

Literacy

We will use our shared text 'Charlotte's Web' to explore the relationship between different characters. We will look closely at the first illustration in the story and use this to draw inferences about Fern and Mr. Arable's feelings, thoughts, actions and emotions. We will hold a class debate, taking on the role of one of the characters to reason their actions. The children will write persuasive notes, highlighting how they feel about Wilbur and their justification for these feelings.

We will explore the shades of the characters' feelings by looking at their speech e.g. '*this is a matter of life and death...*' We will turn the opening extract into a play script, focusing on the link with direct speech.

As we read the text we will summarise each chapter to help us establish a clear structure which we can story map. We will re-tell the story for a younger reader by creating an abridged version. We will look at Spider-themed stories (eg Arghh Spider) and draw out the style and features for effect (e.g. calligrams, writing arranged differently on the page, texture to feel). As we are writing the text we will focus on punctuating direct speech.

In role as newspaper reporters from the story the children will write an article reporting on the surprising and unusual events. We could include the newspaper report as a pop-up page in our storybook.

We will watch in slow motion, a video of a spider building its web. We will explore words that can describe the patterns and shapes of a web as well as words which describe the actions of building a web. We will use this stimulus to write poetry with a focus on the patterns in words on the page.

Understanding the World

Science

The children will learn about the digestive system in humans. They will describe the simple functions of the basic parts. We will then compare our digestive systems to those of different farm animals.

We will look closely inside the human mouth to identify the different types of teeth that we have and their simple functions. We will consider the diets of different farm animals and compare their teeth to ours.

We will construct and interpret a variety of food chains, identifying producers, predators and prey using the theme of farm animals. We will consider the impact of the food chain on the livestock at farms.

We will identify how habitats change throughout the year and recognise that sometimes this can pose a danger to living things. We will look at how farmers react to the seasonal changes to protect their livestock.

Understanding the World

Geography

Human Geography – different land usage: We will compare rural settings (an arable farm) with the children's experiences of urban settings.

We will study a farming region of the UK and look at farming as a trade link by studying the distribution of natural resources (including food).

PSHE

Using our Focus text 'Charlotte's Web' we will explore the theme of friendship and what it means to be a loyal and true friend. This will help us to re-launch our 'playtime buddies.'

We will consider feelings around bereavement and moving on by exploring Wilbur's emotions when Charlotte passes away.

Mathematics

The children will learn how to identify acute and obtuse angles. We will practise measuring different angles by looking at the angles in spider webs.

We will look closely at spider webs for lines of symmetry. The children will investigate whether symmetry always, sometimes or never appears in spider webs.

RE

We will think about how, as Christians, we are called to eradicate injustice. We will consider Fern's actions to tackle the unjust treatment of Wilbur by her Father.

Dr Dorian's comment in our shared text 'How amazing God's creation is' will focus our thoughts on the miracle of spiders.

We will focus on how the story of Genesis calls us to respect all similarities and differences and look at this theme in Charlotte's Web.

Amazing Arachnids



Enrichment

We will set up a giant spider web in school which the children will visit in role as a news team. We will weave motivational words/messages into the web for the children to read.

We will invite the younger children into our class for story time in which we will re-tell them our abridged versions of Charlotte's Web.

Expressive Arts and Design

Art and Design

We will use photography to capture images of spider webs. In our sketchbooks we will collect ideas about spider webs and look closely at the shapes and patterns in nature. We will consider 'spiders as architects' and explore the architecture of spider webs.