

TALKING POINTS FOR CLASSROOM DISCUSSION: CHARLOTTE'S WEB

Show & Theater Company:

Charlotte's Web by TheatreWorksUSA

Art Form:

Musical Theater (a play with songs)

Context & Main Characters:

- Based on the book by E.B. White.
- The book was published in 1952. It's been turned into two movies, a video game, and this stage version.
- Some of the main characters are:
 - Wilbur, a pig who goes to live on a farm
 - Charlotte, a spider who lives in the barn with Wilbur and becomes his friend
 - Templeton, a mischievous rat who loves food
 - The Zuckermans, the farmers all the animals live with
 - Fern, a girl who helped take care of Wilbur when he was a tiny runt

Main Concepts:

- Main concepts (big ideas):
 - Courage
 - Teamwork
 - Creativity
 - Friendship
 - Problem Solving
- When Wilbur is afraid the farmers will eat him, Charlotte writes words in her spiderweb to convince them not to.
 - ? That's one way Charlotte shows her friendship for Wilbur. How does Wilbur show his friendship? How do you show yours to your friends?

Special Things to Look For:

- ? There is a special name for the clothing actors wear on stage—who knows what that is? (costume)
- Some of the actors are playing animals.
 - ? What "tools" will the actors use, besides their costumes, to make us believe they are animals? (They will use their bodies and their voices.)
 - ? If you were going to act like a spider, what would you do? How would you move and speak? What if you were going to act like a pig?

Virtual Theater Etiquette:

As you watch this show, try to immerse yourself as you would if you were at the theater in person.

- Find a quiet space to watch.
- Respect your space – in the theater, we don't put our feet on the seats in front of us or jump and down in our chairs; wherever you're watching this, treat your space with the same level of respect.
- Limit distractions.
- Use the restroom before the show starts so you won't miss anything.
- Put any other electronic devices away.
- Clap when you see something you love!

Show Info: *Charlotte's Web* • October 18 – November 14, 2021 • Grades K-5