

Charlotte's Web by E.B. White

Fern, a farmer's daughter, had a little pet pig called Wilbur.

At two weeks of age, he was moved outdoors. It was apple-blossom time, and the days were getting warmer. Mr Arable fixed a small yard specially for Wilbur under an apple tree, and gave him a large wooden box full of straw, with a doorway cut in it so he could walk in and out as he pleased.

"Won't he be cold at night?" asked Fern.

"No," said her father. "You watch and see what he does."

Carrying a bottle of milk, Fern sat down under the apple tree inside the yard. Wilbur ran to her and she held the bottle for him while he sucked. When he had finished the last drop, he grunted and walked sleepily into the box. Fern peered through the door. Wilbur was poking the straw with his snout. In a short time he had dug a tunnel in the straw. He crawled into the tunnel and disappeared from sight, completely covered with straw. Fern was enchanted. It relieved her mind to know that her baby would sleep covered up, and would stay warm.

Every morning after breakfast, Wilbur walked out to the road with Fern and waited with her till the bus came. She would wave goodbye to him, and he would stand and watch the bus until it vanished round a turn. While Fern was in school, Wilbur was shut up inside his yard. But as soon as she got home in the afternoon, she would take him out and he would follow her round the place. If she went into the house, Wilbur went too. If she went upstairs, Wilbur would wait at the bottom step until she came down again. If she took her doll for a walk in the doll carriage, Wilbur followed along. Sometimes on these journeys, Wilbur would get tired, and Fern would pick him up and put him in the carriage alongside the doll. He liked this. And if he was *very* tired, he would close his eyes and go to sleep under the doll's blanket.



Name:	Class:	Date:
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1 *Wilbur was born in the spring.*
Find **one** piece of evidence for this statement. Use direct quotations from the text.

2d

1 mark

2 Look at the paragraph beginning “*Carrying a bottle of milk ...*”.
Why would Wilbur not be cold at night?

2b

1 mark

3 Look at the paragraph beginning “*Carrying a bottle of milk ...*”.
Find and copy one word that tells you Fern was delighted that Wilbur would be warm.

2a

1 mark

4 **Find and copy two** places Fern went without Wilbur.

2b

1 mark

5 Choose which of the following are **true** and which are **false**.

	True	False
Wilbur was shut in a wooden box full of straw.		
Fern’s father was not worried about Wilbur being cold at night.		
Wilbur waited for the school bus with Fern.		
Wilbur always went to sleep beside Fern’s doll.		

2b

2 marks

6 Which of these would be the best title for this extract from the book?
Choose **one**.

- Fern and Friends
- Fern and Wilbur
- Wilbur’s New Home
- Wilbur’s Day

2c

1 mark