

# UNFORGETTABLE CHARACTERS AND YOUNG HEROINES

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# Integrated Literature Studies

**Topic: Unforgettable characters and young heroines    Year Levels: 3-6**

Begin with: *Charlotte's Web* (White), *Pippi Longstocking* (Lindgren), *The BFG* (Dahl) or *Matilda* (Dahl)

## LITERATURE

Compare characters and settings in these novels with similar characters and settings in other novels. Take part in literature response groups. Guess from the title and the book jacket what the book will be about. Support or deny guesses by listening to booktalks.

Make a list of the elements found in a fantasy and the elements found in realistic fiction. Of the five novels, which belongs in each group?

Gather more books by Roald Dahl, E. B. White, and Astrid Lindgren. Establish criteria for judging a good book and apply to the books of one author. Which was most liked and why? What criteria did it meet?

## LANGUAGE ARTS

Write songs, poems and raps about characters in the novels.

Topic talk on topics related to the novels. Keep (and write daily in) pre-reading journals.

Use reference books and library skills to locate information for a variety of products on non-fiction topics.

Make guesses about new vocabulary words and support or deny by using attentive listening skills in hearing a booktalk.

Conduct group discussions to respond to selections read.

## SOCIAL STUDIES

Report on farm life during each season of the year. Report on protecting wildlife. Discuss rules and laws. Make rules for the classroom.

Find out how garbage is disposed of in your community. What can be done to reduce the amount of garbage from each home? Find out how manners and customs differ in various countries. Why are manners important?

Find out about circus life.

Report on countries around the world in a song.

Report on gifted people.

## SCIENCE

Find out about pollution of the earth.

Find out about and report on:

animal homes

birds found in the bush

seasons

kinds of cats

weather and barometers

migration of birds

firefighting

machines and inertia

## MATHS

Calculate distances characters travel and the time it would take using various modes of transportation.

Calculate how much food is needed to feed a group of characters at a picnic or tea party.

## INTRODUCING THE THEME

Make a class record book. Every child in the class is unique. Each has had an experience no other has had or is related to someone no one else can claim, or has something at home no one else has or ...

Each child gets a page in the record book.

When the book is complete, talk about uniqueness as well as the human qualities we all share. Ask children as they read the books on unforgettable characters, *why* they are unforgettable or unique, and what qualities they share with all of us.

## FINE ARTS

Make model ships and/or cars.

Make friendship ribbons.

Make a collage to illustrate a theme

Example: Freedom from *Pippi Longstocking* or giftedness from *Matilda*, or friendship from *Charlotte's Web*.

*Charlotte's Web*  
by E. B. White • Harper Row, 1952

## Meeting New Words

Put each of these words under one of the headings below. Guess where the word goes if you do not know. Then listen to the booktalk to support or deny your guesses.

stalk  
pigpen  
scythe  
popover

stall  
grindstone  
slop  
hominy

sheepfold  
web  
harness  
straw

(1) Place for Animals

(2) Found in a Barn

(3) To eat

## Booktalk

My name is Charlotte. I am a spider and my home is in a web up high in Mr. Zuckerman's barn. Please don't run away as some people do when they meet a spider. My web is tucked away right here between the scythe and the grindstone. Spiders are very helpful creatures, you know. Without us the world would be very buggy to say the least. Maybe you don't eat flies, but I do; that is why your kitchen isn't full of them.

I am helpful in other ways, too. I keep an eye on the horse in his stall, the sheep in the sheepfold and Wilbur, the pig in his pigpen. Templeton, the rat, would eat all of Wilbur's slops if I weren't watching. Slops are the leftovers from the Zuckerman's kitchen...things like popovers and hominy.

Wilbur didn't know, you see, that he was being fattened up for the butcher. He was so upset when he found out that I promised to save him. It was a hasty promise to be sure. How can a tiny spider save a pig? I will have to give the matter a great deal of thought.

A promise is a promise and I have never broken one yet!

### SKILLS

In this booktalk find:

1. A proper noun
2. A pronoun
3. A contraction
4. Four common nouns in the same sentence
5. A possessive noun
6. A collective noun
7. A plural noun
8. A compound word