

Story Squares for Grades 3-4

Multiple Learning Styles for Reading Comprehension

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Grades Three/Four

Class President

by Johanna Hurwitz

Julio's fifth-grade class is having an election for class president. The nominees are Cricket, the most popular girl in the class, and Lucas, Julio's best friend. Julio wishes he had the confidence to run for president but decides to help Lucas by being his campaign manager.

During a playground soccer game, a classmate named Arthur breaks his glasses. Julio convinces his classmates to have a bake sale to pay for new ones. The principal decides to ban soccer because it is too dangerous. Julio convinces the principal to rethink his decision. Everyone in class is impressed with Julio's diplomacy. On election day, Arthur nominates Julio for class president. Julio wins the election thanks to his great problem-solving skills.

Julio and his classmates learn that helping others and solving problems is what makes a good leader.

This book is recommended for third- and fourth-graders and can be read independently or in small groups. It can also be used with struggling readers in higher grades due to the content.

Charlotte's Web

by E.B. White

The story is about a pig, a spider, and a young girl. At the Zuckerman farm, a young runt pig is born and Fern, the little girl, falls in love with him. Wilbur, the pig, is destined to be slaughtered. But with a lot of persuasion, Fern has Wilbur sent to her uncle's farm instead.

Once at the farm, Wilbur meets all sorts of farm animals and one very special friend, Charlotte, a gray spider. Charlotte is a wise and loving friend to Wilbur, especially when he learns that his life is in danger again and he may be Christmas dinner. Charlotte devises a plan to save Wilbur from this horrible fate. She writes words in her web that describe Wilbur for all to see. The plan is a success and Wilbur is saved.

This book is recommended for third- or fourth-graders to read independently.

How to Eat Fried Worms

by Thomas Rockwell

In this story, Billy and Joe decide to make a bet. The boys wager that Billy will eat 15 worms for 50 dollars. The boys' friends never thought Billy would go through with it. But Billy wants to buy a minibike, and nothing will stop him. Joe tries to trick Billy into missing his daily dose of worm, but Billy never gives up. This classic children's book exhibits examples of true character, honesty, integrity, and determination.

This book is recommended for children in the third or fourth grade.

Class President

by Johanna Hurwitz

Choose _____ from each square.

1

- 1 Make a list of ten singular and ten plural nouns from the story. List page numbers for each.
- 2 Find ten words you do not know. Write the definition for each.
- 3 Make a list of five or more of Julio's classmates' first names in alphabetical order.
- 4 Find five details from the story that tell why Cricket would **not** be a good class president.
- 5 Write two facts each about Julio, Cricket, Lucas, and Mr. Flores.

2

- 1 Julio did not think he could be class president. Write a narrative story about a time you didn't think you could do something new.
- 2 If you had to vote for one of the three main characters, who would you vote for? Why? Explain your answer in a paragraph.
- 3 Which character did you like the best? Write a paragraph to explain your answer.
- 4 Write a *zip code poem* about Julio.
- 5 Give five reasons why Lucas would not make a good president.

3

- 1 Use a *Venn diagram* to show at least three ways Julio and Cricket are similar and three ways they are different.
- 2 Make up ten questions you would ask Julio about why he should be the class president.
- 3 Describe how Mr. Flores helped Julio become more confident.
- 4 Make a list of ten character traits that describe Lucas, Cricket, or Julio. Explain why you chose each trait.
- 5 Why do you think Julio's mother kept pushing him to become class president? Give examples from the story to support your answer.

4

- 1 If you were class president, what are five things you would try to do to help your class? Be realistic.
- 2 Design a campaign poster for Julio.
- 3 Draw an illustration of your favorite scene in the book. You may **not** use a picture already in the book.
- 4 If your class had an election for president, for whom would you vote? In a paragraph, explain why he/she would make a good class president.
- 5 If you were Julio, what are five ways you could raise money to purchase new books for your classroom? Be creative.

Charlotte's Web

by E.B. White

Choose _____ from each square.

1

- 1 Define and illustrate each of the following terms: scythe, trough, gander, hullabaloo, salutations, scruples, sedentary, notions, exertion, languish.
- 2 Wilbur made a schedule for himself from the time he woke up to the time he went to sleep. Make a detailed schedule of your day.
- 3 Read chapter nine. Find the parts of a spider's leg. Draw a diagram of a spider with all of these parts labeled. Use the Internet or other resources to help.
- 4 Make three lists labeled *past*, *present*, and *future*. Find 15 verbs of each tense from the story to put in each column. List the pages on which you found them.
- 5 List at least ten qualities you look for in a friend.

2

- 1 Before meeting Charlotte at the Zuckerman farm, Wilbur was terribly lonely. Tell about a time when you felt like you didn't have a friend.
- 2 Charlotte thinks people are *gullible*. Look this word up in a dictionary. Write a narrative essay about a time when you have been gullible.
- 3 Write two journal entries, one from Wilbur's point of view and the other from Charlotte's, about a single event from the story.
- 4 Write a *haiku poem* about one of the main characters.
- 5 List five advantages and five disadvantages of being a pig on the farm.

3

- 1 The Zuckermans plan to kill Wilbur for Christmas dinner. Argue whether you believe this is a fair or unfair practice.
- 2 Compare and contrast Fern and Charlotte in a *Venn diagram*. Have at least five details in each section.
- 3 Predict what would have happened if Wilbur had not been a runt.
- 4 Research an interesting kind of spider. List 15 facts you learn about that spider.
- 5 Imagine that you are a reporter at the Zuckerman farm. What are ten meaningful questions you would ask one of the main characters? (Pretend you could understand each other if you choose an animal.)

4

- 1 Create a model of the Zuckerman farm.
- 2 In chapter eight, we learn that Fern can hear the animals talk. If you heard a conversation between animals, what would they say? Write a script for such a conversation.
- 3 Draw a spider web message describing Wilbur.
- 4 Make a *diorama* or *pyramid scene* showing your favorite scene from the story. Add a caption explaining what is happening. Do **not** copy an illustration from the book.
- 5 Write a new chapter about Charlotte's children and Wilbur.

How to Eat Fried Worms

by Thomas Rockwell

Choose _____ from each square.

1

- 1 List three tricks Joe and Alan tried to play on Billy and Tom to win the bet.
- 2 Name ten ways you would spend 50 dollars.
- 3 How did Billy plan on spending the money?
- 4 Write ten adjectives that describe one of the main characters.
- 5 Make a list of ten proper nouns from the story. List the pages on which you find them.

2

- 1 Write a *birthday poem* about worms.
- 2 Tell about a crazy bet you've made with a friend or relative. Describe it in a paragraph.
- 3 Why do you like or dislike Joe? Use reasons from the story to support your answer.
- 4 If you could be a character from the story, who would you be? Write a paragraph to explain your answer.
- 5 If you were eating the worms, which do you think would be the tastiest? Describe how it was prepared.

3

- 1 Make a *Venn diagram* to compare and contrast Billy and Joe.
- 2 What do you think would have happened if one of the parents stopped the bet?
- 3 Explain how Billy determined that Joe had tricked him about the 12th worm.
- 4 If you were a reporter covering the story of the bet, what five interesting questions would you ask Billy?
- 5 What would you do upon finding out that somebody you were competing against was cheating? Respond in paragraph form.

4

- 1 Design a menu for a worm restaurant. Menus have appetizers, entrees, side orders, desserts, and drinks.
- 2 Draw your favorite scene and write a two-sentence caption. Do **not** copy an illustration from the book.
- 3 *How to Eat Fried Worms* was made into a movie. If you could design the movie poster, what would it look like? Draw it.
- 4 What lesson do you think Joe and Alan learned from this experience? Write a two- to three-sentence answer.
- 5 If you were a worm scientist, what kinds of things would you like to find out about worms? Give at least five ideas.