

Charlotte's Web

Reader's Theater

With 30 Roles

Novel By: E.B. White

Reader's Theater By: Charlene and Laurel Uenaka

Mother/ Daughter Teacher Team

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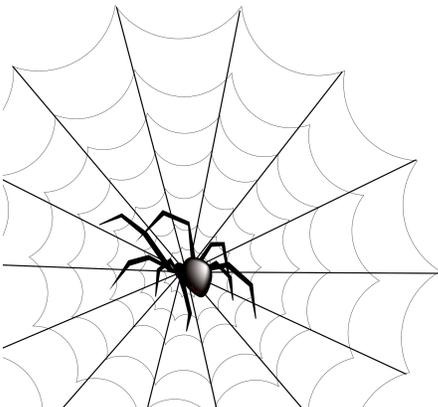
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About the Reader's Theater

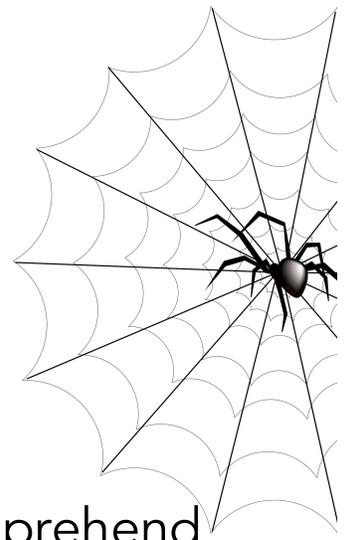
This readers' theater script contains five scenes adapted from Charlotte's Web. The scenes depict events that happen in the first half of the book. I have written the script with thirty roles for students.

To use this readers' theater, I divide students into five groups with each group responsible for a scene. If you have less than 30 students you can assign students multiple roles. The number of parts available to be assigned in each scene is listed below.

I have each student make and wear a nametag with their character's name on it. This makes it easier to tell who is who in the play. If time allows, it is more exciting if each group makes a background to hang behind their chairs when they are performing. This can be easily done with a piece of butcher paper. When performing the play I usually invite another class or parents to watch.



Common Core Standards Covered



RL.3.10- By the end of the year, read and comprehend literature stories, dramas, and poetry, at the high end of the 2-3 text complexity band independently and proficiently.

RF.3.4- Read with sufficient accuracy and fluency to support comprehension.

SL.3.5- Create engaging audio recordings of stories or poems that demonstrate fluid reading at an understandable pace.

RL.4.10- By the end of the year, read and comprehend literature stories, dramas, and poetry, in the grades 4-5 text complexity band proficiently, with scaffolding as needed at the high end of the range.

RF.4.4- Read with sufficient accuracy and fluency to support comprehension.

Roles in Each Scene

Scene 1 (six parts)

1. Fern
2. Mr. Arable
3. Mrs. Arable
4. Avery
5. Narrator 1
6. Narrator 2

Scene 4 (six parts)

1. Charlotte
2. Wilbur
3. Sheep
4. Gander
5. Templeton and Narrator 2
6. Narrator 1

Scene 2 (five parts)

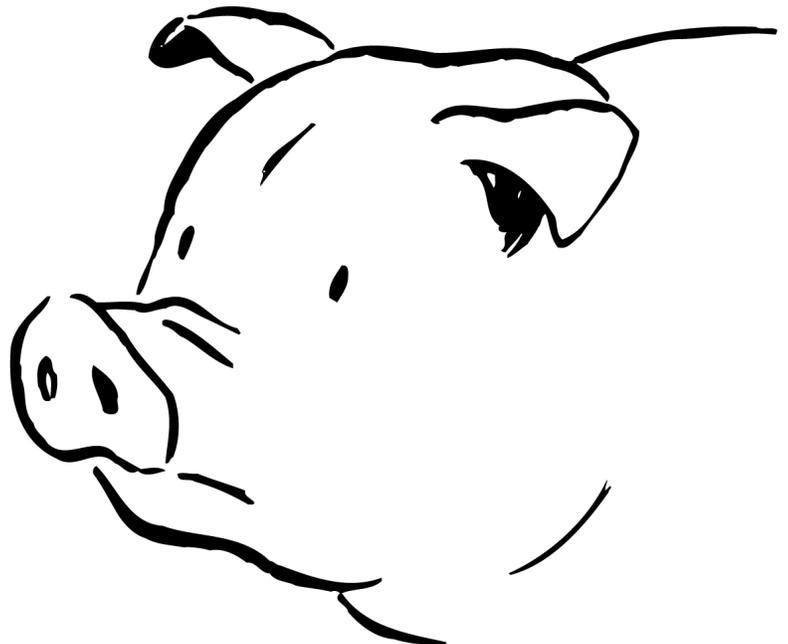
1. Charlotte
2. Wilbur
3. Templeton
4. Narrator 1
5. Narrator 2

Scene 5 (five parts)

1. Charlotte
2. Wilbur
3. Templeton
4. Narrator 1
5. Narrator 2

Scene 3 (eight parts)

1. Wilbur
2. Charlotte
3. Sheep
4. Lurvy
5. Mr. Zuckerman
6. Narrator 1
7. Narrator 2
8. Narrator 3



Scene One: Arable Farm

- Fern
- Mr. Arable
- Mrs. Arable
 - Avery
- Narrator1
- Narrator 2



Scene 1

Narrator 1: We've been reading a wonderful book called Charlotte's Web, by E.B. White and we would like to perform a readers' theater play from it. Charlotte's Web is a story about true friendship.

In this scene the part of Fern, the daughter, will be read by _____. _____ will be reading the part of Mrs. Arable, one of the owners of the farm. Mr. Arable will be read by _____. _____ will be reading the part of Avery, the son. Narrator 2 will be read by _____, and I will be reading the part of Narrator 1.

Narrator 2: The story begins one morning, at breakfast on the Arables' farm.

Fern: Where's Papa going with that ax?

Mrs. Arable: Out to the hoghouse. Some pigs were born last night.

Fern: I don't see why he needs an ax.

Mrs. Arable: Well, one of the pigs is a runt. It's very small and weak, and it will never amount to anything. So your father has decided to do away with it.

Fern: Do away with it? You mean kill it? Just because it's smaller than the others?

Mrs. Arable: Don't yell, Fern! Your father is right. The pig would probably die anyway.

Fern: Please don't kill it! It's unfair.

Mrs. Arable: Fern, you have to learn to control yourself.

Fern: Control myself? This is a matter of life and death, and you talk about controlling myself?

Mr. Arable: Fern, I know a lot more about raising a litter of pigs than you do. A weakling makes trouble. Now run along!

Fern: But it's unfair. The pig couldn't help being born small, could it? If I had been born very small at birth, would you have killed me?

Narrator 1: A strange look came over Mr. Arable's face. He looked ready to cry himself.

Mr. Arable: Certainly not. But this is different. A little girl is one thing. A little runty pig is another.

Fern: I see no difference. This is the most terrible case of injustice I have ever heard of.

Mr. Arable: All right. I'll let you start the runt on a bottle, like a baby. Then you'll see what trouble a pig can be.

Narrator 2: When Mr. Arable returned to the house he carried a cardboard carton containing the pig under his arm. Fern lifted the lid of the carton. Inside, looking up at her, was the newborn pig.

Mr. Arable: He's yours. Saved from an untimely death.

Narrator 1: Fern couldn't take her eyes off the little pig.

Fern: Oh, he's absolutely perfect.

Narrator 2: At that moment Avery, Fern's brother came into the kitchen.

Avery: What's that? What has Fern got?

Mrs. Arable: She has a special guest for breakfast.

Avery: Let me see it!

Narrator 1: He grabbed the box and peered inside.

Avery: You call that thing a pig. It's so little, it's no bigger than a rat.

Narrator 2: Avery sat down to eat his breakfast.

Avery: Can I have a pig too, Pop.

Mr. Arable: I only give pigs to early risers. Fern was up at daybreak, trying to rid the world of injustice. As a result, she got a pig. It just shows you what happens to people who get out of bed on time.

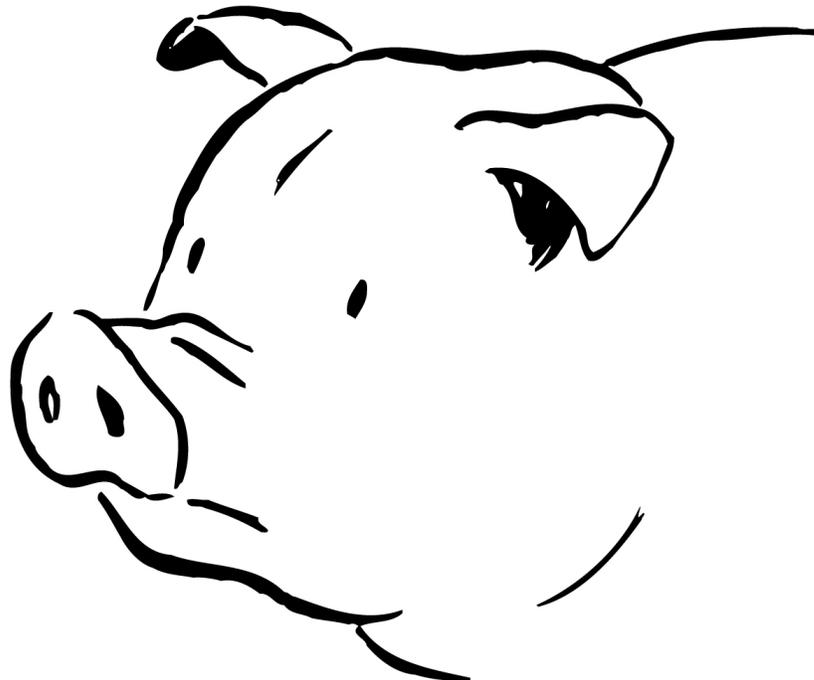
Narrator 1: The school bus honked from the end of the driveway.

Mrs. Arable: Run! Or you'll miss the bus.

Narrator 2: Fern reluctantly left the pig behind and headed off to school. All the way there she thought about what a wonderful world it was and how lucky she was to have a beautiful piglet to take care of.

Scene Two: Zuckerman Barnyard

- Charlotte
- Wilbur
- Templeton
- Narrator 1
- Narrator 2



SCENE 2

Narrator 2: In this scene the part of Wilbur, the pig, will be read by _____. _____ will be reading the part of Charlotte, the spider. Templeton, the rat, will be read by _____. _____ will be reading the part of Narrator 1 and I will be reading the part of Narrator 2.

Narrator 1: Fern named the pig Wilbur. She spent all of her free time with him. She fed him, played with him, and put him to bed. They had a wonderful time.

Narrator 2: When the pig was five weeks old, Mr. Arable said he was big enough to sell. Fern was heartbroken, but it was soon arranged. Wilbur was sold to Fern's uncle. The next day, Wilbur went to live in a manure pile in the cellar of Zuckerman's barn.

Narrator 1: At Zuckerman's Farm, Wilbur was very lonely. He tried to make friends with the other animals, but didn't have much luck until one day, when he heard a voice.

Charlotte: Salutations!

Wilbur: Salu-what?

Charlotte: Salutations!

Wilbur: What are they? And where are you? Please tell me where you are and what salutations are!

Charlotte: Salutations are greetings. When I say salutations, it's just my fancy way of saying hello or good morning. Actually, it's a silly expression, and I am surprised that I used it at all. As for my whereabouts, that's easy. I'm up here. Look, I'm waving. See me now?

Wilbur: Oh yes, indeed! How are you? Good morning! Salutations! Very pleased to meet you. What is your name please?

Charlotte: My name is Charlotte.

Wilbur: Charlotte what?

Charlotte: Charlotte A. Cavatica. But you can just call me Charlotte.

Wilbur: Charlotte, I think you are beautiful.

Narrator 2: Charlotte and Wilbur became very good friends. They had lots of fun in the barn cellar. One day, Wilbur watched Charlotte spinning her web.

Wilbur: You have awfully hairy legs, Charlotte.

Charlotte: My legs are hairy for a very good reason, all eight of them. Each leg has seven sections.

Wilbur: You're kidding! I don't think my legs have seven sections.

Charlotte: Well, you don't have to spin a web. That takes real leg work.

Wilbur: I could spin a web if I tried. I have just never tried.

Charlotte: Let's see you do it.

Wilbur: OK. You coach me and I'll spin one. How do I start?

Charlotte: Take a deep breath. Now climb to the highest place you can get to. Then make an attachment with your spinnerets. Throw yourself into space and let out a dragline as you go down.

Narrator 1: Wilbur climbed to the top of the manure pile and then jumped off. He hit the ground with a thump.

Wilbur: Ouch! What did I do wrong?

Charlotte: Nothing. It was a nice try.

Wilbur: I'll try again. I think what I need is a piece of string to hold me. Hello?...Templeton?

Templeton: You called?

Wilbur: Do you have a piece of string I could borrow? I need it to spin a web.

Templeton: (*Said with attitude*) All right. Everybody needs good old Templeton.

Wilbur: Thanks. Tie it to my tail, will you please, Templeton?

Templeton: Sure.

Narrator 1: Templeton tied the string to Wilbur's tail. He climbed up the manure pile again.

Wilbur: Everybody watch!

Templeton: This I gotta see.

Narrator 1: Wilbur jumped in the air and came crashing down.

Wilbur: Ouch!

Templeton: Hee, hee, hee.

Charlotte: Wilbur, you can't spin a web. You lack two things.

Wilbur: What two things?

Charlotte: You need a set of spinnerets, and you need know-how. But cheer up. Zuckerman supplies you with three big meals a day, so you should be thankful. I have to use my web to trap insects!

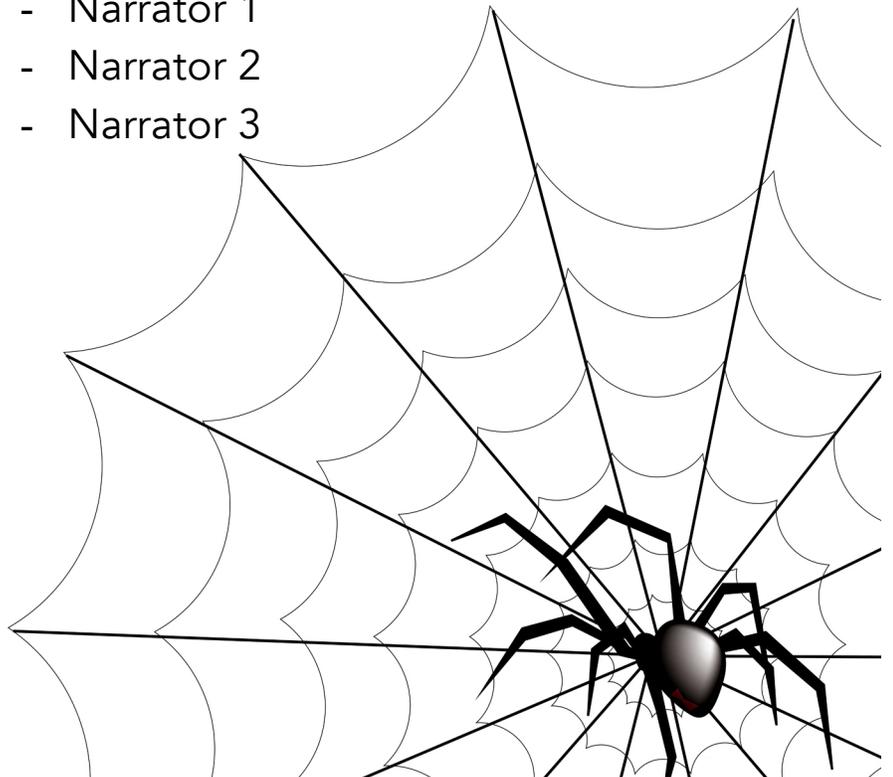
Wilbur: You're so clever, Charlotte. I guess I was just trying to show off.

Charlotte: Not many creatures can spin webs.

Narrator 2: Twilight settled over the Zuckerman's barn and with it a feeling of peace as all the animals settled in for an evening of rest.

Scene Three: Zuckerman Barnyard

- Wilbur
- Charlotte
- Sheep
- Lurvy
- Mr. Zuckerman
- Narrator 1
- Narrator 2
- Narrator 3



SCENE 3

Narrator 1: In this scene, Wilbur will be read by _____. _____ will be the sheep. _____ will be reading Charlotte. The part of Lurvy, the farm helper, will be read by _____. Mr. Zuckerman will be read by _____. Narrator 2 is _____. _____ will be reading Narrator 3, and I will be reading the part of Narrator 1.

Narrator 1: This scene continues the story as Charlotte and Wilbur become great friends.

Narrator 3: Wilbur liked Charlotte better and better each day. Her campaign against insects seemed sensible and useful. As the days went by, Wilbur grew and grew. He ate three big meals a day.

Narrator 2: He enjoyed good health and gained a lot of weight. One afternoon, the old sheep stopped by to visit Wilbur.

Sheep: Hello. It seems to me you're putting on weight.

Wilbur: Yes, I guess I am. At my age it's a good idea to keep gaining.

Sheep: Just the same, I don't envy you. You know why they're fattening you up, don't you?

Wilbur: No. Why?

Sheep: Well, I don't like to spread bad news, but they're fattening you up because they are going to kill you, that's why.

Wilbur: They're going to what?

Sheep: Kill you. Turn you into smoked bacon and ham. Almost all young pigs get murdered by the farmer as soon as real cold weather sets in. There's a regular conspiracy around here to kill you at Christmastime. Everybody is in on the plot - Lurvy, Mr. Zuckerman, Mr. Arable.

Wilbur: Fern's father?

Sheep: Certainly. When a pig is to be butchered, everybody helps. I'm an old sheep and I see the same thing, same old business, year after year. Arable arrives with his rifle, shoots the...

Wilbur: STOP! I don't want to die! Save me, somebody! Save me!

Narrator 2: Wilbur began racing frantically up and down the pen.

Charlotte: Be quiet, Wilbur.

Wilbur: I can't be quiet. I don't want to be killed. I don't want to die. Is it true, Charlotte, what the old sheep says? Do they really plan to kill me?

Charlotte: Well, the old sheep has been around this barn a long time. He has seen many a spring pig come and go. If he says they plan to kill you, I'm sure it's true. It's also the dirtiest trick I ever heard of. What people don't think of!

Wilbur: I don't want to die! I want to stay here in the beautiful sun, in my beautiful manure pile, breathe in the beautiful air...

Sheep: You're certainly making a beautiful noise.

Wilbur: I don't want to die!

Charlotte: You shall not die.

Wilbur: Really? Who is going to save me?

Charlotte: I am.

Wilbur: How?

Charlotte: I don't know yet, but I'll think of something.

Wilbur: Thank you, Charlotte.

Narrator 1: Charlotte hung quietly upside down in her web to think.

Narrator 3: Charlotte thought and thought of a way to save Wilbur's life. At last an idea came to her. She worked hard all through the night. The next morning, there in the web, neatly woven, were the words "SOME PIG."

Narrator 2: Lurvy, the farm helper was the first to see the words glistening in the web.

Lurvy: Some Pig? I must be seeing things.

Narrator 3: He ran to the house to tell Mr. Zuckerman what he had seen.

Lurvy: Mr. Zuckerman, I think you'd better come down to the pig pen.

Mr. Zuckerman: Is something wrong?

Lurvy: Not exactly, but you need to come and see right now.

Narrator 1: They both walked down to the barn cellar and stared at the writing in the web.

Narrator 3: After staring for a while. They both began to tremble. Charlotte smiled as she watched what was happening.

Mr. Zuckerman: Some Pig! It's a miracle. Lurvy, I guess this really is one special pig.

Narrator 2: Mr. Zuckerman ran to tell Mrs. Zuckerman what he had seen.

Mr. Zuckerman: Edith, I think you need to be told that we have a very unusual pig.

Narrator 1: The news of the miracle in the web spread all over the county. Soon, everybody knew that a sign had appeared in a spider's web on the Zuckerman place. Everybody knew that Zuckerman had a wondrous pig.

Narrator 2: People came from miles around to look at Wilbur and to read the words in Charlotte's web. Everyone talked about the miraculous pig. Charlotte and Wilbur became the best of friends.

Narrator 3: Everyone thought that Wilbur was a very special pig.

Wilbur: Great! This plan is working perfectly! Charlotte, you're the best friend a pig could ever hope for. Thank you for saving my life.

Scene Four: Zuckerman Barnyard

- Charlotte
- Wilbur
- Sheep
- Gander
- Templeton and Narrator 2
- Narrator 1



Scene 4

Narrator1: In this scene the part of Charlotte will be read by _____ Wilbur's part will be read by _____ will be reading the part of the sheep. The part of the gander will be read by _____. _____ will be reading the parts of Narrator 2 and Templeton. I will be reading the part of the Narrator 1.

Narrator 1: One evening, a few days after the writing had appeared in Charlotte's web, the spider called a meeting of all of the animals in the barn cellar.

Charlotte: I shall begin by calling the roll. Wilbur?

Wilbur: Here!

Charlotte: Gander?

Gander: Here, here, here

Charlotte: You sound like three ganders. Why don't you just say 'here'? Why do you repeat everything?

Gander: It's my idio, idio, idiosyncrasy.

Charlotte: Sheep?

Sheep: Bahhhh

Charlotte: Templeton?

Narrator 2: No answer

Charlotte: Well, we're all here except the rat. We'll proceed without him. The message I wrote in my web praising Wilbur has been well received. The Zuckermans and everybody else have fallen for it. The Zuckermans think Wilbur is a most unusual pig, therefore they won't kill and eat him. I think my trick has worked and Wilbur's life will be saved.

Everybody: Hurray!

Charlotte: Thank you very much. I need new ideas for the web. People are getting tired of reading "Some Pig" If anybody can think of another message I'll be able to weave it into the web. Any ideas?

Sheep: How about Pig Supreme?

Charlotte: No good, it sounds like a rich dessert.

Gander: How about terrific, terrific, terrific?

Charlotte: Cut that down to one terrific, and it will do just fine.

Wilbur: But Charlotte, I'm not terrific.

Charlotte: That doesn't make a bit of difference. People believe almost everyone they see in print. Does anyone know how to spell terrific?

Gander: I think its tee, double ee, double r double r , double eye, double f, double see see see .

Charlotte: What kind of acrobat do you think I am?

Gander: Well we need something new written in the web if Wilbur's life is to be saved.

Sheep: We can use “terrific” this time. Then we can send Templeton to the dump to find more words. He has access to old magazines and advertisements. He can tear out bits and bring them back up here to the barn cellar so that Charlotte can have something to copy.

Narrator 1: Soon Templeton showed up in the barn cellar.

Sheep: Templeton, Charlotte needs you to go to the dump to find something with words on it that she can write in her web. She is trying to save Wilbur’s life.

Templeton: Why should I care about Wilbur?

Sheep: If Wilbur dies you won’t get anymore of his left over food and you’ll starve.

Templeton: Okay, I do like Wilbur’s food scraps, so I will help you find more words. I’m sure I can find some magazine scraps at the dump. She can use those to get ideas.

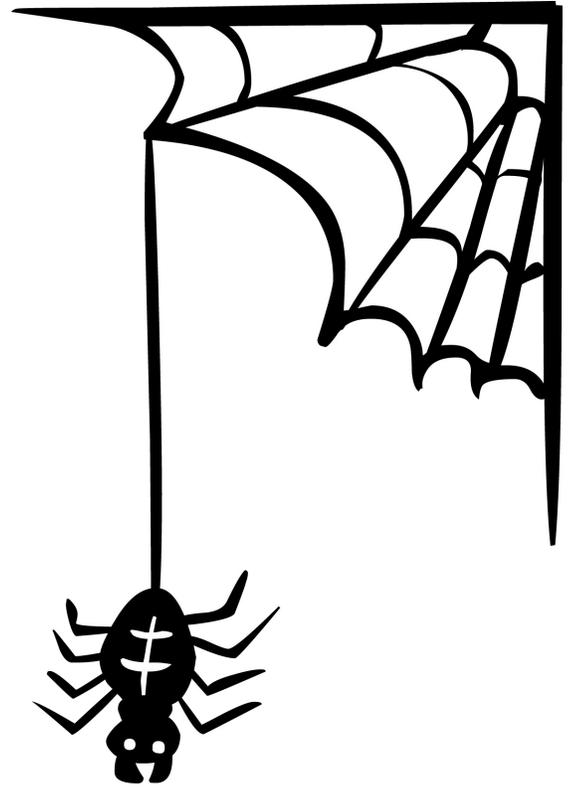
Charlotte: Thank you, Templeton. This meeting is now adjourned. I have a busy evening ahead of me. I’ve got to tear my web apart and write “Terrific.”

Narrator 1: Wilbur blushed at being called terrific.

Wilbur: But I'm not terrific, Charlotte. I'm just about average for a pig.

Charlotte: You're terrific as far as I'm concerned and that's what counts. You're my best friend and I think you're sensational. Now stop arguing and go get some sleep.

Narrator 2: Charlotte worked on her web far into the night. She was determined to save the life of her best friend.



Scene Five: Zuckerman Barnyard

- Charlotte
- Wilbur
- Templeton
- Narrator 1
- Narrator 2

Scene 5

Narrator 2: In this scene Charlotte's part will be read by _____ . _____ will be reading the part of Templeton. Wilbur's part will be read by _____ . _____ will be reading Narrator 1, and I will be reading the part of the narrator 2.

Narrator 1: Wilbur's fame grew. People who came to see him when he was "some pig" came back to see him when he was "terrific". Charlotte decided it was time to look for a new word for Wilbur's web.

Charlotte: Templeton, will you please go down to the dump and look for a new word for me to spin in my web?

Templeton: All right, all right. It seems like I do all the work around her.

Narrator 2: Templeton slunk away grumbling. He returned a few minutes later with a scrap of paper in his mouth.

Templeton: How's this?

Narrator 1: He showed the ad to Charlotte.

Templeton: It says "crunchy". Would crunchy be a good word for you to write in your web?

Charlotte: No, that's just the wrong idea. That would start Zuckerman thinking about crisp, crunchy bacon and ham.

Narrator 2: Templeton went back to the dump in search of a better word. As he went he grumbled...

Templeton: What do you think I am? An errand boy?

Narrator 1: He returned a few minutes later with a strip of blue and white cardboard in his mouth.

Templeton: Here, how's this?

Narrator 2: Charlotte read the words...

Charlotte: With new radiant action

Narrator 1: Charlotte read the words over and over while she looked at Wilbur.

Charlotte: Wilbur, get up and run around. I want to see you in action, to see if you are radiant.

Wilbur: Sure, Charlotte.

Narrator 2: Wilbur jumped up and raced to the end of his yard.

Charlotte: Jump in the air.

Wilbur: Okay!

Narrator 1: Wilbur jumped as high as he could.

Wilbur: How was that, Charlotte?

Charlotte: Do a back flip with a half twist in it.

Narrator 2: Wilbur went over backwards, twisting as he went.

Wilbur: Did that look radiant?

Charlotte: Yes, Wilbur you can rest now. Templeton, this ad will do. I'm not sure Wilbur's action is exactly radiant, but it's very interesting.

Wilbur: Actually, I feel pretty radiant.

Charlotte: Well, you're a good little pig and radiant you shall be.

Wilbur: Thank you, Charlotte.

Narrator 1: Wilbur lay down in the clean straw and closed his eyes. He was content knowing that his friend, Charlotte, was again looking after him.

Wilbur: In this book Charlotte and Wilbur teach us valuable lessons about life and friendship. If you want to know more about Charlotte, Wilbur and the rest of the characters, read *Charlotte's Web* by E. B. White.

Thank You!

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Thanks again!

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Charlene and Laurel Uenaka
Mother –Daughter Teacher Team