

Name: _____

Charlotte's Web

Chapters 1 - 4



1. In the beginning of the story, John Arable was going to kill a baby pig that was a runt. What is a runt?

2. Explain why Mr. and Mrs. Arable believed having a runt was a problem.

3. How did Fern react to her father's decision?

- | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------|
| a. understanding | b. upset |
| c. calm | d. mystified |

4. What did Fern name her pig?

- | | |
|------------------|-----------------|
| a. Wilbur | b. Avery |
| c. Wilma | d. John |

5. Describe what Fern did to take care of her newborn pig.

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6. Fern quickly fell in love with her pig. Name one activity that Fern and her pig did together.

7. What occurred when the pig was five weeks old?

- a.** He was moved outside. **b.** He was big enough to sell.
c. He became very ill. **d.** He was sent to live with the other pigs.

8. Who were the Zuckermans and why did Fern need to call them?

9. Describe the barn.

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10. Explain how Wilbur escaped from his pen. Did he enjoy his freedom?

11. In Chapter 4, why was Fern's pig so sad?

- a. He wanted a friend.
- b. He wanted to be free.
- c. He wanted to be alive.
- d. He missed his mother.

12. Circle five words that best describe Templeton.

fun	crafty	generous	sneaky	rat
sheep	glutton	bashful	smart	loving

13. At the end of Chapter 4, a kind voice spoke from the darkness, what did it say?

ANSWER KEY

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1. In the beginning of the story, John Arable was going to kill a baby pig that was a runt. What is a runt?

A runt is an animal that is smaller than all the other animals in a litter.

2. Explain why Mr. and Mrs. Arable believed having a runt was a problem.

The Arables believed having a runt was a problem because runts are smaller and weaker than the other animals and typically do not amount to anything. Runts also often die. With this in mind the Arables decided do away with him.

3. How did Fern react to her father's decision? **b**

a. understanding **b. upset**
c. calm d. mystified

4. What did Fern name her pig? **a**

a. Wilbur b. Avery
c. Wilma d. John

5. Describe what Fern did to take care of her newborn pig.

Fern took care of her newborn pig by making him a bed in a box near the stove. Each morning she warmed his milk, tied a bib on him, and fed him out of a bottle. Then she repeated this process every afternoon, suppertime, and evening.

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6. Fern quickly fell in love with her pig. Name one activity that Fern and her pig did together.

One thing Fern did with Wilbur was take him on walks. Then, if he became tired she would place him in her carriage along side her doll and push him the rest of the way.

7. What occurred when the pig was five weeks old? **b**
- a. He was moved outside.
 - b. He was big enough to sell.
 - c. He became very ill.
 - d. He was sent to live with the other pigs.

8. Who were the Zuckermans and why did Fern need to call them?

The Zuckermans were Fern's aunt and uncle and they owned a pig farm down the road. Fern needed to call in hopes of convincing them to buy Wilbur so he could stay close and Fern could visit him.

9. Describe the barn.

The barn was very large and old, and it smelled of manure and hay. It smelled like horses and patient cows and like nothing bad could ever happen again in the world. The barn was pleasantly warm in the winter and pleasantly cool in the summer. It provided shelter for the horses, cows, sheep, and had a pigpen for Wilbur. It was the kind of barn that swallows liked to build their nests in and children liked to play in.
(Answers will vary)

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10. Explain how Wilbur escaped from his pen. Did he enjoy his freedom?

Wilbur escaped from his pen after the goose told him there was a loose board. However, after escaping he decided that he was not yet ready to be free in the world, and followed Mrs. Zuckerman and the warm smell of slop back into his pen.

11. In Chapter 4, why was Fern's pig so sad? **a**

- a. He wanted a friend.** **b. He wanted to be free.**
c. He wanted to be alive. **d. He missed his mother.**

12. Circle the five words that best describe Templeton.

fun	<u>crafty</u>	generous	<u>sneaky</u>	<u>rat</u>
sheep	<u>glutton</u>	bashful	<u>smart</u>	loving

13. At the end of Chapter 4, a kind voice spoke from the darkness, what did it say?

Out of the darkness a kind voice told Wilbur that she had been watching him all day and liked him. She would be a friend to him, and tomorrow morning he would see who she was.