

Charlotte's Web - E.B. White

p.3

-How could Mr. Arable kill the little pig?
-why did he change his mind?

→ It doesn't seem fair to kill a baby pig just because it is small. Fern's parents thought it was okay. Maybe they aren't very nice. But the dad does change his mind.

Fern:

- 8 years old
- She was determined to save the pig and she stands up to her dad. She gets really upset. → Fern is strong-willed →
- Fern takes good care of the pig. In the picture (p.6) she looks like a mother holding a baby. → caring, gentle
- p.15: All the animals trust her



Do Fern's parents like Wilbur?
p.8

-Mrs. Arable helps by feeding Wilbur when Fern is at school. But she also complains about him and he gets moved from the kitchen to the woodshed and then to outside.

-Mr. Arable was going to kill him but now he's made Wilbur a yard and a wooden box with straw to keep him warm.

Why can't Fern keep Wilbur?
p.12

The dad doesn't seem to care that Fern loves Wilbur. He says she has to sell him because he is older and he's eating more. Fern seems less strong-willed because she agrees to sell him. He only cost \$6.

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Setting:

country → farm - hoghouse, pa wears overalls, grass, apple tree, barn, animals

Wilbur's Homes

His yard at the Arables

- under an apple tree
- big box with straw and a door
- he gets to play with Fern

Zuckerman's Barn

- smelly - manure pile
- other animals (cows, horses, sheep)
- tools - food trough
- pig pen
- * Fern is not allowed in the pig pen
- * Wilbur can't go on walks with Fern.

Are the animals unhappy because they are not free? p.23

The goose gets Wilbur to escape.

He was feeling sad and bored so he does. The animals all seem excited and cheer for him. When Wilbur decides to go back to his pen, the goose says, "You'll miss your freedom." Maybe all the animals are bored but the humans do take care of them.

Templeton (rat)

- doesn't play with Wilbur
- says he's a glutton (p.29)
- crafty
- eats Wilbur's food



Wilbur's feelings:

He was happy with Fern → He is depressed at Zuckerman's barn ("I'm tired of living" p.16) → When he escapes, he's terrified → Then he is glad to be back, safe in his pen → He feels lonely with no friends → Wilbur is hopeful that he will have a new friend and (p.31) → curious about who it is → He is disappointed that his new friend is a "bloodthirsty" spider (p.41)