

PARAGON CONVENT SCHOOL, SECTOR 24B, CHANDIGARH

CLASS: V (NOVEL)

SUMMARY- CHAPTER- 22

CHAPTER-22

Wilbur returns home to the barn, but his homecoming is a strange and bittersweet one. He places the egg sac in a safe corner, and then greets the geese and the sheep. Homer hangs Wilbur's medal on a nail over the pigpen for all to see. As the days and weeks go by, Wilbur continues to grow larger in size, but doesn't worry that Homer will kill him for meat—he knows he is safe. Though Wilbur is happy and secure, he misses Charlotte badly, and spends many hours staring at the wispy remnants of her web over the barn door. Autumn turns to winter, and just before Christmas, Wilbur sees snow for the first time. He plays briefly in the snow with Fern and Avery, but Fern is still more interested in her memories of the fair, the Ferris wheel, and Henry Fussy than her old friends. All winter, Templeton gorges himself daily on Wilbur's food, and grows huge and fat. The old sheep chastises him for his greedy—and dangerous—eating habits, but the rat insists the “satisfaction” he gets from eating is more important to him than a long life. All winter, Wilbur guards the egg sac as if it were full of his own children, and even keeps it warm on frigid nights. One evening, at the sound of frogs in the field, the old sheep declares that spring is near. As the snows melt and the fields come back to life, the goose lays nine new eggs and the last threads of Charlotte's web float away. One morning, Wilbur is amazed to see tiny spiders crawling out of the egg sac. They are grey and look just, Wilbur thinks, like Charlotte. He greets the spiders as they emerge in hundreds from the sac, and introduces himself as a good friend of their mother's. They wave at him, but don't say anything in return. For several days and nights they move silently around the barn, growing slowly. One morning, when Homer opens a door on the north side of the barn, a draft comes in. The air is warm and fragrant, and slowly, one by one, all of Charlotte's children launch threads of silk and float off into the air, waving goodbye as they go. Wilbur is distressed and calls for the children to come back, but they insist that it is time for them to go “out into the world to make webs for themselves.” Wilbur is miserable as he watches all of the spiders float away, and cries himself to sleep during his midday nap. That afternoon, though, when he awakes, he hears a small voice cry out: “Salutations!” Two more voices greet Wilbur, and tell him that they like this place—and they like Wilbur, too. Wilbur looks up at the barn door to see that three of Charlotte's daughters have woven brand-new webs of their own. Wilbur is overjoyed that the spiders have chosen to stay and live in the barn with him. The spiders name themselves Joy, Aranea, and Nellie with Wilbur's

help. Wilbur's heart is full, and he tells all three of them how devoted he was to their mother, and how wonderful Charlotte was. He pledges his friendship "forever and ever" to the three tiny spiders, and they pledge theirs in return. As the months and years go by, Wilbur is always surrounded by friends. Though Fern does not come to the barn so much anymore, Charlotte's children—and their children, and their children's children—always decorate the barn door. Most of them float away, but two or three always stay and keep Wilbur company. Homer takes great care of Wilbur for the rest of his life, and they both continue to entertain admirers over the years. Wilbur is often overcome by his wonderful home and "the glory of everything" about it. He never forgets Charlotte, and though he loves her descendants fiercely, none of them "ever quite take her place in his heart."

NOTEBOOK WORK

CHAPTER-22

Q1. What did Wilbur spend the winter waiting for?

A1. Wilbur spent the winter waiting for the eggs to hatch.

Q2. How did Wilbur know that the baby spiders were glad to see him?

A2. The baby spiders waved back at Wilbur knew that they were just as happy to see him.

Q3. Which is not one of the spiders that stay behind in the barn?

(a) Aranea

(b) Joy

(c) Angel

(b) Nellie

A3. Angel

Q4. What does Wilbur tell Charlotte's children?

A4. Wilbur tells Charlotte's children that he is going to be their friend forever.