

# Charlotte's Web

**Narrator:** Shhh! Listen to the sounds of the morning. Very, very early morning. So early in fact, the sun isn't even up yet. Listen to the crickets, the hoot-owls, a frog down by the pond. A dog up at the next farm. And today, there's another sound. It tells that something exciting happened during the night. Some brand-new pigs were born.

**Templeton:** So this is our new resident. That's right. Relax and enjoy yourself - while you can. Oh yes. They'll treat you very well. And fatten you up very nicely. Then suddenly, one day, you wake up and it's all over. Oh well, I will admit it's nice to have a pig around the place again. That means leftover slops for me. I'm sure you'll find it in your charitable little heart to share your food with dear old Templeton.

**Lurvy:** Morning pig. My name's Lurvy. I'm Mr. Zuckerman's helper. I'm the one that feeds you. Time for breakfast now. Skim milk, bits of doughnuts, wheatcakes with maple syrup and custard pudding with raisins. Yes sir, a meal fit for a pig! What's wrong with you? We must have a sick pig here. Mr. Zuckerman! Come out to the barn!

**Charlotte:** Good night. What to do. What to do. I promised to save Wilbur's life and I am determined to keep that promise. But how? Wait a minute. The way to save Wilbur is to play a trick on Zuckerman. If I can fool a bug, I can surely fool a man! People are not as smart as bugs. Of course. That's it! This will not be easy, but it must be done. First I tear a section out of the web and leave an open space

in the middle. Now I shall weave new threads to take the place of the ones I removed. Swing spinnerets. Let out the thread. The longer it gets, the better it's read. That's it. Some Pig.

**Wilbur:** What did Lurvy see? There's nothing here but me. That's it. He saw me! He saw that I'm big and healthy and and ready to be made into HAM! They're coming out here right now with guns and knives. I just know it. What can I do? Wait! The fence that Lurvy patched up. Maybe it's loose again. I have to get out. I have no choice. It's either freedom or the frying pan. Chaarrrggeee!

**Zuckerman:** Some pig. I don't believe it! I'm sure we'll have lots of visitors today when word of this leaks out. I've got to call the minister right away and tell him about this miracle. Then I'll call the Arables. But first, I've got to tell Edith. She'll never believe this! Edith! Edith!

**Fern:** Papa please don't kill the piglet. It's unfair! The pig couldn't help being born small, could it? This is the most terrible case of injustice I have ever heard of. You'll let me take care of him? Oh thank you papa! My very own pig. Now I have to name you. A perfect name for a perfect pig. Fred. That's a good name, but not for you. Clarence? No you don't look like a Clarence. Maximillion? Because you're worth a million to me! Maybe I'm trying too hard....Wilbur? Wait a minute. Wilbur! Wiilllllbur! Wilbur. What a beautiful name.

**Avery:** Mother sent me to get you Fern. You're going to miss supper. Who are you talking to? Who's Charlotte? Oh! That spider is tremendous! That's a fine spider. I'm going to capture it! I want that spider. Hey! Let go of my stick Fern. (Avery falls) That's not fair. You and Wilbur ganged up on me. Wait what's that smell? I think we broke a rotten egg. Good night, what a stink! Let's get out of here.

**Goose/Gander:** A new idea? How how how about Pig Supreme? Or terrific terrific terrific! How do you spell terrific? I think it's tee double ee double rr double eye double ff double eye double see, see, see, see, see. The goslings are hungry. I have to go find some worms, worms, worms to feed them.

**Sheep:** A new resident? Oh yeah. I overheard the Zuckermans discussing him. They plan to keep you nice and comfortable. And fatten you up with delicious slops. Just the same, we don't envy you. You know why they want to make you fat and tender don't you? You don't? Well you'll learn soon enough. About... nothing. Nothing at all. Nice to meet you Wilbur.

**Ensemble Members:** (looking at Wilbur at the County Fair) Well here's a good-looking fellow. Zuckerman's Famous Pig. Look at his silky white coat and his nice curly tail. I think he's the finest pig we've seen today! I think I've heard of you. Aren't you that *radiant* pig who's supposed to be *terrific*? He seems to be very confident. Let's go look at the horses and see if we can pick the winner over there!

**Martha Arable:** Listen everyone, I have a suggestion. Why don't we call the Zuckermans? Your uncle Homer sometimes raises a pig. And if Wilbur goes there to live, you can walk down the road and visit him anytime you like.

**John Arable:** Your sister has a guest for breakfast Avery, in fact for a little while she will be raising that pig. Now come into the house and eat your breakfast. The school bus will be here in half an hour. (pause) No, I don't want to hear it. I only

distribute pigs to early risers who are trying to rid the world of injustice. Now let's eat.

**Uncle:** Sure im a spring pig, What did you think i was a spring chicken Haw, Haw, That was a good one eh, sister? They are still working on my pen. I just walked away. They will come after me once they see I'm gone. But I thought I'd wander around and look at the competition, Well no problem here. From what I see I've got the blue ribbon all sewed up. But I won't needle you about it! Get it? Haw Haw

**Edith:** I'm gonna give him a buttermilk sponge bath. He sure worked up a sweat when you and Fern took him for a walk just now.

**Announcer:** Coming through Coming through, Lets open this up a little, please. Thank you very much. Zuckerman? Please to meet you. Those who can't get in close dont worry you will hear everything you need to hear. Can everyone hear me? Good. Ladies and gentlemen we now present Mr. Homer L Zuckerman's distinguished pig. Many of you recall when the writing appeared mysteriously in the spider's web in Zuckerman's barn, calling attention to the fact that this is some pig. Then came the word terrific and just look at him.. He is!

