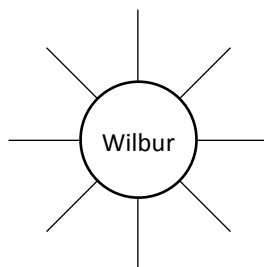


scruples, no consideration, no decency, no milk of rodent kindness, no compunctions, no higher feeling, no friendliness, no anything.”) Have the child explain the author’s description of Templeton. (He couldn’t be trusted to do what was right.)

- ❖ Have the child define these vocabulary words. Read the words in context within the story, then use the context clues to determine the meaning of the words.
 - steadily (page 25): continually, not stopping
 - glutton (page 29): a greedy eater, a “pig”
 - stealthily (page 30): cautiously, not wanting to be seen or heard
 - objectionable (page 35): unpleasant or offensive to others
 - salutations (page 35): greetings
 - bloodthirsty (page 39): eager to kill for blood
 - swathes (page 42): strips or rows
 - unrelenting (page 44): continual
 - untenable (page 47): defenseless against the smell
- ✦ Challenge: Have the child choose four vocabulary words and use each one in a sentence.
- ❖ Write each vocabulary word on an index card. Then write the word and its definition on another index card. Do not write on the other side of the index cards. Save the index cards to use for other activities.
- ❖ Ask the child, “Have you ever heard the phrase ‘pack rat’? What do you think it means? Use Templeton as an example in your answer.” (*A pack rat is someone who collects things that they may not need. Templeton picked up unusual objects and stored them in his home. He saved everything.*)
- ❖ Foreshadowing in a story gives a sign or warning of what is to come. On page 40-41, what information foreshadows what will happen in the story? (*The goose thought to herself, “He’s really a very innocent little pig. He doesn’t even know what’s going to happen to him around Christmastime; he has no idea that Mr. Zuckerman and Lurvy are plotting to kill him.” Wilbur thought, “How can I learn to like her, even though she is pretty and, of course, clever?” And the author states, “He (Wilbur) was to discover that he was mistaken about Charlotte... she had a kind heart, and she was to prove loyal and true to the very end.”*)
- ❖ Ask the child, “Why do you think someone would want to be Wilbur’s friend? If you were in the barn, how would you convince someone that Wilbur would make a good friend?”
 - A persuasive speech or letter is intended to convince someone to do something.
 - Have the child write a persuasive speech.
 - ✦ Begin by using a graphic organizer to help the child organize his ideas and communicate more effectively.
 - ✦ Have the child draw a writing web. Write Wilbur’s name in the center of the web.



- ✦ Write the reasons why Wilbur would make a good friend.
- ✦ Help him choose descriptive words and use examples from the story. For example, the child could describe Wilbur as being loyal. He waited at the bus stop for Fern. He followed her around her home.
- ✦ Have the child read his speech aloud. Make sure the ideas flow logically. If any sentences are out of order, draw an arrow to the place in the paragraph where they would fit better. Then check for correct punctuation in each sentence and a capital letter at the beginning of each sentence. Also check for correct spelling. If anything is incorrect, have the child draw a line through the incorrect answer and write the correct answer above or next to it. Have him recopy his speech on a sheet of paper.