

2018-2019

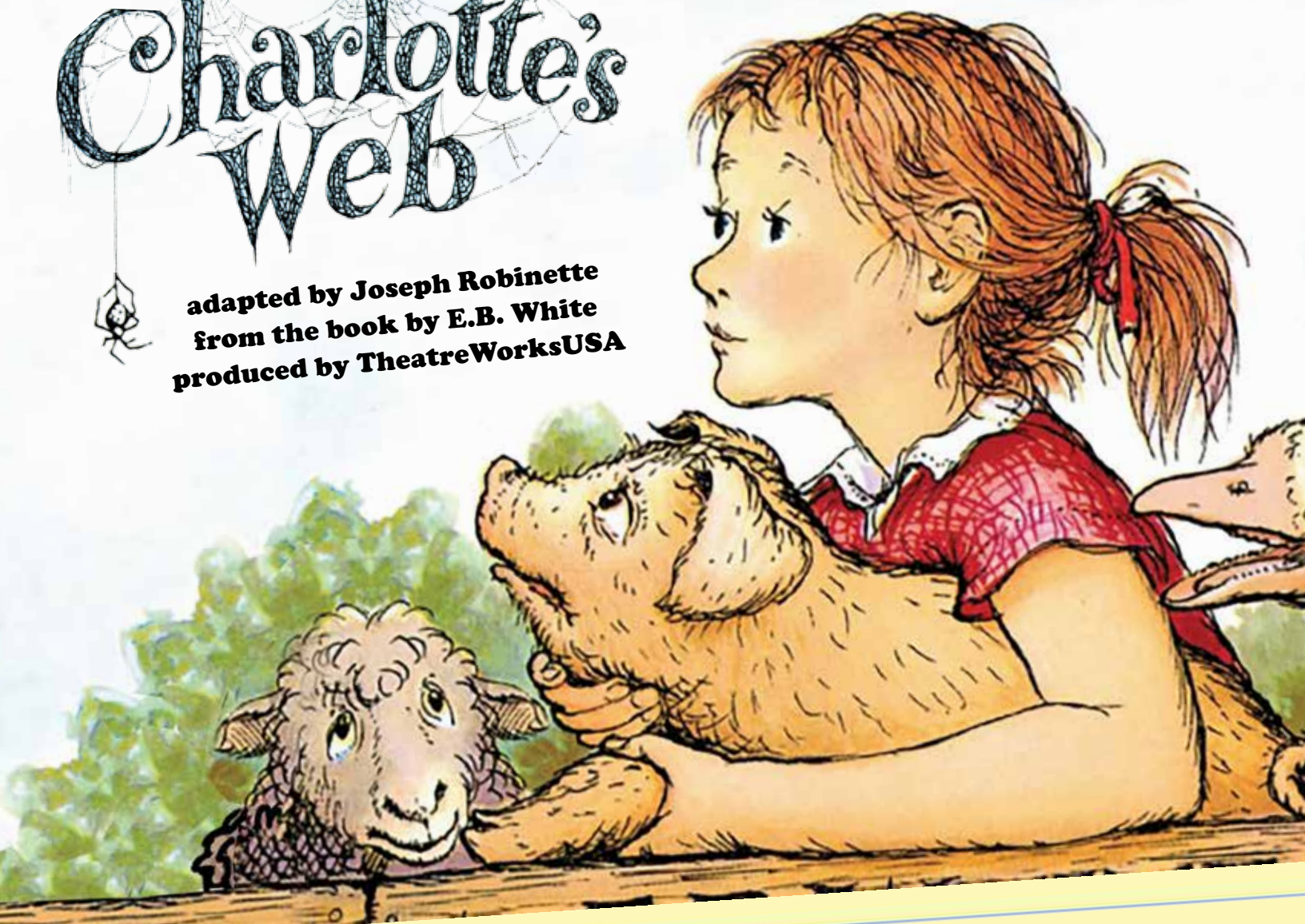
DISCOVERY

Resource Guide

Charlotte's Web



adapted by Joseph Robinette
from the book by E.B. White
produced by TheatreWorksUSA



VICTORIA THEATRE ASSOCIATION

October 17 & 18, 2018
at 9:30 a.m. & 11:30 a.m.



Welcome to the 2018-2019 Discovery Series at Victoria Theatre Association. We are very excited to be your partner in providing professional arts experiences to you and your students!

The story goes that on one early fall morning in Maine in 1949, E.B. White walked into his barn and noticed that a spider had spun a web. Mr. White realized that in addition to the intricate designs inside the web, this spider was weaving an egg sac. In October, with the spider long gone, Mr. White carefully cut out this egg sac, put it in a candy box with air holes, and took it to New York where it was placed on a shelf in his bedroom to be quickly forgotten. Several weeks later, to his surprise, the spiderlings hatched and began to escape through the tiny air holes. He decided to leave them alone to spin their webs throughout his place. That is until his housekeeper complained! In 1952, a few years after this experience, his masterpiece about time, true friendship and mortality, was published.

The information and activities in this resource guide have been carefully crafted to help you and your students explore the many ways a “page to stage” experience can open up learning opportunities. Grade level icons will help you determine which activities are good for students, too. And don’t forget to take advantage of the local resources listed inside to extend the play-going experience and make even more curricular connections for you and your students. Thank you again and welcome!

Gary Minyard
Vice President of
Education & Engagement



Curriculum Connection



You will find these icons listed in the resource guide next to the activities that indicate curricular connections. Teachers and parents are encouraged to adapt all of the activities included in an appropriate way for your students’ age and abilities. CHARLOTTE’S WEB fulfills the following National and Ohio State Standards and Benchmarks for grades 2-6:

English/Language Arts Standards

Grade 2- CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.2.1, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.2.2, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.2.3, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.2.4, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.2.5, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.2.6

Grade 3- CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.3.3, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.3.5, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.3.6

Grade 4- CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.4.2, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.4.3, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.4.5, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.4.6, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.4.7

Grade 5- CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.5.2, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.5.3, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.5.5, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.5.6

Grade 6- CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.6.3, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.6.5, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.6.6, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.6.7

Ohio Department of Education Drama/Theatre Standards

Grade 2- 1CE-7CE, 1PR-3PR, 1RE-6RE

Grade 3- 1CE-5CE, 1PR-6PR, 1RE-5RE

Grade 4- 1CE-6CE, 1PR-7PR, 1RE-5RE

Grade 5- 1CE-5CE, 1PR-5PR, 1RE-5RE

Grade 6- 1CE-5CE, 1PR-5PR, 1RE-7RE

National Core Arts Theatre Standards:

Grades 2-6:

CREATING, PERFORMING, RESPONDING, CONNECTING Anchor Strands 1-11

For more information on the National Core Arts Theatre Standards [click here](#)

Ohio’s New Learning Standards for Social Studies

Civic Participation and Skills (Grades 2-6)

This resource guide was created by Elaine Stoughton. All activities are available for distribution and use in the classroom or at home.

Table of Contents

Comprehension

About the Play	Page 2
Author Spotlight- E.B. White	Page 2
Ohio Spotlight	Page 2
Pre-Show Conversation Starters.....	Page 3

Connection

Spiders in Ohio	Page 4
Spider Walk Worksheet	Page 5
Some Pig! Using Adjectives to Describe	Page 6-7
Friendships on the Farm.....	Page 8

Creativity

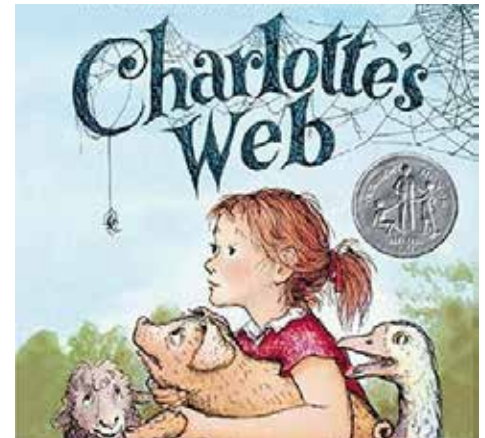
Spin a Web	Page 9
Desktop Wilbur.....	Page 10
Resources for Students and Adults	Page 11
Contact Information	Page 12

About the Play

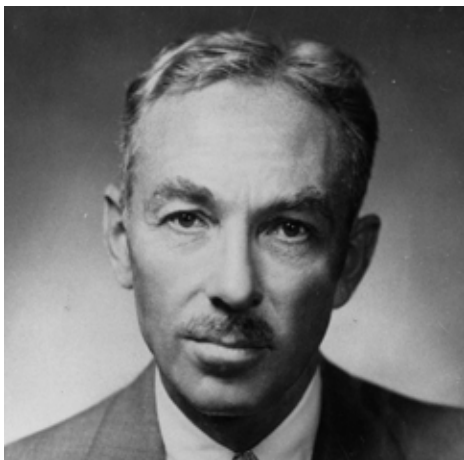


Charlotte's Web

E. B. White's loving story of friendship between a pig named Wilbur and a little gray spider named Charlotte comes to life in *Charlotte's Web*. Wilbur has a problem: how to avoid winding up in the slaughterhouse. Enter Charlotte, a fine writer and a true friend, who assures Wilbur she will save him. Charlotte hits on a plan to fool Farmer Zuckerman—she will create a “miracle”. By spinning the words “Some Pig” in her web, Charlotte weaves a solution which not only makes Wilbur a prize pig, but ensures his place on the farm forever. This treasured tale, featuring mad-cap and endearing farm animals, explores bravery, selfless love, and the true meaning of friendship.



Spotlight on E.B. White



Born Elwyn Brooks White on July 11, 1899, in Mt. Vernon, New York, E.B. White was the youngest of six children. Early on, he realized that in order to be noticed by his family, writing was his best option. After graduating from Mt. Vernon High School in 1917, he enrolled at Cornell University. While at Cornell he began to strengthen his writing skills and took a job as a reporter and writer for the *Cornell Daily Sun*.

After graduating from Cornell in 1921, White travelled through the United States and Europe, writing stories for various newspapers and working odd jobs to save up enough money to travel to his next destination. In 1927 he moved to New York City where he began writing essays and other pieces for *The New Yorker*. In 1938, White and his wife and son moved to Maine to live on a farm. While living on his farm, White wrote two of his most popular books *Stuart Little* and *Charlotte's Web*. Both books brought him numerous honors and awards. In 1963 White received the Presidential Medal of Freedom from President John F. Kennedy. He remained on his farm in North Brooklyn writing books for children and adults until he passed away in 1985.

Ohio Spotlight



E.B. White started writing short stories at a very young age. Did you know that budding young authors can visit The Thurber House in Columbus, Ohio? **The Thurber House** is a not-for-profit literacy center and museum. It was named for its most famous resident, James Thurber, humorist, author, and cartoonist for *The New Yorker*. **In fact, James Thurber and E.B. White were friends and both worked for the same magazines!** The Thurber House hosts a variety of writing workshops for adults and children including the Young Writers' Studio, Writing Wizards, Fable and Ghost Writing workshops, a an 8-week summer camp.

For more information, please visit www.thurberhouse.org.

THURBER HOUSE



Where laughter, learning and literature meet.

Pre-Show Conversation Starters



Charlotte's Web is widely regarded as one of the greatest children's books ever. In fact, in 2015 the BBC voted it the Most Popular English-language Children's Book of all time. It's very likely that you have already read *Charlotte's Web* at school or at home. If you haven't, be sure to familiarize your students with the plot and characters before you attend *CHARLOTTE'S WEB* at the Victoria Theatre. Use the following questions and conversation starters for thoughtful dialogue with your students before you come to the theatre.

1. Making a new friend can be difficult and even a little scary, but it is something that everyone will experience. Ask students to remember a time when they were in a new situation surrounded by people they did not know. Ask students to reflect on that situation:

- How did you feel?
- Were the people around you kind and welcoming or mean and unfriendly?
- How did that affect your attitude?
- Why can it be scary to meet new people and make new friends?
- Why is it important to welcome others when they are in a new situation?

2. Read the following passage from *Charlotte's Web* about first impressions:

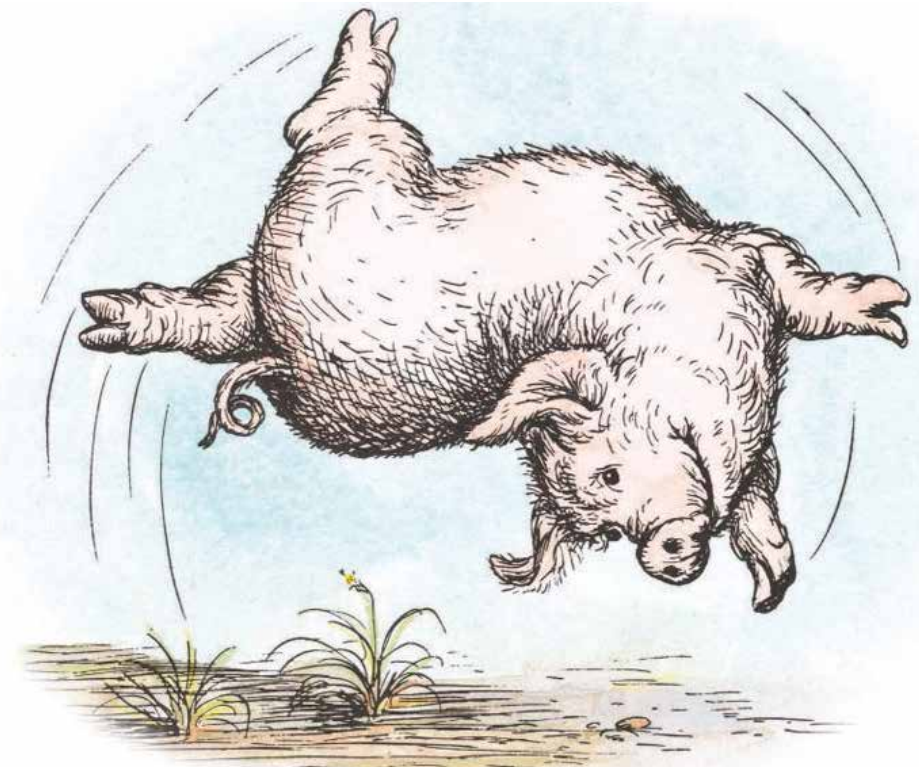
"Charlotte stood quietly over the fly, preparing to eat it. Wilbur lay down and closed his eyes. He was tired from his wakeful night and from the excitement of meeting someone for the first time. A breeze brought him the smell of a clover—the sweet-smelling world beyond his fence. "Well," he thought, "I've got a new friend all right! But what a gamble friendship is! Charlotte is fierce, brutal, scheming, bloodthirsty—everything I don't like. How can I learn to like her, even though she is pretty and, of course, clever?"

Discuss the passage with students:

- Did you ever have an experience like this, in which you thought a person was mean or scary or strange at first but later you found out that he or she was nice?
- Can you learn to like someone you originally disliked?
- What happens when people draw conclusions based on first impressions?

3. **Keeping** a friend is as important as **making** one. What are some things that you can do to be a good friend today? Make a chart on the board of ways to **make** a new friend and ways to **keep** a friend.

4. The story of *Charlotte's Web* takes place on a farm and at the State Fair. Have you ever visited the fair? Do you or anyone you know live on a farm? How is it different than living in the city? If any of your students live on a farm or participate in 4-H have them share some of their experiences.



Arachnophobia! Spiders in Ohio

SCIENCE

ENGLISH/
LANGUAGE
ARTS

All
GRADES

Arachnophobia is the fear of *spiders* or other creatures from the **arachnid family** (like scorpions!)

But, Spiders don't have to be scary!

Did you know that Ohio is home to almost 600 different species of spiders! The most common spider families in our state are:

- Orb Weavers—Araneidae (also Aranea)
- Ground Spiders—Gnaphosidae
- Sheet Web Weavers—Linyphiidae
- Wolf Spiders—Lycosidae
- Jumping Spiders—Salticidae
- Cobweb Weavers—Theridiidae
- Crab Spiders — Thomisidae

Ohio Wolf Spider



For many people the word **spider** brings to mind terrifying images, but in reality most spiders are harmless to humans and many are beneficial to us! **Spiders** are especially useful in keeping our homes, schools, playgrounds, yards and barns pest free.

What type of spider is Charlotte?

She gives us a clue when she introduces herself: **Charlotte A. Cavatica**

The middle initial—**A**—stands for Charlotte's middle name: Aranea. This comes from the Latin language, since Aranea is the scientific name for spiders that weave orb-webs.

Cavatica—Charlotte's last name—comes from the Latin word cavus (which means pit or hole). Spiders like Charlotte prefer to spend their lives in shady places like you might find in a barn.

At the time E.B. White was working on writing *Charlotte's web*, the scientific name for barn spiders found in New England (like Charlotte) was Aranea Cavatica. Today, these spiders are called Araneus Cavaticus.

Spider Walk

SCIENCE

What are spiders truly like? In *Charlotte's Web*, the spider Charlotte is kind, supportive, understanding, and likeable. However, in everyday life many people are scared of spiders.

Encourage your students to have a better understanding and appreciation of spiders by leading an investigation of discovery on a **Spider Walk**.

Use the table on the next page and lead your students on a walk through school property. If there isn't a lot of outside play area at your school, have the students complete the chart with a parent at home or take a trip to a local park. It shouldn't take long to come across a spider or two. After the **Spider Walk**, have students share their observations with the class.



Spider Walk Worksheet



NAME: _____ **Date:** _____

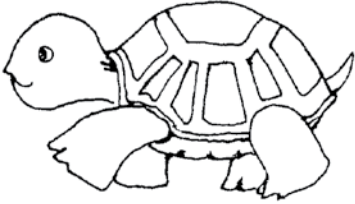
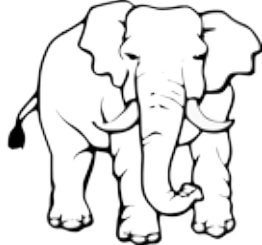





On your walk, focus on finding different types of spiders and their unique habitats. Use the Spider Chart to record your findings by using words or pictures.

Describe the spider's appearance (color, size, markings):	Describe where you found the spider:	Describe the spider's web, if any:	What was the spider doing?	What was in the web, or what was the spider carrying?

NAME: _____ Date: _____

Adjectives are describing words. **Adjectives** can describe **nouns** which are *people, places, or things*. Charlotte the Spider uses **adjectives** to describe Wilbur. Some of the **adjectives** she uses are "Terrific", "Humble", and "Radiant".

Directions: Color each of the animals. Then, cut out each of the pieces. Last, glue each of the animals with its best adjective onto a separate sheet of paper.

	<p>fast</p>	
	<p>sharp</p>	
<p>big</p>		<p>slow</p>
	<p>smooth</p>	
<p>tall</p>	<p>small</p>	

NAME: _____ **Date:** _____

As you will learn, Charlotte the Spider has a way with words. In fact, her impressive vocabulary plays a big role in the second half of the play. Charlotte has many words to describe Wilbur. Words that describe a noun are called **adjectives**. Take a look at the list below of words you will hear during the play. Then read the definition, and use the blanks to think of another word that has a similar meaning.

Runt	An animal that is smaller than average	Tiny
Weakling	An animal that is physically weak or frail	_____
Injustice	A lack of fairness	_____
Slop	Food fed to farm animals	_____
Trifle	A thing of little value or importance	_____
Glutton	An excessive, greedy eater	_____
Salutations	A formal greeting	_____
Brutal	Savagely violent	_____
Bloodthirsty	Eager to shed blood	_____
Unremitting	Never slackening or relaxing	_____
Dud	A thing that always fails to work properly	_____
Hysterics	A widely emotional reaction	_____
Radiant	Shining or glowing brightly	_____
Schemer	A person involved in underhanded plans	_____
Hankering	A strong desire to have or do something	_____
Charitable	Assisting those who are in need	_____
Gander	A prolonged look or glance	_____
Distinguished	Successful and commanding great respect	_____

Hint: If you need help finding a similar word, consult a thesaurus for help.

Friendships on the Farm Worksheet

ENGLISH/
LANGUAGE
ARTS



NAME: _____ **Date:** _____

At the end of *Charlotte's Web*, Wilbur is amazed when Charlotte does something wonderful for him. When he asks her why she says, "You have been my friend... that in itself is a tremendous thing."

There are many examples of friendship in *Charlotte's Web*. If you have read the book, feel free to complete this worksheet before you attend *Charlotte's Web*, if not then come back and complete it after the show!

1. The Goose is a friend to Templeton when she lets him have the rotten egg.

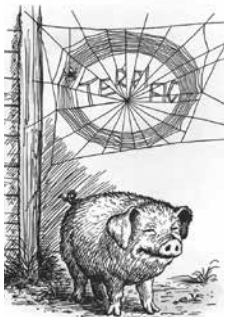
2. _____ is a friend to _____ when _____

3. _____ is a friend to _____ when _____

4. _____ is a friend to _____ when _____

5. _____ is a friend to _____ when _____

6. _____ is a friend to _____ when _____



E.B. White was inspired to write *Charlotte's Web* while working on his farm. "One day when I was on my way to feed the pig, I began feeling sorry for the pig because, like most pigs, he was doomed to die. This made me sad. So I started thinking of ways to save a pig's life. I had been watching a big grey spider at her work and was impressed by how clever she was at weaving. Gradually I worked the spider into the story that you know, a story of friendship and salvation on a farm. Three years after I started writing it, it was published."

Spin your own Web



When Wilbur gets in trouble, Charlotte the Spider tries to save the day by writing adjectives that describe Wilbur in her web. She writes things like, "Some Pig," "Terrific," "Radiant," and "Humble. These words all describe Wilbur's personality and show that he is one special farm animal.

Wilbur's personality shows that he is one special farm animal. In this activity, students will have the opportunity to interview each other and create an adjective web for their partner.

What You Will Need:

- Black Construction Paper
- Liquid School Glue
- Loose glitter
- Old Magazines or Newspapers

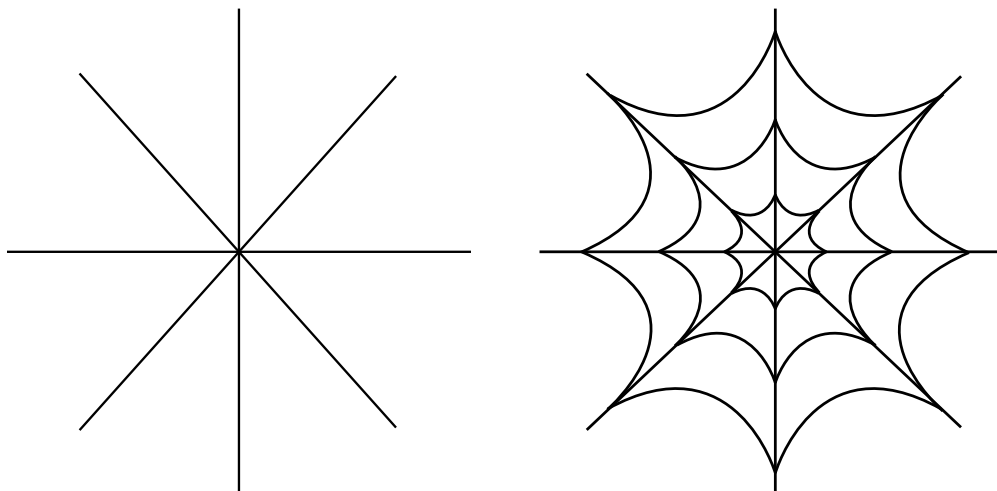
Step One: Pair students up and instruct students to interview each other. After the interviews, have each student pick an adjective that describes their partners best.

Some words students may use might include:

- | | |
|---------|---------|
| • Funny | • Silly |
| • Happy | • Nice |
| • Kind | • Brave |

Step Two: Next, go through the magazines or newspapers and cut out letters to form the adjectives that best describe your interview partner. Cut them out and place them aside.

Step Three: To draw your spider web start out by drawing a series intersecting lines on the paper. Then draw curved lines between each. Next, go through the magazines or newspapers and find words that describe your interview partner. Cut them out and place them aside.



Step Four: Working quickly, squeeze a thin line of glue on your pencil markings to create the web. Carefully stick your words to the web and cover the rest of the glue with glitter. When dry, hang up the classroom webs for all to see!

Additional books by E.B. White:

Stuart Little, 1945.

The Trumpet of the Swan, 1970.

Publications for Teachers and Parents:

Organic Creativity in the Classroom: Teaching to Intuition in Academics and the Arts, Written by Jane Piirto. Prufrock Press: 2013.

Nurturing Creativity in the Classroom, Edited by Ronald A. Beghetto and James C. Kaufman. Cambridge University Press: 2010.

Signs of Change: New Directions in Theatre Education, Written by Joan Lazarus. Intellect Ltd; Revised and Amplified Edition: 2012.

Theatre for Change: Education, Social Action, and Therapy, Written by Robert Landy and David T. Montgomery. Palgrave Macmillan: 2012.

Play: How it Shapes the Brain and Invigorates the Soul, Written by Stuart Brown and Christopher Vaughn. Harvard University Press: 2009.

Websites:

<https://www.scholastic.com/charlottesweb/>: Explore Zuckerman's Farm, the State Fair, make your own comics, and more! This website contains games, activities, and a behind the scenes look at the making of the film version of Charlotte's Web.

<http://www.harpercollinschildrens.com/HarperChildrens/kids/gamesandcontests/features/charlottesweb/default.aspx>: This website features information on E.B. White as well as more classroom and at home activities for students who love Charlotte's Web.

<http://gws.ala.org/category/literature-languages>: The American Library Association has compiled a comprehensive database of the best literature and language websites just for children. Here students can learn more about new authors, other languages, how to be a better writer, and more. Perfect for budding young authors and readers!

<https://www.victoriatheatre.com/education-engagement/about-education/>: During the 2014-2015 Season, the Education & Engagement Department at Victoria Theatre Association hosted over 200 events and worked with over 100,000 members of the Dayton community. That's a lot! Stay up-to-date on exciting information like Summer Camps, Free Master Classes, Adult Education Opportunities, Backstage Tours, and more!

<http://www.americansforthearts.org/>: American's for the Arts is another great website full of research and information about the importance of Art in the classroom. Check out their amazing reports, and then use #ArtsTransform to share your personal stories.

Victoria Fuse's Local Resource Discovery

Want to experience Farm Life right here in Dayton? Visit Aullwood Audubon Center and Farm and see their expansive farm and nature center. In 1957, Dayton resident Marie Aull donated 70 acres of land to the National Audubon Society to create the first nature center in the Midwest. Today the Aullwood Farm and Nature Center has over six miles of trails, as well as different habitats that include a farm, forest, prairie, marsh, and pond. Farm animals include sheep, cows, chickens, horses, and of course, pigs! For more information or to schedule a trip, please visit

http://web4.audubon.org/local/sanctuary/aullwood/Farm_1.html



Brought to you by



VICTORIA THEATRE ASSOCIATION
VICTORIA • SCHUSTER • MACCLOFF • ARTS ANNEX • ARTS GARAGE

138 North Main Street
Dayton, OH 45402



The Education & Engagement programs of Victoria Theatre Association are made possible through the support and commitment of The Frank M. Tait Foundation and the following sponsors and donors whose generosity have opened the door of live theatre to the students of the Miami Valley:

PROGRAM SPONSORS

The Frank M. Tait Foundation
Steve and Kate Hone
American Testing Services
The Berry Family Foundation
Crane Consumables
The Kuntz Foundation
Perfection Group Inc.
Merle F. Wilderberdin
Anonymous Gifts

SUPPORT FOR FUELING EDUCATION IS GENEROUSLY PROVIDED BY
Greater Dayton Regional Transit Authority
Speedway LLC

BROADWAY EDUCATION PROGRAMS

EDUCATION PROGRAMS:

Broadway Camps & Intensives
Broadway Master Classes

SUPPORT FOR BROADWAY EDUCATION PROGRAMS IS GENEROUSLY PROVIDED BY

The Vectren Foundation

OTHER BROADWAY PROGRAMS:

Background on Broadway
Bagels & Broadway

THEATREWORKS USA

THEATREWORKS USA (Producer) Theatreworks USA is America's largest and most prolific professional not-for-profit theatre for young and family audiences. Since 1961, Theatreworks USA has enlightened, entertained, and instructed over 90 million people in 49 states and Canada, now performing for about three million people annually. Every year, the company tours approximately 16 shows from its ever-growing repertoire of 133 plays and musicals. In addition, Theatreworks USA also has an extensive multi-cultural guest artist roster, including storytellers, puppeteers, poets, and magicians. Under the direction of Barbara Pasternack (Artistic Director) and Ken Arthur (Managing Director), Theatreworks USA is also one of the most honored theatres of its kind. It is the only children's theatre to receive both a Drama Desk and a Lucille Lortel Award. In addition, Theatreworks USA was the recipient of a 2001 Jonathan Larson Performing Arts Foundation Award, and in May 2000, The Actors Fund of America bestowed its Medal of Honor upon its founders, Jay Harnick and Charles Hull.

For more information, visit <http://www.theatreworks.org/>.

DON'T FORGET

All schools that receive scholarships for a show and/or transportation are asked and encouraged to create thank-you letters or cards for our sponsors. Please address your students' thank-you notes to:

DISCOVERY Sponsors
c/o Victoria Theatre Association
138 North Main Street
Dayton, OH 45402

