

Name _____



Fern's Kindness

From the moment Fern Arable saw the tiny runt piglet, she knew she had to save him. When her father brought out his ax, ready to put the weak piglet down, Fern cried out, "It's unfair!" Her father, surprised by her passion, agreed to let her take care of the pig. She named him Wilbur and raised him

with love, feeding him with a bottle and keeping him warm.

Fern treated Wilbur as more than just an animal—he was her friend. She spent hours with him, talking to him and making sure he was happy. While the adults on the farm saw Wilbur as just another pig, Fern saw him as a living creature who deserved kindness. Her ability to see Wilbur's value reflected the pure-hearted way children view the world—with empathy and care.

When Wilbur grew too big, Fern's father decided to send him to her uncle's farm. Though sad, Fern still visited him, sitting by the barn and listening to the animals. She was one of the only humans who truly understood them. Fern's love for Wilbur never faded, but as she grew older, she slowly spent less time at the barn. This change showed how children's views on animals and the world evolve as they grow up.

Fern's belief that every life matters is a major theme in *Charlotte's Web*. She teaches readers that all creatures, no matter how small, deserve love and protection. Her empathy towards Wilbur represents the innocence and kindness that children naturally have. Through Fern's eyes, we see that animals are not just objects—they are friends, and they have feelings, too.