

Charlotte's Web - Chapters One & Two - Part One

Chapter One - Before Breakfast

1	At what time of day does the story begin?
2	Explain what a 'hoghouse' is and how you know.
3	How old is Fern?
4	Explain what a 'runt' is and how you can work it out from the text?
5	Why are 'away' and 'kill' in italics (a different font)?
6	Why did Fern try to take away her father's axe?
7	Why did Mr Arable change his mind about killing the piglet?
8	Why was the kitchen so full of smells?
9	What can you tell me about Avery as a person. What did he like doing in his spare time?
10	Why couldn't Avery have a piglet too?
11	Why wasn't Fern able to just sit down and eat her breakfast straightaway?
12	Why does the author describe the sound of the bus horn as 'honked', what animal honks?
13	Why did Fern ignore everybody on the bus?
14	What embarrassed Fern at school?

Chapter Two - Wilbur

15	Why did Fern use a bib when feeding Wilbur?
16	How many times did they feed Wilbur every day?
17	What did Wilbur do that showed he loved being fed?
18	Why was Wilbur moved out to the woodshed?
19	Why was it alright for Wilbur to live outside now?
20	What did Wilbur do with his box that made her happier about him keeping warm?
21	What did Wilbur do that was very odd for a pig?
22	Why did Wilbur not go upstairs?
23	What would Fern do sometimes when Wilbur was tired?
24	What made him look so cute?
25	What word tells us what Wilbur thinks about mud?
26	Why did Mr Arable have to sell Wilbur?
27	How did Mrs Arable solve the problem of having to sell Wilbur?
28	Why might Uncle Homer have been happy to buy the pig?

Charlotte's Web - Chapters Three & Four - Part Two

Chapter Three - Escape

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| 1 | Why did the barn smell of hay and manure? |
| 2 | Why did the barn sometimes smell of fish? |
| 3 | What made the barn a nice place to stand in, in the summer? |
| 4 | Can you work out what a 'grindstone' might do? Think carefully about the context and the word itself? |
| 5 | Why were there rat traps in the barn? |
| 6 | Why was under the cows a good place to put Wilbur? |
| 7 | Why did the sheep and geese get used to Fern and trust her? |
| 8 | Why was Wilbur bored? What had he been used to? |
| 9 | What did Wilbur say that was very, very sad thing for someone so young to say? |
| 10 | Why didn't Wilbur run for the woods as the goose suggested? |
| 11 | Why did Wilbur get confused about what to do? |
| 12 | Why did he follow Mr Zuckerman? |
| 13 | Define 'appetising'. Explain what it means. Look carefully at the sentence it is in and think about the context. |
| 14 | What are 8-penny nails? |

Chapter Four - Loneliness

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| 15 | Why was Wilbur so upset when he saw it was raining? |
| 16 | Did Wilbur have a favourite food? |
| 17 | What, in particular, made Wilbur feel really alone? |
| 18 | What made Lurvy realise that something was wrong with Wilbur? |
| 19 | Why wouldn't the goose go and play with him? |
| 20 | Why did the lamb get so annoyed with Wilbur? |
| 21 | Why didn't Templeton know much about fun and play? |
| 22 | Why was Templeton heading for the trough? |
| 23 | What did the tunnel reveal about Templeton? |
| 24 | Why did Wilbur cry so badly when he saw Templeton by the trough? |
| 25 | Why was Wilbur so surprised when he got spoken to at the end of the chapter? |
| 26 | Why didn't they continue the conversation? |

Charlotte's Web - Chapters Five and Six - Part Three

Chapter Five - Charlotte	
1	Why couldn't Wilbur sleep?
2	Why is a barn never completely silent?
3	Why couldn't the goose sleep?
4	Why did the goose only leave her eggs on warm days?
5	
6	Why is Wilbur so pleased when morning arrived? How do you know?
7	Why did Wilbur feel he had to speak out in the barn?
8	Why did Wilbur blush when he was speaking?
9	Why did Wilbur's friend not speak up at first?
10	Why does the author keep saying 'the friend' rather than telling us who it is?
11	Why does Wilbur scream at his friend?
12	Explain clearly what the word 'Salutations' means and how you know this
13	Why has the author compared the spider's size to a gumdrop?
14	Why can't Charlotte see Wilbur very clearly?
15	What does 'near-sighted' mean? Can you work it out from the situation in the story and its context in the text?
16	How are Wilbur and Charlotte's eating habits different?
17	Why did Wilbur groan when Charlotte explained she drank blood?
18	How do we know that Charlotte is irritated by Wilbur's view of her sucking flies' blood? Look carefully at the long speech she makes when she is defending her habits. What phrases show us she is irritated, even annoyed?
19	Who do you think has an easier life, Wilbur or Charlotte? Explain your answer.
20	What fate does the goose think awaits Wilbur?
21	What does the end of Chapter 5 tell us about Charlotte and how does it encourage us to read on?
Chapter Six - Summer Days	
22	Other than the trees blossoming what else makes those early summer days on the farm happy?
23	What does the author mean when writing about Fern he says, 'The animals treated her as an equal'?
24	How long did it take to make and barn the hay?
25	Which wild plants could be used to assuage/satisfy a thirst?
26	
27	How do the geese feel about Templeton? Find the words and phrases that describe him.
28	What was the important event that happened in early summer?
29	'unremitting' - explain what this word means, look carefully at its use in the text and its context in telling the story.
30	What does the word 'untenable' mean? Have a look at the text around it and think about which part of the story is involved?

Charlotte's Web - Chapters Seven and Eight and Nine - Part Four

Chapter Seven - Bad News

- 1 Why did Wilbur like Charlotte better and better?
- 2 What did Wilbur appreciate about Charlotte's method of killing flies?
- 3 Why did Wilbur grow so fast?
- 4 'They're going to *what*?' Why is '*what*' in italics? Why has the author written it so?
- 5 Why did the old sheep tell Wilbur in that way?
- 6 How else did Wilbur react to the news of his impending death?
- 7 Looking at its use in the story, what does 'hysterics' mean?

Chapter Eight - A Talk at Home

- 8 Why did Fern's mother look worried that breakfast-time?
- 9 Why do you think the author has made the whole of Chapter Eight just this one conversation?

Chapter Nine - Wilbur's Boast

- 10 Why did Charlotte have to weave her web every day?
- 11 Why did Charlotte need so many parts to her legs?
- 12 Why did Wilbur boast that he could weave a web himself?
- 13 Why can't Wilbur spin a web?
- 14 Why did Wilbur not give up straightaway?
- 15 Why did it not work, even though Wilbur had thought to use the string?
- 16 Charlotte stayed in the barn with Wilbur for two reasons; what are they?
- 17 Why did Wilbur become tearful?
- 18 How did Charlotte try to cheer Wilbur up?
- 19 Why was Charlotte so scathing at the web the men built?
- 20 What silly thing did Charlotte say the men did with the bridge?
- 21 Why is Charlotte a sedentary animal?
- 22 What two meanings of the word 'smell' has the author used?
- 23 Why did Charlotte say that Wilbur had a 'perfect right to smell'?
- 24 Why did Wilbur begin to tremble, it was a lovely summer evening?
- 25 Why do you think Fern loves staying in the barn so much? Think of three reasons.
- 26 Why is Wilbur so curious about Charlotte's plan?
- 27 Why does Charlotte promise to save Wilbur even though she has not got a plan yet?
- 28 What advice did Charlotte give Wilbur? Why
- 29 Why did Wilbur not go straight to sleep, as Charlotte told him?

Charlotte's Web - Chapters Ten and Eleven - Part Five

Chapter Ten - An Explosion	
1	Why did Charlotte spend so much time thinking?
2	Why was Charlotte so sure she could fool Mr Zuckerman?
3	Explain what 'gullible' means.
4	What does the incident with Avery's frog tell us about his character?
5	Why was the swing the best in the county?
6	Why didn't parents need to worry so much as they did about the swing?
7	Why did Fern tell Avery to take the frog out of his pocket?
8	Why did their tongues change colour?
9	Why has the author not spelled the word 'tremendous' correctly when Avery uses it?
10	Why was Fern so annoyed with Avery for wanting the spider as well?
11	Why did Fern scream? After all Avery got what was coming to him? He deserved to hurt himself for wanting Charlotte?
12	Why did the goose feel so proud?
13	How do we know that Lurvy tipped the pail over Wilbur and not neatly into the trough?
14	Why was Wilbur such a noisy eater?
15	Why did Wilbur leave extra food for Templeton?
16	Why has the author not told us what Charlotte was making at the end of the chapter?
Chapter Eleven - The Miracle	
17	Why was Charlotte's web so beautiful that morning?
18	Why did Lurvy take so much notice of the web that morning?
19	Why did Lurvy feel weak?
20	Why do you think Lurvy did not tell Mr Zuckerman about the web but asked him to come down to the pen?
21	Why did Mrs Zuckerman turn so pale and look so frightened when told to sit down by Mr Zuckerman?
22	'...right spang in the middle of the web.' Explain what is meant by 'spang' and how you worked it out.
23	Why did Mrs Zuckerman disagree with her husband?
24	Why was Wilbur so pleased?
25	Why did Charlotte sit so still?
26	Why did everybody know about Wilbur well before Sunday and the minister's sermon?
27	Why did Mr Zuckerman stop doing his farm work?
28	Why did Lurvy shave and have a haircut?
29	Why was Fern both glad and a little upset?

Charlotte's Web - Chapters Twelve & Thirteen & Fourteen - Part Six

Chapter Twelve - A Meeting

1	Try to think what 'idiosyncrasy' means from the conversation.
2	Why does Charlotte call a meeting?
3	Can you think of other words that Charlotte could spin into her web?
4	Why did Charlotte not like the phrase 'Pig Supreme'?
5	Why did Wilbur object to the word 'terrific'? What does it mean?
6	Charlotte persisted though, why?
7	Why was Charlotte so annoyed with the gander's spelling of 'terrific'?
8	How did the sheep help sort out what to write?
9	How does the sheep persuade Templeton to help Charlotte?
10	How did Charlotte make Wilbur feel good, and probably blush even more?

Chapter Thirteen - Good Progress

11	What did Charlotte find helped her?
12	Why did Charlotte use a dry thread for writing?
13	Why did she not make each letter with just one thread?
14	Why did Charlotte feel hungry when she had finished?
15	Why did Wilbur feel terrific now?
16	Why does Mrs Zuckerman call the newspaper?
17	Why did Mr Zuckerman want the newspaper to know?
18	Why was there to be no more manure put in the pig pen?
19	Why do you think Mr Zuckerman planned to take Wilbur to the fair?
20	Look at the adjectives the author uses when describing the dump - broken, dead, discarded, tattered, rusty, leaky, forgotten, useless. Why has he chosen to use these?
21	Why did Charlotte say "crunchy" was a bad word?
22	Why did Wilbur push the straw to one side?
23	Why was Wilbur so tired?

Chapter Fourteen - Dr. Dorian

24	Why was Fern so surprised when her mother said, 'it isn't good for you to be alone so much'?
25	Why was Mrs. Arable worried about Fern?
26	Why was Dr Dorian so amazed at a spider's ability to spin webs?
27	What did Dr Dorian say that helped put Mrs Avery's mind at rest about Fern?
28	Why does Mrs. Arable think Avery's behaviour is normal and therefore needs no worrying about?

Charlotte's Web - Chapters Fifteen and Sixteen - Part Seven

Chapter Fifteen - The Crickets	
1	Why did the crickets sing that summer would soon be over?
2	Of all those who heard the singing of the crickets who knew that it meant they would soon have to do some hard work?
3	What did the sheep do when they heard the crickets?
4	Explain, by looking at its context in the sentence and your own knowledge what 'pasture' means.
5	Why would any man be proud now of owning Wilbur?
6	Why was Wilbur trying so hard to live up to the words in the web?
7	What made the crowd love watching Wilbur so much?
8	What did his friends worry might happen?
9	Why did Wilbur still worry about what might happen to him?
10	What did Wilbur hope that <i>he</i> could do to save his own life?
11	Why was the Fair date such an inconvenient time for Charlotte?
12	Explain what 'versatile' means.
Chapter Sixteen - Off to the Fair	
13	What was different about the dreams both Avery and Fern had about the fair and why?
14	Why has the author made Zuckerman's dream so exact with Wilbur's measurements being so very specific?
15	Why was everybody up so early on the day of the fair?
16	Why did Mrs Zuckerman want to give Wilbur a bath?
17	Why did Zuckerman sit down 'weakly'?
18	Why did Templeton poke 'his head out <i>cautiously</i> '?
19	Once Wilbur was washed and dried he was as smooth as?
20	Why did the goslings make so much noise? Where does it say this in the text?
21	Why did Templeton need to go to the Fair?
22	How does the sheep persuade Templeton to go? Why does he go on and on about it?
23	Why did the rat and spider go and hide in the crate so soon?
24	Why did Templeton not want Wilbur to fight being put into the crate too much?
25	What caused Wilbur to sink to his knees?
26	Why is the word 'immediately' in italics?
27	Why was Fern so upset?
28	How did Zuckerman know that Wilbur was fine after his faint?
29	Two or three times it is mentioned that the humans did not know about the spider and the rat in the crate. Why do you think the author has done that?

Charlotte's Web - Chapters Seventeen and Eighteen - Part Eight

Chapter Seventeen - Uncle	
1	Why might the organisers want the car moved?
2	How do we know the children are excited when they first get there?
3	How does the author convey the excitement of the children as they set off around the fair?
4	Why did Mrs Arable sigh as she watched them go?
5	Why were there crowds to watch Wilbur being uncrated?
6	Why did nobody notice Charlotte leaving the crate?
7	Why did Mr Zuckerman or Lurvy not stay with Wilbur?
8	What do you think the midway might be? It has been mentioned twice now. Look at its use and context in the story.
9	Why did Wilbur get wet eyes?
10	Why did Charlotte not take to Uncle?
11	How does the author make us concerned about Charlotte, but also about the task she is in charge of?
12	Why does Wilbur say 'Oh dear'?
13	How do we know that Mrs Zuckerman was hoping to get a deep freeze (freezer)?
14	How does the author make us aware of how everybody is feeling?
15	Did Avery really think a blanket was the perfect thing to have just then?
Chapter Eighteen - The Cool of the Evening	
16	Why did Templeton wait until evening before coming out of his hiding place?
17	Why did Templeton not talk to anyone before leaving?
18	Why did the evening come 'as a relief to all'?
19	Why did the children have renewed energy?
20	Why did Mrs Arable say, 'My my'?
21	How did Templeton fulfil his objectives for the evening and Charlotte's request?
22	What does Charlotte say that makes the reader surprised, sad and worried?
23	Why does Templeton not react to what Charlotte says?
24	Why did Wilbur not feel alone when the Arables and Zuckermans left?
25	Why was Wilbur so curious about what Charlotte was up to?

Charlotte's Web - Part Nine - Chapters Nineteen and Twenty

Chapter Nineteen - The Egg Sac

1	How did the animals react to the coming of the day?
2	What was the weird object next to Charlotte, what did it look like?
3	Why did Wilbur think it was a toy?
4	Why has the author written hundred as 'hundred' and fourteen as 'fourteen' when Wilbur talked about the eggs?
5	Why does the egg sac need to be waterproof?
6	What does Charlotte mean by, 'I just don't have much pep any more'?
7	Why did Wilbur ask her to explain the word 'languish'?
8	Why has the author used the word 'drag' to describe Templeton's movement across the pen?
9	Why was Charlotte so disgusted with him?
10	Why did Wilbur say that Zuckerman would change his mind and eat Wilbur now?
11	Why did Mrs Zuckerman cry?
12	Why was Mr Zuckerman not upset like the others?
13	Why were the Arables and Zuckermans unable to move immediately after they heard the good news?
14	Why was Charlotte so content?
15	Why did Mr Zuckerman snap at his wife?

Chapter Twenty - The Hour of Triumph

16	Other than the word 'pompous' how do we know that the man was speaking in a pompous manner? Look at what he says.
17	Why did Wilbur tremble when he heard the loudspeaker?
18	Why did the crowds press close to the van?
19	Why did Mrs Zuckerman tell Avery to tuck in his shirt when he was in the middle of helping get Wilbur off the truck?
20	Why was Fern so desperate for some money?
21	Why was there no point in what the loudspeaker said then?
22	What did Charlotte do to celebrate? Why?
23	Why was Avery fussing so much around Wilbur?
24	Were there supernatural forces at work?
25	What was the prize for?
26	Why did Wilbur faint?
27	Why did Mr Zuckerman sigh with relief?
28	Why did Mrs Zuckerman tell Avery to stop?

Charlotte's Web - Part Ten - Chapters Twenty-One and Twenty-Two

Chapter Twenty-One - Last Day

1	Why were they alone?
2	What did Charlotte point out to Wilbur?
3	Why did Charlotte stop all her descriptions?
4	Why were there tears in Wilbur's eyes?
5	What was Wilbur looking forward to?
6	Why did Charlotte reveal her news in such a low voice?
7	How did Wilbur react to the news?
8	What good idea suddenly came to Wilbur?
9	Why did he have to move quickly?
10	Why was Templeton so bad-tempered?
11	How has the author made clear the urgency of the moment in Wilbur's speech to Templeton?
12	What was Templeton doing, not jumping up straight away to help Wilbur?
13	Why did the rat behave in that way?
14	What made climbing the wall difficult for Templeton?
15	How did Wilbur carry the egg sac back to the farm?
16	Why was it a safe place for it to be?
17	What is so sad about the way the author ends the chapter?

Chapter Twenty-Two - A Warm Wind

18	Why did the medal get hung above the pen?
19	Why did Wilbur grow to 'a great size'?
20	What words did Wilbur think of to describe his friend?
21	What is meant by - 'he went out and ploughed the drifts in his yard'?
22	What does it mean, 'they coasted down the lane'?
23	Why did Fern think about the Ferris wheel all the time, even though it was weeks ago?
24	Why did Templeton not worry about living longer?
25	What were the first signs of springtime?
26	Why did Wilbur tremble?
27	Why was Wilbur's conversation with the spiders one-sided?
28	Why was Wilbur so frantic?