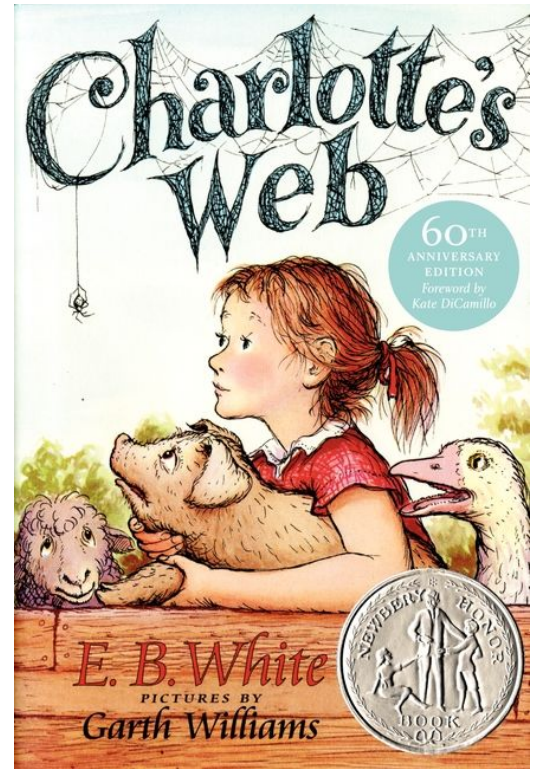


Literature Focus Unit

Charlotte's Web

- Before reading, as a class, we will create a story chart. I will explain that the story takes place on a farm and then I will discuss with the students that they already know about farms (kinds of farms, animals, chores, tools, machinery, buildings, etc.). I will record the answers on the board.
- Upon completion of the book, we can return to our story chart and add new words and ideas to it.
- Students will make the cheeseburger model with the setting, main characters, etc. My example will be shown but students are free to design their cheeseburger however they would like.
- Class discussion about friendship. We will discuss what friends do for each other and what qualities we look for in friends. As they read the story, they will “jot” down a list of the signs of friendship they see in the book.
- Students will work in pairs to design a birth announcement for Wilbur.
- Students will write Wilbur a letter. They will tell him how they feel about what is happening to him. They will also give suggestions on what Wilbur can do to end his loneliness.
- Create a diorama imagining what the Zuckerman’s farm looked like. Students will decorate the background to look like the Zuckerman’s farm. Then they will cut out and color the farm animals on the worksheet I will provide them. Then they will have the chance to glue on rocks, sticks, and hay to add to the farm.
- Create a newspaper article that will persuade readers to visit the farm.
- Students will be broken up into groups of four and each will be assigned the roles of Wilbur, Aranea, Joy, or Nellie. They will write a short skit about what Wilbur would tell his new friends



about their mother and also they will write about the questions the baby spiders would ask about her. They will act their skit out in front of the class.

- In groups, the students will create a chart that deals with the different seasons on the farm. They will tell about the changes and how they affect farm life. They will get their ideas from what they have learned from reading the book.
- As a closing activity, we will go to a farm on a field trip and apply what we learned in the book about farms to this real life farm.