

In this unit, students will learn about elements of fictional narratives and narrative writing while reading the novel *Charlotte's Web* by E. B. White.

## What's the story?

Students will explore the **meaning of friendship and perseverance** in this classic story about Wilbur the pig and a spider named Charlotte, who live together with both humans and other animals on a farm. Wilbur is faced with a life-changing problem. With help from the barnyard animals, Charlotte implements an ambitious plan to save Wilbur. Students will **discuss events** that unfold in saving Wilbur's life and will consider the developing friendship between Wilbur and Charlotte.

## What will my students learn?

Students will learn about the **elements of fictional narratives**, including **setting, conflict, plot, character traits, character motivation, mood, perspectives, and dialogue**. They will be exposed to rich **language, vocabulary, and multiple-meaning words and phrases** that enhance their discussions with teachers and classmates.

Students will be guided through the **narrative writing process** to **write a fictional narrative** that describes a relationship between Wilbur and one of Charlotte's grandchildren. They will **present their narratives** to teachers and classmates. Students will **collaborate and share their ideas** with classmates as they deepen their knowledge of reading and writing skills.

## Conversation starters

Ask your student questions about the unit to promote discussion and continued learning:

1. Who are the main characters in the story? What descriptive words are used to describe these characters? (chapters 1–5)
2. What problem do the main characters have? How do they plan to solve it? (chapters 1–21)
3. How would you describe the actions, thoughts, and feelings of the characters? (chapters 1–22)
4. I know you are learning about the word *glistened*. Use this word in a sentence and I will use it in a sentence too! (chapter 11)
5. How do Wilbur and Charlotte display their friendship with each other? Can you give examples from the novel to support your answer? (chapters 5–22)
6. What other big ideas have you noticed in the novel?