

Table of Contents

Introduction and Sample Lessons	3
Sample Lesson Plan	4
Unit Planner	5
Getting to Know the Book and Author	6
Suggestions for Using the Unit Activities	7
Unit Activities – English	
◆ Pocket Chart Activities	13
◆ Pocket Chart Patterns	15
◆ Story Questions	16
◆ Story Summary Sentence Strips	18
◆ ‘Best Friend’ Poems	20
◆ Stick Puppet Theatres	21
◆ Stick Puppet Patterns	22
◆ Character Web	25
◆ Diamante Poetry	26
◆ ‘Spin a Web’	27
◆ Spider Pattern	28
◆ ‘Pig Interview’	30
◆ What’s the Story?	31
Unit Activities – Related Curriculum	
◆ Blue Ribbon Maths	32
◆ ‘Pamper your Pet’ Fact Chart	34
◆ Animal Babies Booklets	35
◆ A Look at Arthropods	37
◆ This Is the Life!	38
◆ What’s the Problem?	39
Culminating Activities	
◆ First Prize Recipes	40
◆ 3-D Farm Scenes	41
◆ ‘Some Pig!’	42
◆ Suggestions for Presenting Reader’s Theatre	43
◆ Reader’s Theatre Script	44
Bibliography	48

Introduction and Sample Lessons

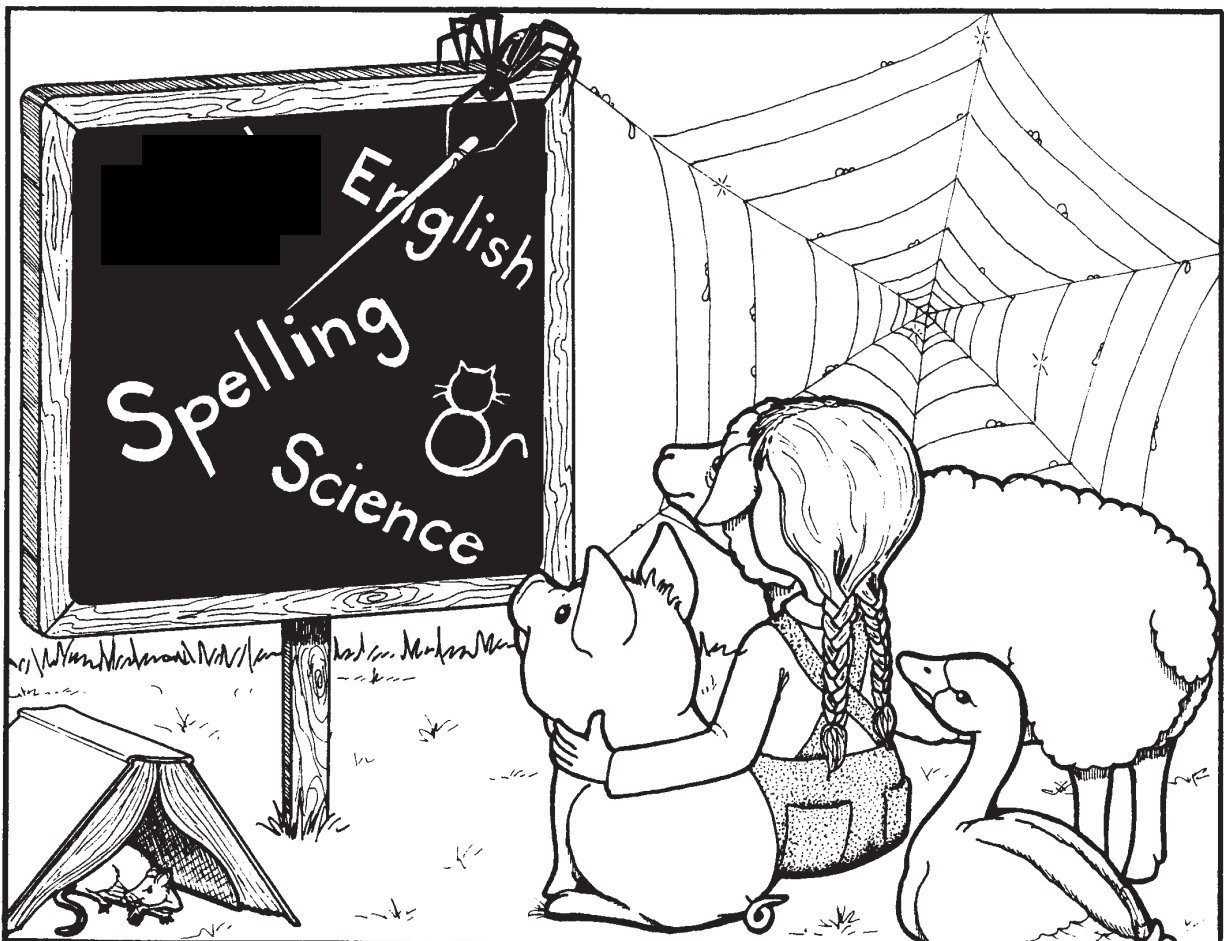
A good book can touch the lives of children like a good friend. The pictures, words and characters can inspire young minds as they turn to literary treasures for companionship, recreation, comfort and guidance. Great care has been taken in selecting the books and unit activities that comprise the primary series of *Literature Units*. Teachers who use this literature unit to supplement their own valuable ideas can plan the activities using one of the following methods.

A Sample Lesson Plan

The sample lessons on page 4 provide you with a specific set of lesson plan suggestions. Each of the lessons can take from one to several days to complete and can include all or some of the suggested activities. Refer to the 'Suggestions for Using the Unit Activities' on pages 7–12 for information relating to the unit activities.

A Unit Planner

If you wish to tailor the suggestions on pages 7–12 in a format other than that prescribed in the Sample Lesson Plan, a blank unit planner is provided on page 5. On a specific day you may choose the activities you wish to include by writing the activity number or a brief notation about the lesson in the 'Unit Activities' section. Space has been provided for reminders, comments and other pertinent information relating to each day's activities. Reproduce copies of the Unit Planner as needed.



Getting to Know...

...the Book

Charlotte's Web is published in Australia by Penguin Books.

This heartwarming story of a pig, the little girl who decides to raise him, the devotion of a good friend and an unlikely assortment of barnyard animals determined to save his life is sure to touch the lives of children and adults.

The Arable's farm is filled with excitement as a new litter of pigs is born. But when Mr Arable decides to kill the runt of the litter, Fern begs her father to spare his life. She agrees to care for the pig, whom she lovingly names Wilbur. Eventually, Wilbur is moved to Uncle Zuckerman's Farm. Wilbur is sad and lonely, until he is befriended by a clever spider named Charlotte, who promises to save Wilbur's life. Charlotte uses her unique web-spinning talents to write words about Wilbur in her web. People come from all around to view the amazing words which describe this extraordinary pig. Wilbur wins a prize at the County Fair and his life is spared. Charlotte has one more surprise for Wilbur when they return to the farm – an egg sac filled with hundreds of tiny spider eggs! But Charlotte dies before her children are born, leaving behind her spiderlings, which Wilbur tends to until they hatch.

...the Author

E. B. White (Elwyn Brooks White) was born in New York, U.S.A., in 1899. After graduating from Cornell University, White travelled around the country and worked as a reporter, writer and an editor. In 1925, he began writing for *The New Yorker*. Two of his children's books, *Charlotte's Web* (1952) and *The Trumpet of the Swan* (1970), have received many awards and honours. In both books, the animals display human qualities as they talk and act like people. The underlying themes in *Charlotte's Web* and *The Trumpet of the Swan* are love and friendship. E.B. White also wrote *Stuart Little*. He received a special citation from the Pulitzer Prize Committee for his literary contributions.



Suggestions for Using the Unit Activities *(cont.)*

4. Stick Puppet Theatre/Puppet Patterns

Prepare 'Stick Puppet Theatres' following the suggestions and directions on page 21. Allow the students to construct puppets by colouring and cutting out the puppets and gluing them to icy-pole sticks. Follow the suggestions for using stick puppets found at the bottom of page 21.

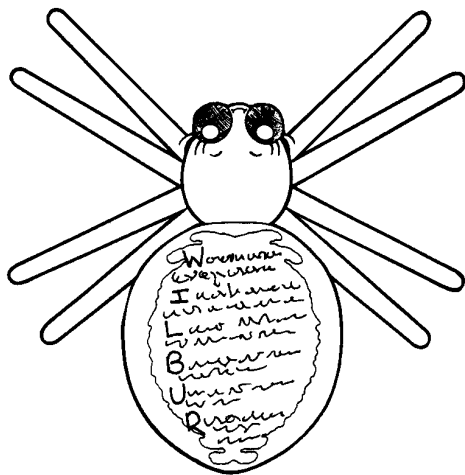
5. Diamante Poetry

Have students create contrast poems by introducing them to the poetic form of the diamante. (The diamante pattern and a poetry sample are provided on page 26.) Model the poetry form and provide practice in using the diamante pattern. Have students write 'Country-City' poems after completing the Venn diagram on page 38.

6. Spin a Web Activities

• *At Home Activity*

Templeton scavenged through the trash at the fair in search of new words for Charlotte to spin in her web. Have students search through magazines and newspapers at home for words they can bring to class. These could be words that describe the child or a friend. Encourage students to choose words from a related area of the curriculum, words that begin with a specific letter, parts of speech etc. Cut out the words. Display them on the 'Spin a Web' by gluing each word to a strip of construction paper. Attach the words to spinnerets or to the spider's body on the 'Spin a Web' page.



• *Acrostics*

As an alternative to the 'At Home Activity', have students create acrostics using the letters from one of the characters' names in Charlotte's Web. Remind them that the phrases they choose should reflect a quality or action of the character.

Completed acrostics can be written in the centre of the spider pattern on page 28 (see illustration). Attach the assembled spiders to the spider web for all to read and enjoy. As an extension, have students create acrostics about themselves and write them on the spiders.

7. 'Pig Interview'

Have children conduct a 'Pig Interview'. Allow children to work in pairs to interview a pig; one takes the role of the pig and the other takes the role of the reporter. Encourage the children to be creative and think of unusual and original responses to the questions. Record responses. See questions and student directions on page 30. When interviews are completed, have the teams share the information they have gathered from the interviews with a small group or the entire class. Each child can begin with the statement, 'Let me introduce you to _____, the pig.'

Suggestions for Using the Unit Activities *(cont.)*

Into the Book *(cont.)*

8. What's the Story?

Have students use the story map on page 31 to determine the setting, characters, problem and solution elements in *Charlotte's Web*. If students are not familiar with this format, model the process with them using the example on this page or one of your own choosing.



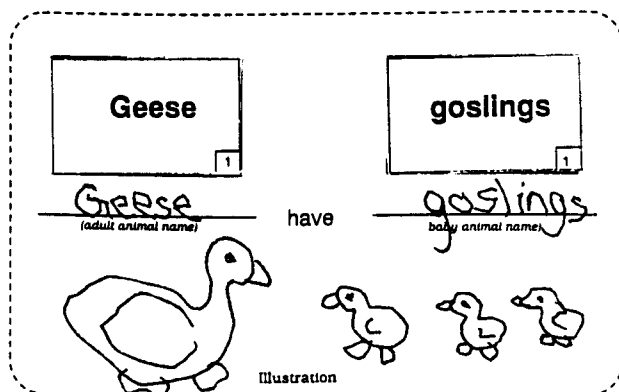
9. Blue Ribbon Maths Game

Use the pig pattern on page 32 to make a class set of 'Blue Ribbon Maths' gameboards. Reproduce and cut out the pattern on pink construction or index paper. Write maths fact answers on the blue ribbons. (Note: No two gameboard cards should be identical.) Laminate the gameboards for durability.

Reproduce and cut out the prize ribbon cards on page 33 and write a maths fact on each. Distribute a gameboard to each student. Provide students with 'markers' such as dried beans, plastic discs, paper squares etc. Follow the instructions on page 33 for playing the 'Blue Ribbon Maths' game.

10. 'Pamper your Pet' Fact Chart

Ask your class to brainstorm the ways Fern took care of Wilbur. List student ideas on the board. Have some of the students name their pets. As a whole-class or cooperative group activity, allow students to brainstorm food, habitat, exercise and other ways to care for their pets. You may wish to model the activity first by choosing a pet and noting on a chart or blackboard items to consider while caring for a pet. Have students record the information on the Fact Chart on page 34.



11. Animal Babies Booklet

Check for understanding by matching adult animals and their babies. Reproduce and distribute one copy of page 35 and three copies of page 36 to each student. To assemble the booklets, have students follow the directions on page 35. When booklets are completed, ask students to read them to a partner or take them home to read.