a pig and Wilbur can't be happier -- humans taking care of him and friendly farm animals surrounding him (of course, some are NOT too pleasant). Living in this ordinary barnyard is made extra special by the presence of his own manure pile in which he can rest! This is just more than he can imagine! The elaborate comforts of home suddenly lose their importance when Wilbur hears the startling announcement that HE, WILBUR, will be the guest of honor ON the holiday dinner table---with a shiny red apple decorating his mouth!

Learning of his unfortunate destiny is just too much! The fear of losing his life begins to fade when a still, small voice floats through the peaceful barn rafters from an unpretentious arachnid who calmly goes about her business of spinning webs and preparing for her own family. Charlotte, the name of this compassionate spider, offers her talents to save Wilbur's life.

Encouraging days follow as Charlotte spins amazing words in her web. "Humble," "Radiant," "AWE some Pig," well-suited words describing Wilbur. People come from all around to see this astonishing addition to an otherwise normal site. The farm animals gladly pitch in for this life-saving effort. Good old Templeton, the rat, even makes a contribution, even though his obnoxious humor always makes you question his motives. Winning a blue ribbon at the county fair would be a sure lifesaver for Wilbur, and Mr. Zuckerman just can't wait to show off his unexpected and unexplained treasure.

Wilbur heads to the fair with two stowaways carefully concealed deep in the straw lined crate. With Charlotte and Templeton's assistance, the fair becomes an amazing smorgasbord of happiness and success. Now, it is prize-winning Wilbur's turn to return a favor. Charlotte's "magnum opus" -- her egg sac -- hangs attached to Wilbur's shipping crate. Charlotte's final wish before her life comes to an end is to have her babies taken back to Zuckerman's farm. Wilbur willingly grants this request. The story is now complete with web-spinning success as Wilbur happily and contentedly roots his way through life with some of Charlotte's spiderlings.