

## CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS

# Charlotte's Web



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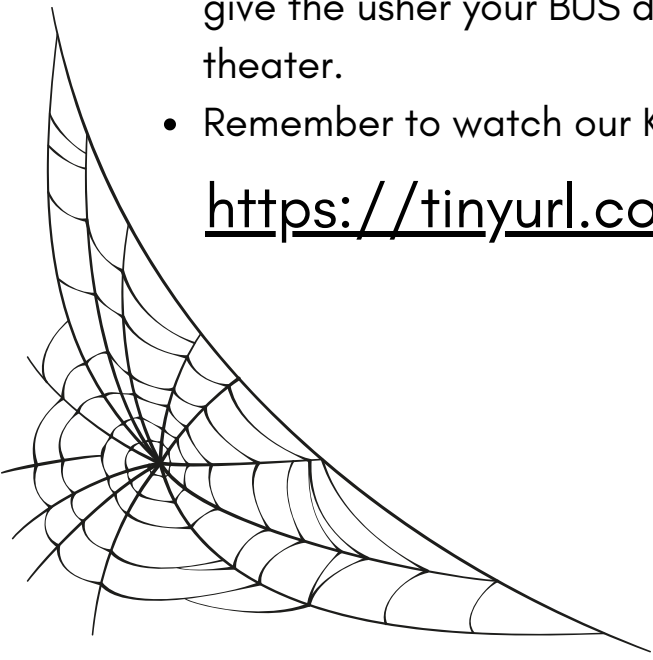
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## Know Before you Go:

- Arrive at the theater 15 to 20 minutes before show time. Allow extra time for Broward County traffic. We are unable to start a show late.
- Please stay on the bus until greeted by a SEAS usher. At that time, please give the usher your BUS document and the usher will escort you to the theater.
- Remember to watch our Know Before You Go Video:

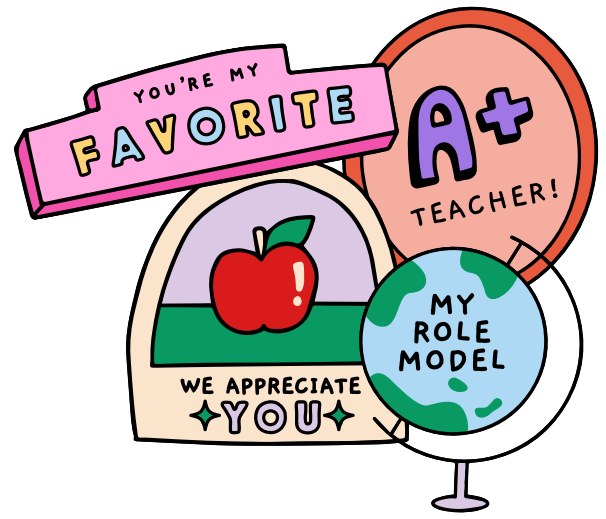
<https://tinyurl.com/ElementarySeasWelcome>





Dear Teacher,

We appreciate you!



This guide can help in your classroom, whether before or after coming to see a play or musical it can be used to highlight important concepts. The curriculum connections introduced by the Broward Center for the Performing Arts are always aligned to the Florida Standards with the idea that they introduce another tool to effectively implement engaging methods to bring the page to the stage.

Curriculum Connections improve comprehension, help students organize information, and assist students' metacognition by enabling students to check for understanding. It is designed to be used before or after coming to the theater unless otherwise stated and may contain activities for certain grade levels (this will be clearly labeled).

Curriculum Connections will always contain a reminder of theater etiquette as well as a social emotional learning activity, and a Student-Family Cooperative Activity. The activities may be re-printed for individual use, used on smart boards as class activities, or in groups. It is suggested to discuss the play or musical as a class before your field trip.

Remember to follow us on Facebook and Instagram @Broward Center Education and use the QR code (below) for our Teacher's Lounge to receive insight about discounted tickets and information for you and your students!

*nothing  
but  
gratitude!*

**MUCH  
appreciated**





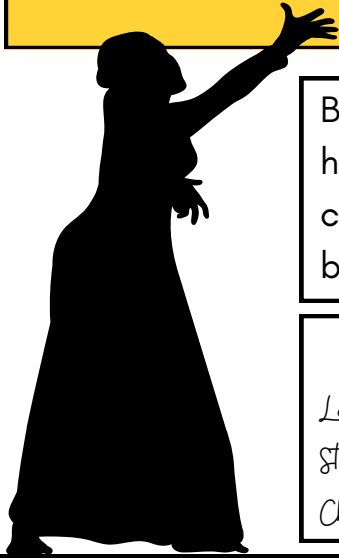
# Theater etiquette

*There is so much that goes into creating a show for the stage. Behind the scenes, there are people who control the lights and the sound, the sets and the props. There are directors, writers, producers, musicians, and choreographers. So many people work together to create the performance you and everyone in the audience watches.*

It is helpful to remind students of appropriate audience etiquette by explaining and discussing WHY these rules of behavior are important:

- Restroom visits are best made prior to the performance.
- Listen carefully to the ushers and your teachers. This gets everyone to your seats quickly and ensures a pleasant experience.
- Turn watches and cell phones to silent.
- Walk single file, hold hand rails as you use the steps for your safety.
- Listen carefully to each performer. They are working hard to entertain and inform with lots of clues about the story.
- Refrain from TALKING. This allows everyone to enjoy the show without distraction. Sometimes we think that if we whisper it is okay. But, if everyone in the audience whispers, it becomes disruptive.
- Laugh if something is funny, but not too loudly, you don't want to miss any dialogue.
- Photography and recording are not permitted.
- Pay attention to the lighting, scenery, costumes and music. All of these elements help provide more details to tell the story in an interesting way.
- Applaud (clap) and laugh at the right moments. This shows the performers that you respect and appreciate their work.

# From Page to Stage



Books make wonderful theater! When adapting a book however, changes must be made to the plot, setting and/or characters to accommodate the length of the play or to help bring the show to life on stage!

*Here are some famous adaptations you may know:*

*Legally Blonde/Les Miserables/The Wonderful Wizard of Oz/Mary Poppins/How the Grinch Stole Christmas/The Color Purple/A Christmas Carol/The Secret Garden/Charlie and the Chocolate Factory/Cinderella/Alice in Wonderland/Beauty and the Beast/Romeo and Juliet*

## Vocabulary to share with students:

**Adaptation:** Something that has changed so that it can be presented in another form.

**Playwright:** A person who writes plays.

**Lyricist:** A person who writes the words of a song.

**Composer:** A person who writes music.

**Author:** A person who writes something such as a book or an article.

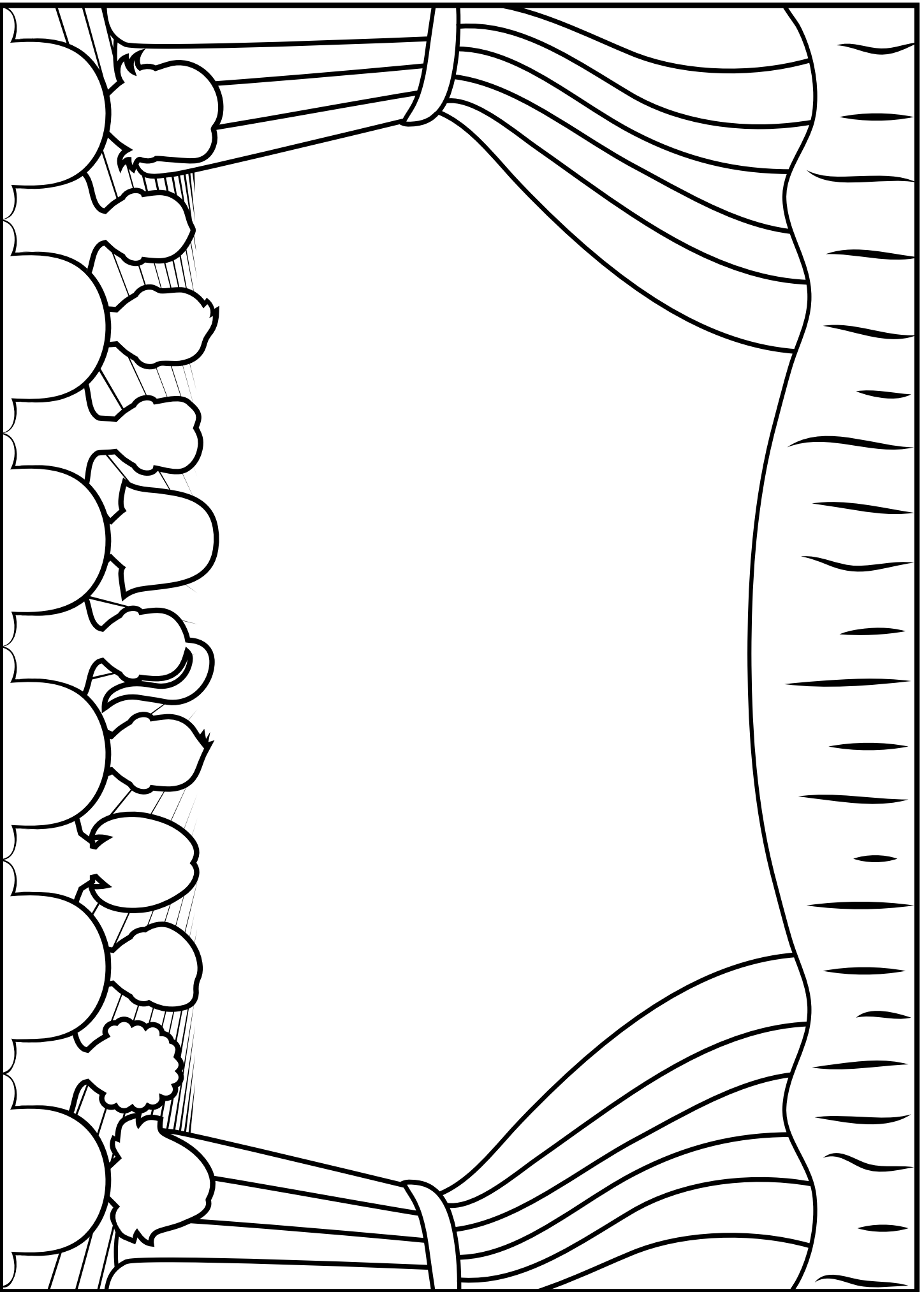
**Characters:** the individuals portrayed by actors in a play or musical.

**Director:** A key creative figure in theater responsible for overseeing the artistic aspects of a production.

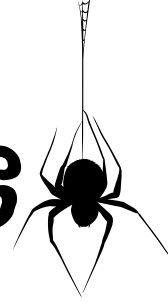
## Pre-Show creative questions:

Ask your students, "If you could adapt any book for the stage, which book would you choose and why?" Invite them to draw a picture of the story they would adapt on stage. Define costumes, set and props and ask students to draw what the set would look like on stage as well as the characters' costumes. (Use the next page to spark creativity)

Choose a book or story to adapt to a play or musical.  
Draw a picture of the set and props and/or actors in costume here.



# Charlotte's Web



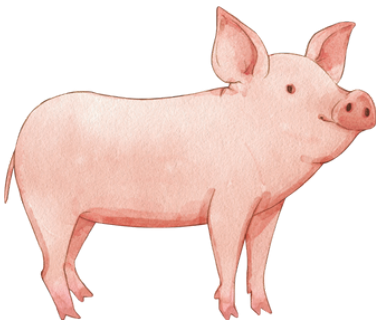
## The Story:

Our play is based on E.B. White's classic book, *Charlotte's Web*, which has been read by generations of children since it first appeared in 1952 and remains a favorite today.

The story opens on a farm with the birth of a litter of pigs. The farmer, Mr. Arable, is about to slaughter the tiniest one, or the "runt," but is stopped by the pleading of his young daughter, Fern. She takes over the bottle-feeding and special care required for such a little pig, whom she names Wilbur, and the pig flourishes. Now that Wilbur is growing, Mr. Arable must sell him- but, again at Fern's urging, the pig is sold to her Uncle Homer Zuckerman. Since the Zuckerman's farm is just down the road, Fern can still visit him often.

On the Zuckerman's farm, Wilbur meets many new animals- Goose and Gander, Sheep, and Templeton the Rat- but without Fern around as much, he admits to feeling lonely. One night, a voice answers his wishes, and promises to be his friend. The next morning, he finds out that the voice belongs to a beautiful grey spider named Charlotte. Although Wilbur is nervous about trusting this new acquaintance (she captures bugs in her web, so he thinks she's "brutal"), he soon learns that Charlotte is his loyal and true friend when she devises a plan to save him from his inevitable trip to the slaughterhouse.

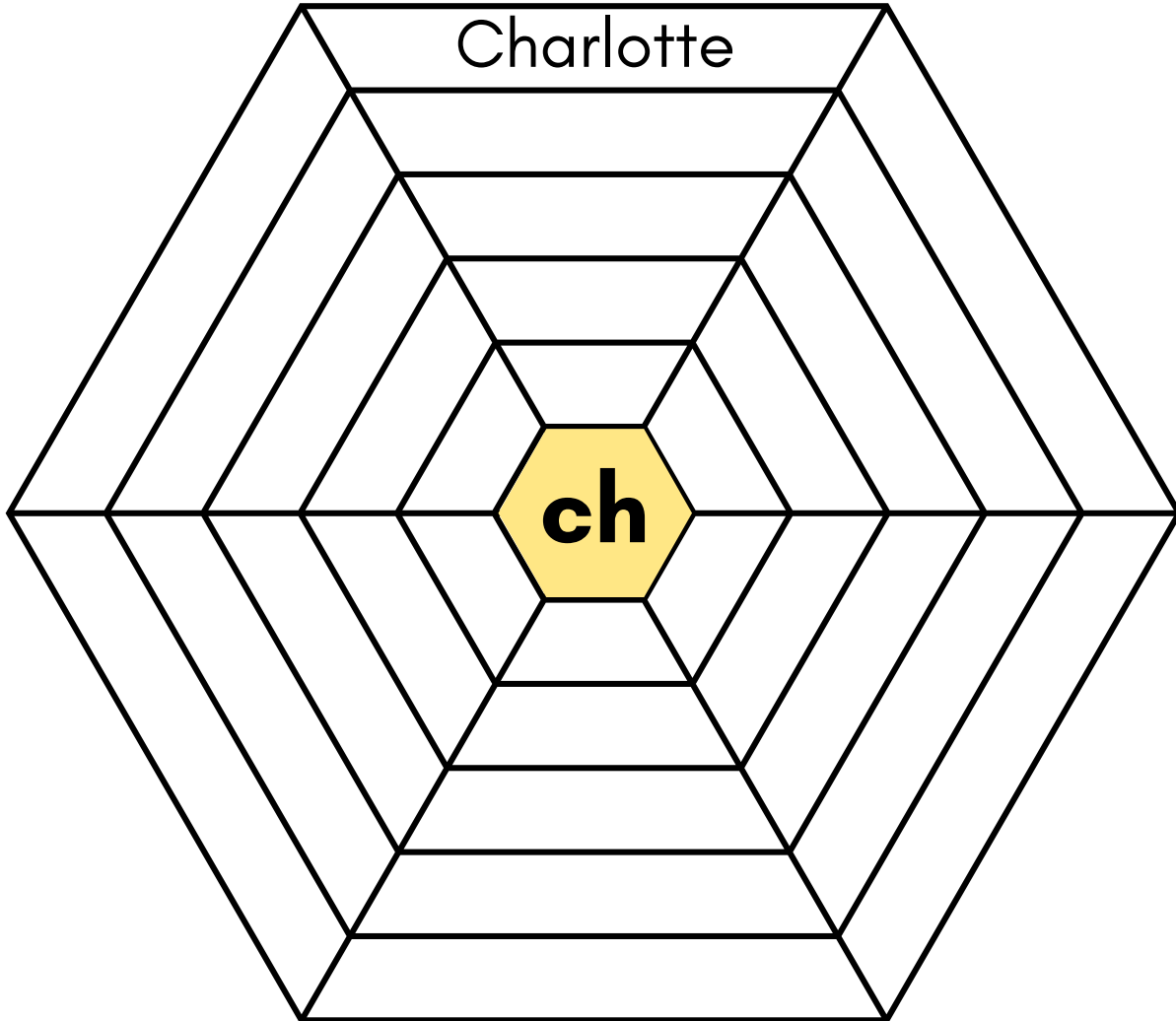
Through her talent at weaving words into her web, and her sacrificing of most of her energy to do so, she convinces "the people" that Wilbur is "some pig," and he is ensured a long life in the barnyard.



# Charlotte's Web

## WORD WEB

A digraph is two letters combined to make a single sound. Write words or names in the web that use the digraph shown:



Can anyone in your class complete the entire web with CH words?

Can you?



# Charlotte's Web

## Farm Animals Reading Comprehension

Directions: Many of the characters from the play live on a farm.  
Read the passage below about farm animals and answer the questions.

Horses are farm animals.  
They live in a stable.  
They are fast and strong.  
Horses eat hay and grass.  
Humans ride horses. Horses  
help people feel better.  
Horses like to be petted  
and groomed.



1 Where do horses live?

---

2 What do horses like to eat?

---

3 What are some characteristics of horses?

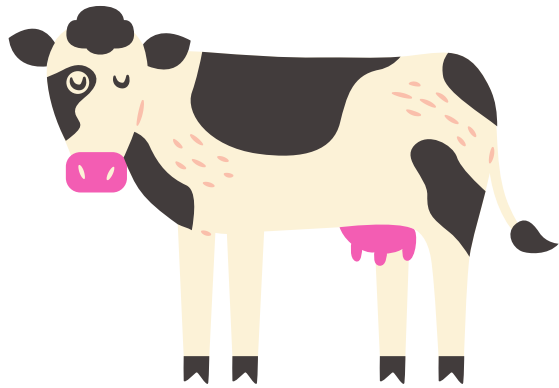
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# Charlotte's Web

## Farm Animals Reading Comprehension

Directions: Many of the characters from the play live on a farm.  
Read the passage below about farm animals and answer the questions.

Cows are farm animals.  
They eat hay and grass.  
Cows have big eyes and  
are gentle.  
A young cow is called a  
calf.  
Cows give milk to people.  
People also like to eat  
cows' meat.



1 What is a young cow called?

---

2 What do cows give us?

---

3 What do cows eat?

---

# Charlotte's Web

## WHO'S WHO ON THE FARM?

Read each clue, then cut out the pictures of the farm animals below and glue them into the correct box.



What animal lives in a coop and lays eggs?



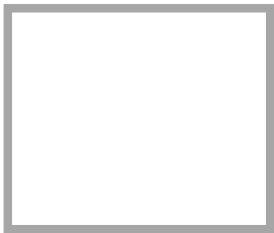
What animal likes to graze in the pasture?



What animal waddles and lives in a pond?



What animal wakes you up in the morning?



What animal likes to trot and gallop?



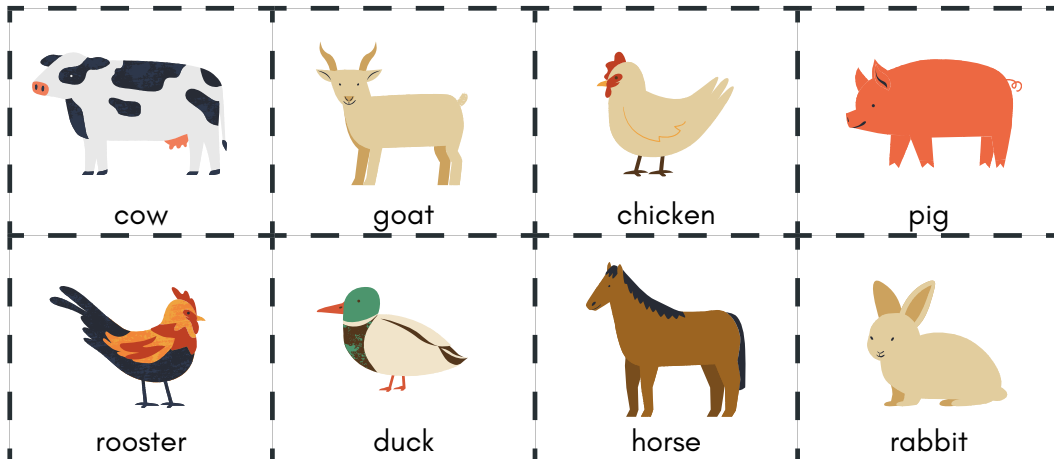
What animal rolls in the mud and has a curly tail?



What animal climbs and jumps on rocks?

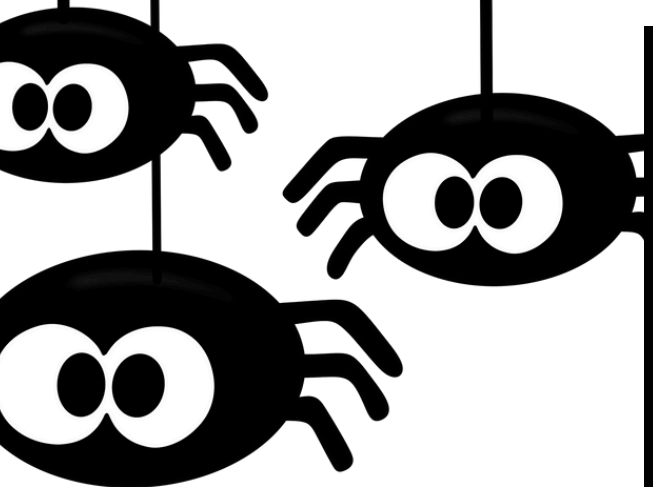


What animal likes to burrow underground?



# Charlotte's Web

## Spider Facts...



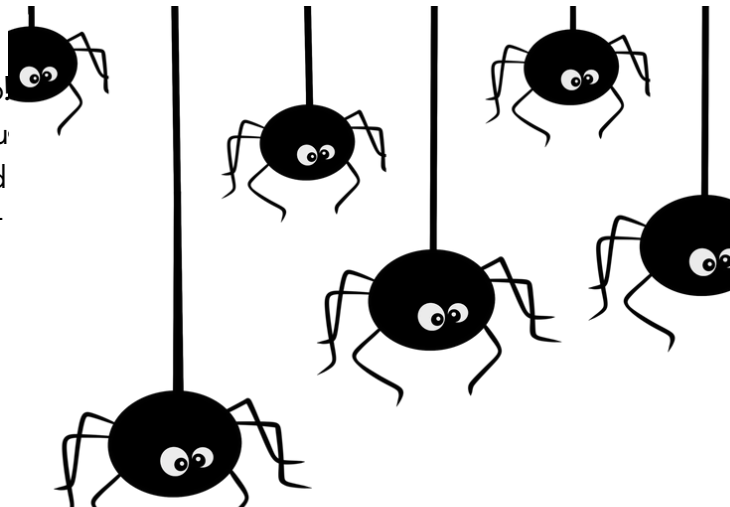
- **Eight-legged Wonders:** Spiders are not insects; they belong to a group of animals called arachnids.
- **Silk Spinners:** Spiders are famous for spinning silk. They produce silk from glands located at the back of their abdomen.
- **Predators at Work:** Spiders are skilled hunters. They catch their prey, which can be insects like flies or mosquitoes, by trapping them in their webs or by hunting them down.
- **Amazing Diversity:** There are over 40,000 different species of spiders found all over the world, except in Antarctica.
- **Helpful Helpers:** While some people might be scared of spiders, they actually play a vital role in the ecosystem.

More cool stuff about spiders...

**Amazing Strength:** Spider webs are incredibly strong, despite being made of silk, which is thinner than human hair. In fact, some spider webs are stronger than steel! They can stretch without breaking, which is great for catching insects that fly into them. Imagine a spider web strong enough to catch a small airplane if it flew into it!

**Different Designs:** Not all spider webs look the same. There are many different designs that spiders use to catch their prey. Some are orb-shaped like a circle with spokes coming out from the center, while others are funnel-shaped or even sheet-like. Each design helps the spider catch its food in different ways, showing how smart and adaptable these creatures are.

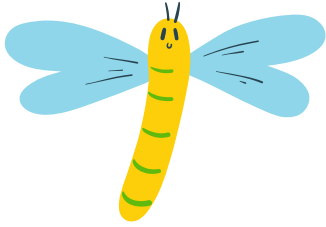
**Recycling Masters:** Spiders are like nature's recyclers. When they're done with their webs or if it gets damaged, they eat it up. This way, they can reuse the silk to make new webs. It's like if you could turn your old clothes into new ones whenever you needed them. Spiders are not just great architects; they're also great at sustainability!



# Charlotte's Web

## SPIDER FRIENDS

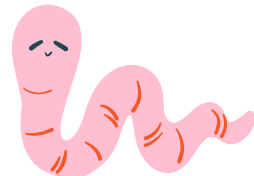
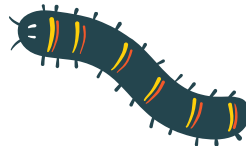
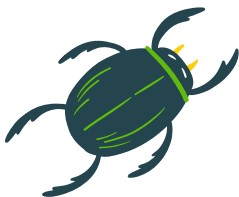
Now that you know about spiders, do some research and write a few sentences about other insects. Write sentences describing these creatures.



*This is a dragonfly.*

*It is long and it has wings.*

*It can fly.*



# Charlotte's Web

More great stuff For Teachers

The music heard in Charlotte's Web is called Bluegrass...

Bluegrass music is a genre of American roots music that originated in the Appalachian region of the United States. It is characterized by its distinctive sound, which typically features acoustic string instruments such as the banjo, guitar, mandolin, fiddle, and upright bass, often played in a fast-paced, syncopated style.

Vocabulary from the Play:

Runt: The smallest born of the litter

Slop: Food scraps fed to pigs

Radiant: Shining brightly

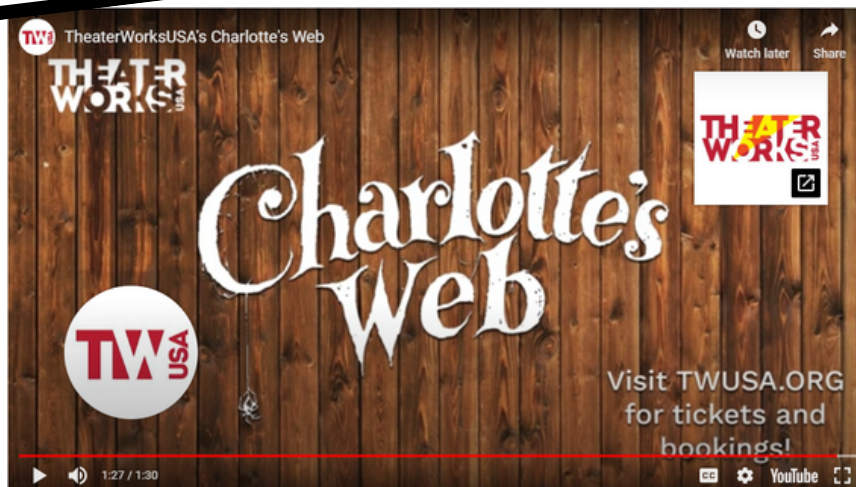
Gander: Male goose

Lonesome: Alone, lonely

Humble: Modest, respectful

Goslings: Baby geese

Loyal: Faithful, devoted, true



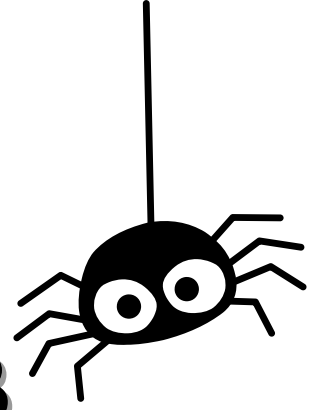
[https://youtu.be/Ga3mlsxx990?si=JpxpC5w\\_jywVme00](https://youtu.be/Ga3mlsxx990?si=JpxpC5w_jywVme00)

Watch Scene One of TWUSA's Charlotte's Web using the link below and answer these questions:

1. Fern is the young girl who wants to keep the pig. How would you convince a family member to allow you to keep a pig? Write or act out a short scene about convincing a family member to keep the pig. Use at least 4 lines of dialogue.

2. What name would you choose for a new pet? Really put some thought into it. Explain the reason you chose that name in a few sentences.

# Charlotte's Web



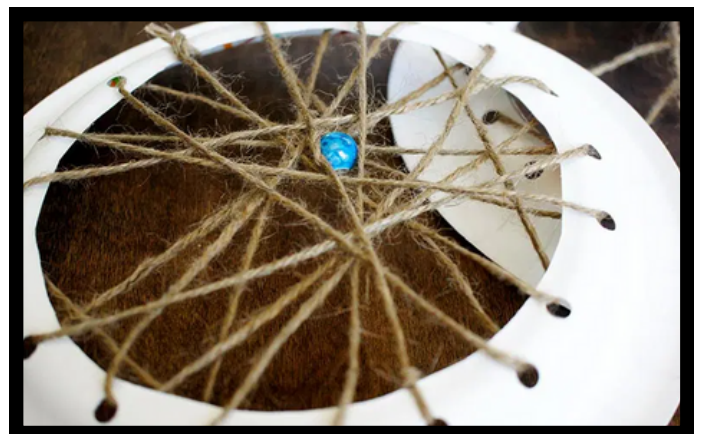
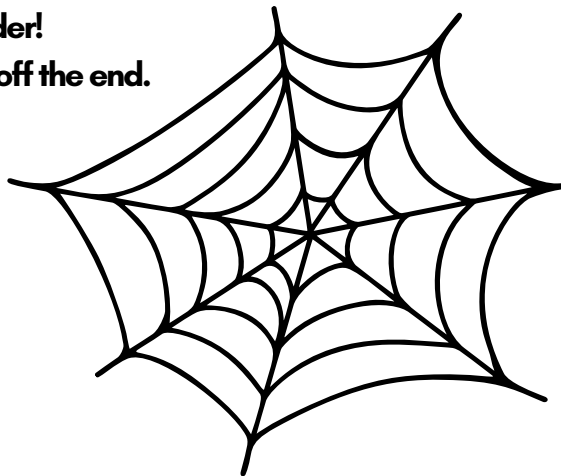
## CRAFT A SPIDER WEB

Materials needed:

- paper plate
- scissors
- hole punch
- twine or yarn
- a bead (to be the spider)

### Steps:

1. Cut out the center of the plate.
2. Punch holes around the **perimeter**.
3. String your twine through the first hole and tie a solid knot. Don't pull too tight.
4. Criss cross the twine until it resembles a spider's web.
5. Before you get to the last hole, string a bead through to be the spider!
6. Tie off the end.



**Perimeter:** The perimeter is the distance around the edge of a shape.

# Charlotte's Web SEL



Charlotte helped Wilbur by spinning her web to write lovely things about him. Everyone can benefit by kind words.

Use this paper and have each student write their name at the top.

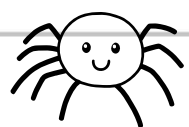
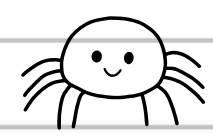
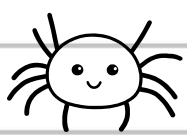
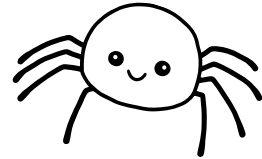
**Pass the pieces of paper around the room so that everyone can write something nice about each student.**

Compliments can range from large to small (ex: You are such a good friend, your sense of style is awesome, I feel comfortable around you, you're good at basketball, etc).

Have the students read these compliments, either to themselves or aloud,

Have a class discussion about how writing compliments for others and hearing compliments about themselves makes them feel.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_





# K-5 Student to Family Cooperative Activity Ideas:

- Create a home theater space: Dedicate a specific area in your home as a temporary theater space. It can be anywhere with a little bit of space to "put on a show". Create a cozy ambiance with lighting and comfortable seating.
- Create tickets and programs: Design and print them at home or even hand made. Deliver the tickets to family members, and the programs can include information about the performance, cast, and crew. This adds a touch of authenticity and excitement.
- Snack bar and concessions: Set up a snack bar or concessions stand with a variety of treats and refreshments. You can even create special themed snacks related to the performance you are watching.
- Interactive viewing experience: Encourage audience participation during the performance. For example, during a musical, you can sing along to the songs and clap during applause-worthy moments!
- Post-show discussions: After the performance, have a family discussion about the show. Share your thoughts, favorite moments, and discuss the themes or lessons portrayed. This can foster critical thinking and encourage creativity in your kids.
- **Remember, the goal is to create a memorable and immersive experience. Adapt these ideas based on your family's preferences and the resources available to you. The key is to have fun and enjoy the theater experience in your digs!**

## Additional Activity Ideas:



- Memory jars: Create a memory jar with your children. Write down favorite childhood memories on small pieces of paper and put them in a jar. Each week or month, take turns pulling out a memory and sharing it. This can spark conversations and lead to further discussions about your childhood experiences, and theirs too!
- Bedtime stories: Instead of reading traditional bedtime stories, take turns sharing personal stories from your childhood. These could be tales of adventure, funny incidents, or heartwarming experiences. This can create a strong bond between you and your children as you share personal narratives.
- Encourage your kids to create their own journals or scrapbooks to document their childhood memories. Take the opportunity to share your childhood stories as you help them with their own projects. You can even contribute by adding some of your own stories or mementos to their journals.
- What was your favorite song, band or genre growing up? Play a few songs for your child/children and let them play a few of their favorites for you!
- Create traditions with your child/children!: Establish special rituals or traditions that you can share. It could be a weekly movie night, cooking together on weekends, going for a walk after dinner, or singing at the top of your lungs before bedtime.

## Florida Standards Alignment: Charlotte’s Web

**Standards Alignment:** The activities in this guide are aligned with the standards listed below. When teachers incorporate the arts, they increase student engagement, offer multiple points for students to access the curriculum, and provide alternate means for students to demonstrate what they know.

Florida’s Benchmarks for Excellent Student Thinking (B.E.S.T.)	
<b>Kindergarten through Grade 12/ English Language Arts</b>	
ELA.K12.EE.1.1	Cite evidence to explain and justify reasoning.
ELA.K12.EE.2.1	Read and comprehend grade-level complex texts proficiently.
ELA.K12.EE.3.1	Make inferences to support comprehension.
ELA.K12.EE.4.1	Use appropriate collaborative techniques and active listening skills when engaging in discussions in a variety of situations.
ELA.K12.EE.5.1	Use the accepted rules governing a specific format to create quality work.
ELA.K12.EE.6.1	Use appropriate voice and tone when speaking or writing.
ELA.1.F.1.4	Read grade-level texts with accuracy, automaticity, and appropriate prosody or expression.
ELA.1.R.3.2	Retell a text in oral or written form to enhance comprehension.
ELA.K.F.1.3 ELA.1.F.1.3 ELA.2.F.1.3 ELA.3.F.1.3 ELA.4.F.1.3 ELA.5.F.1.3	Use knowledge of grade-appropriate phonics and word-analysis skills to decode words accurately. (grades K-5)
ELA.K.V.1.1 ELA.1.V.1.1 ELA.2.V.1.1 ELA.3.V.1.1 ELA.4.V.1.1 ELA.5.V.1.1	Use grade-level academic vocabulary appropriately in speaking and writing. (grades K-5)
<b>Next Generation Sunshine State Standards for Science</b>	
SC.K.L.14.3	Observe plants and animals, describe how they are alike and how they are different in the way they look and in the things they do.
<b>Visual Arts</b>	
VA.1.F.1.1	Use various art media and real or imaginary choices to create artwork.



# My Theater Review

I saw: \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewed by: \_\_\_\_\_

This play/musical was about...

Here's a drawing of  
my favorite character:

It made me feel:

I learned:

I gave this play/musical .... stars.



**We'd love to hear from you! If you'd like to submit this review,  
please send to [jenriquez@browardcenter.org](mailto:jenriquez@browardcenter.org)**