

Assembly Ideas

Charlotte's Web (1952)

by E. B. White

1. **“Let’s Go to the Fair” Skit** – It’s not Templeton’s idea of the fair, but this skit should represent the same sense of fantastic wonder. Make the audience want to go to the fair (and want to read *Charlotte’s Web*)!

Begin with two characters on stage—a boy and a girl. They are just sitting on a bench or lying against a hay bale talking about all the things they want to do at the county fair.

Avery: You know what time it is, Fern?

Fern: Course I know. It’s suppertime.

Avery: Naw, I don’t mean today. I mean this month.

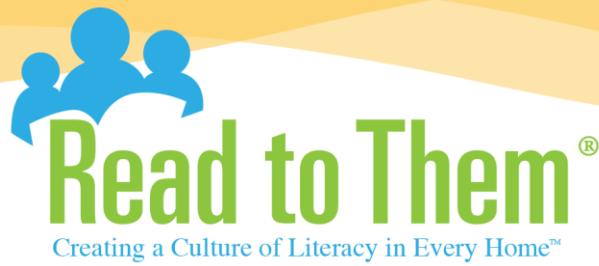
Fern: *(confused)* What time is it this month?

Avery: Sure. Know what’s coming up?

Fern: Course I know. Everyone knows. It’s time for the Fair!

(Above is a small section of our script for this assembly. See *Assembly Scripts on the Book Resource Page* for *Charlotte’s Web* for a full script of this idea.)

2. **Templeton’s Text** – This is an idea that plays with Templeton’s search for good adjectives for Charlotte to put in her web. Have some students on the stage. Amidst them are stacks of magazines and newspapers. Have them each pick up and examine, riffle and sort through, the magazine and newspaper pages. Every once in a while, someone holds up one and says, “How’s this? ‘Splendiferous?’” This would probably need to be prearranged. (Come up with a list of alternate words Charlotte might have used in her web to describe Wilbur.) Have the students “find” about half a dozen words—one at a time. Drag it out a little. Let the audience wonder for 30 seconds at a time while students are each looking, putting down their papers, and picking up new ones. “What are they looking for?” audience members will wonder. “What do they want those words for?” When they agree on a good one, have them ceremoniously cut that word out with scissors and place it in a conspicuous place. (A bulletin board on stage?) When they’ve got a good selection (six good words?), have them get up, pick up the pile of selected words and say, “All right. Let’s bring them to Charlotte.” Then, they simply walk off the stage with words in tow.



3. **Templeton Monologue** – We love the idea of Templeton introducing the book. He's not one of the main characters like Fern, Charlotte, or Wilbur, yet he's not as obscure as Mrs. Zuckerman, Henry Fussy, or Dr. Dorian. And his whole vibe makes him both comical and memorable.

A character dressed and acting like a rat emerges on the stage and scurries about, back and forth, sniffing, collecting, snooping, surveying. Eventually Templeton notices the audience. Picks his head up. Sniffs. Reacts.

Templeton: Oho, there are a lot of you. You really should mind your own business. I'm just going about my business... What's my business? You don't know who I am? ... Well, well, well. Allow me to introduce myself. My name is Templeton. Templeton the rat. And this is my farm...

(We've included two sample Templeton monologue scripts in *Assembly Scripts* on the **Book Resource Page** for *Charlotte's Web*—“Templeton at the Farm” and “Templeton at the Fair”. Both use Templeton's voice to introduce the book in a silly way without giving away any important spoilers.)