

Name _____



Laughter and Life

In *Charlotte's Web*, E.B. White explores deep themes like friendship, loss, and the cycle of life. However, he balances these serious ideas with humor and lighthearted moments. By including funny characters, silly conversations, and playful scenes, White makes the story enjoyable while still teaching important lessons.

One of the funniest characters in the book is Templeton, the sneaky and selfish rat. He is always thinking about food, and his grumpy personality adds humor to the barn. When Charlotte asks him to help find words for her web, he refuses at first. But as soon as he realizes there will be food involved, he agrees. His love for eating makes him both amusing and useful in the story.

Another way White adds humor is through the goose. She speaks quickly and repeats words three times, making her sound funny and energetic. For example, when Wilbur first arrives at the barn, she excitedly tells him, "Run-run-run! Jump-jump-jump!" Her way of talking makes her a cheerful and lively character.

Wilbur himself also brings humor to the story, especially when he tries to spin a web like Charlotte. He watches her closely and then flings himself into the air, thinking he can weave silk. Of course, he falls flat on the ground! This silly scene reminds readers that Wilbur is still a young, curious pig who has a lot to learn.

Even though *Charlotte's Web* deals with the serious topic of loss, E.B. White's humor helps make the story feel warm and hopeful. The laughter in the barn reminds readers that life is full of happy and silly moments, even during difficult times. By blending humor with heartfelt lessons, White creates a story that is both meaningful and fun to read.