

## CLASSROOM DISCUSSION: CHARLOTTE'S WEB (15 min. total)

### Show & Theater Company: (less than 1 min.)

- Charlotte's Web by TheatreworksUSA

### Art Form: (1-2 min.)

- Musical Theater (a play with songs)

### Context: (3-5 min.)

- Based on the book by E.B. White
  - ? Who has read this book?
  - ? Who has seen a movie based on this book?
- Takes place on a farm

### Main concepts: (3 min.)

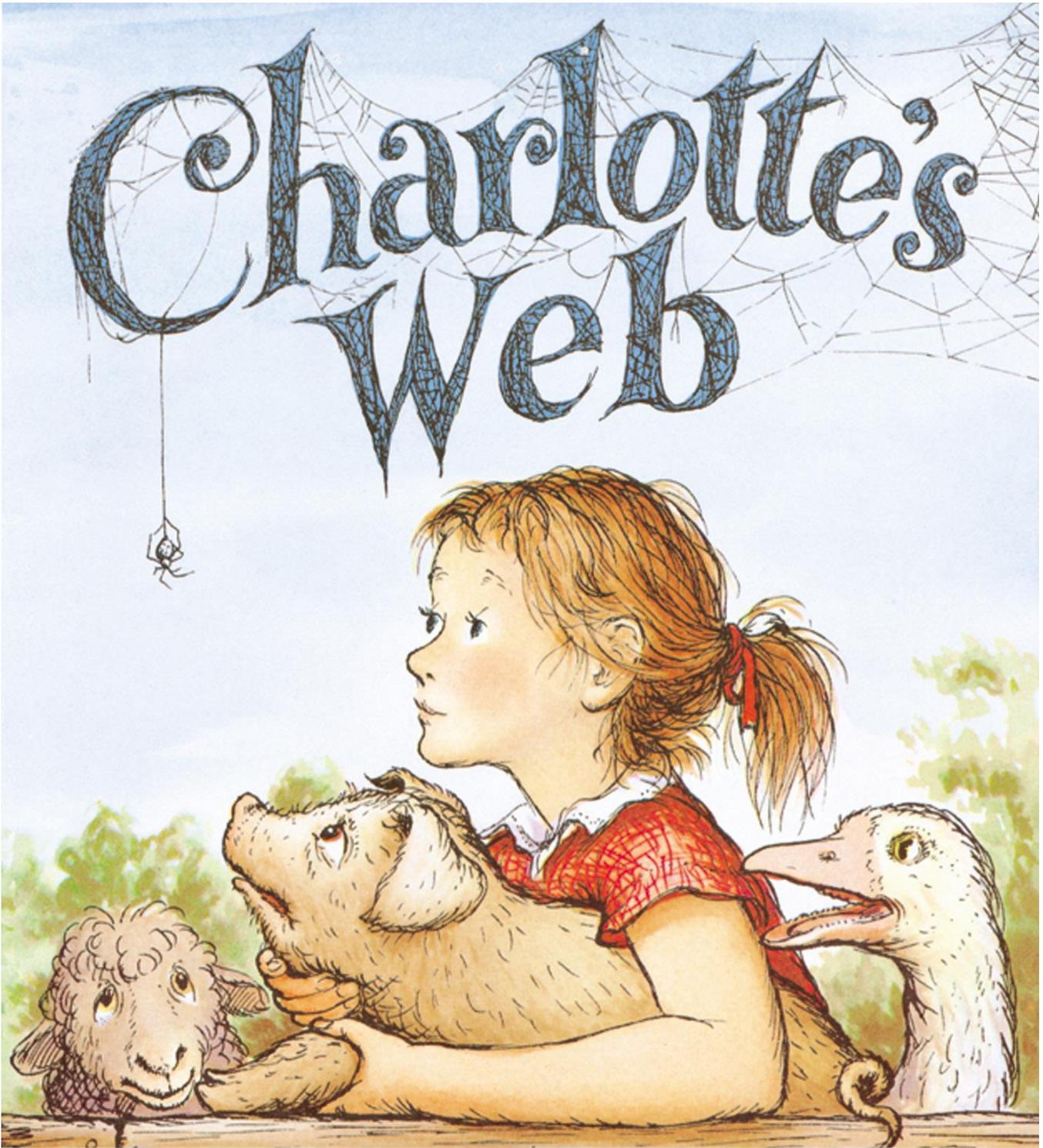
- Wilbur the pig; Fern, the young daughter for Farmer Arable; Charlotte, the spider; Uncle Homer; Goose; Gander; Sheep; and Templeton the rat
  - ? What type of animal is a gander?
- The story is about compassion, friendship, and loyalty.
  - ? What makes a good friend?
  - ? What kinds of things do friends do for each other?

### Special things to look for: (3 min.)

- Minimal set and costumes. The theater company did this on purpose.
  - ? Why do you think they would choose to have minimal sets and costuming? [They want the audience to rely on their imaginations.]
  - ? How do the actors transform into farm animals?
  - ? How do you think the theater company will convey the words in Charlotte's Web?

### Theater Etiquette: (2-3 min.)

- Respect the theater, limit bathroom breaks, one person to a seat, do not kick the seats, no food or drink in the theater (bottled water okay), no audio, video recording or photography and remember to turn off cell phones and please no texting.
  - ? How is watching live theater different than watching a movie or TV?
    - Can't pause, rewind, or fast forward with live theater
    - Live theater is exciting, because each performance is unique
    - Students are in the same room as the performers. Every sound they make and moving around can affect the performers and other members of the audience.



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