

# Cue Sheet

Guides for  
Teachers

## Charlotte's Web

Tuesday, March 5, 2024  
10:15am

### Questions to ask students **BEFORE** the performance

- What kinds of animals do you think you would find on a farm? Have you ever visited one?
- What does it mean to be a good friend?

### Questions to ask students **AFTER** the performance

- If you read *Charlotte's Web* before, how was seeing it on stage different than reading the story?
- If you had to select a word to describe Charlotte, what would you choose?



## About the Performance

TheaterWorksUSA's production of *Charlotte's Web* tells the story of an unlikely friendship between a pig and a spider. Adapted from E.B. White's beloved tale, this performance unfolds as a play with musical accompaniment. Actors portray the farmyard animals and the humans featured in the story. Utilizing a limited cast and costumes, some performers play multiple characters.

First published in 1952, *Charlotte's Web* is a classic of children's literature. Rescued from being killed as the runt of his litter, Wilbur is eventually relocated to a farm and grows up with the friendship of the farmyard animals. When he again faces the threat of slaughter, Charlotte the spider, a talented web weaver and devoted friend, hatches a plan to save Wilbur's life. This approximately 60-minute performance can serve as an introduction to the book or as additional engagement with the text for those students who have already or are currently reading it.



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# Vocabulary

**Brutal (broot-l)** – very bad or unpleasant

**Courageous (kuh-rey-juhs)** – having courage; brave

**Flourish (flur-ish)** – to achieve success; prosper

**Gander (gan-der)** – an adult male goose

**Gluttony (gluht-n-ee)** – eating or drinking way too much

**Gosling (goz-ling)** – a young or baby goose

**Hog (hawg)** – a fully-grown male pig

**Humble (huhm-buhl)** – not proud

**Litter (lit-er)** – all the animal babies born at one time to the same mother

**Loyalty (loi-uhl-te)** – a feeling of strong support for someone or something

**Radiant (rey-dee-uhnt)** – bright and shining

**Refined (ri-fahynd)** – having or showing good education, polite manners, etc.

**Runt (ruhnt)** – the smallest animal in a litter

**Sacrifice (sak-ruh-fahys)** – the act of giving up something you want in order to help someone

**Salutations (sal-yuh-tey-shuhns)** – a word or phrase serving as the prefatory greeting in a letter or speech

**Slop (slop)** – food that is fed to pigs and other animals

**Sow (s-ow)** – a fully-grown female pig

# Theater Etiquette

- Stay with your chaperone at all times.
- Remove hats or caps when inside.
- Put away mobile phones and other electronic devices. Use of photographic, video recording, audio recording, phones, and gaming devices is prohibited during performances.
- Allow everyone to enjoy the performance by remaining quiet, except when a response is requested by performers. Some shows are interactive, while others are not.
- Stay seated and do not kick or hit the seat in front of you.
- Request to leave the hall with an adult chaperone if you need to use the restroom or cool down. If you are being disruptive, an adult chaperone may escort you out of the theater. You may view the show on screens in the lobby or lower lounge until you are ready to return with your chaperone.
- Clap after the end of a song during a musical or other music performance. During a ballet or dance performance, clap at the end of the number.
- Remain in your seats after the applause at the end of the show until our House Manager dismisses you.

## Click here!

Visit the show's page on our Schooltime Series website for more educational resources.

# Facts about Popejoy Hall

- Popejoy Hall officially opened on October 1, 1966.
- The hall can seat up to 1985 people.
- Most walls inside the hall are not parallel or perpendicular to the stage. Curves, angles, and soft or textured surfaces scatter the sound throughout the hall so that audiences can hear performances better.
- Popejoy Hall has an orchestra pit which raises and lowers. It is the largest elevator in the building.
- The ceiling over the stage is three times the height of the curtain opening. Sets can be lowered into place by pulleys and raised high enough to be stored completely out of sight when not in use.