

# LITERARY STUDY

Suggested ages: 6-10

Fill in the questions below, refer to the definitions on the back

**Name of the Work:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Year Published:**

**Author:**

**Describe the setting of the story:**

**Name the main characters in the story:**

**Who is the protagonist in the story?**

**Which character was your favorite and why?**

**List two to three traits that can be used to describe your favorite character.**

**Who was the antagonist in the story?**

**What was the conflict/problem in the story?**

**What was the resolution?**

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Fill in the questions below, use a blank sheet if you need more space

## **What is one thing you learned from this story?**

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**Definitions:** Picture a story as a play: there is a stage, actors, and the actions which take place.

**Setting:** The setting is like the stage in a play. The setting is when and where the story takes place. Is it on a farm, in the city, on a boat, or in a house? Is the story set in America or in Russia? Did the story take place during the time of the kings and queens, or in modern times? The setting for Charlotte's Web for example, is a barnyard in the country.

**Characters:** The characters are like the actors in a play. They are the ones who perform the action in the story. Characters can be people or animals, or sometimes even plants or inanimate objects. Whoever is doing the talking in the story is always an actor. Some of the characters in Charlotte's Web include Wilbur the pig, Charlotte the spider, Templeton the rat, and Fern, the girl.

**Protagonist:** In a story there is usually one main character that the story focuses on—this character is called the protagonist. The action of the story revolves around this character. This character is usually good, or if he does not start out as good, he usually improves as the story continues. The protagonist in Charlotte's Web is Wilbur the pig.

**Antagonist:** In a story, the protagonist always faces a difficulty. This challenge is known as the antagonist. Usually the antagonist is a mean person who is working against the protagonist. Sometimes however, the protagonist is not struggling against another person, but rather may be fighting against disease, or bad weather, or bad circumstances. In Charlotte's Web the antagonist is not a person or animal, Wilbur is fighting for life, fighting against being killed as food.

**Plot:** The plot is the action of the story. It is a basic summary of what happens in the story—what the story is all about. The plot of Charlotte's Web is that a young pig is raised by a girl. When he finds out that he will one day be killed for food, he attempts to find a way to save his life. He is helped by a spider and with her aid is eventually able to save his life.

**Conflict:** In the plot there is always a problem to be solved by the protagonist, The problem is known as the conflict. In the case of Charlotte's web, the problem is how to keep Wilbur from being killed.

**Resolution:** In a story, the resolution is the means by which the conflict is solved. How did the protagonist solve the problem that faced him? In Charlotte's web, the resolution is that Charlotte the spider works to make Wilbur famous, and when he becomes famous, Zuckerman agrees to allow him to live.

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