

Core Skills Analysis

Art

- Leela selected and mixed pink paint, demonstrating color recognition and basic color theory.
- She followed a step-by-step guide to create a pig face, applying spatial reasoning and sequencing skills.
- Cutting, gluing, and using scissors refined her fine-motor control and hand-eye coordination.
- By arranging eyes, snout, and ears symmetrically, she explored basic design elements such as balance and proportion.

English

- Listening to the full audiobook showed sustained auditory comprehension and attention to narrative flow.
- Leela discussed Charlotte's death and the piglets' survival, using inferencing to understand characters' emotions.
- She identified cause-and-effect relationships (Charlotte's sacrifice → piglets live), reinforcing logical thinking about plot.
- The discussion introduced new vocabulary (e.g., "web," "barn," "friendship") and reinforced context clues.

History

- Leela recognized the story's setting on a early-20th-century farm, connecting literature to historical rural life.
- She noted references to traditional farm tools and animal husbandry, providing a glimpse into past agricultural practices.
- The cooperative relationships among farm animals reflected community values common in that historical period.
- Comparing the farm setting to modern life helped her understand how daily life and technology have changed over time.

Math

- She counted three different paper colors and three piglets, reinforcing one-to-one correspondence and counting skills.
- Sequencing the seven craft steps practiced ordinal numbers and logical ordering.
- Measuring the paper plate and cutting pieces introduced concepts of length, comparison, and estimation.
- Tallying supplies (plate, roll, colors, glue, etc.) required simple addition and grouping.

Music

- Listening to the original soundtrack helped Leela associate musical mood with story events (sad vs. hopeful).
- She identified repeating motifs, strengthening pattern recognition and auditory memory.
- Discussion of tempo changes linked rhythmic variations to plot pacing, building an understanding of musical expression.
- Humming short melody fragments encouraged pitch discrimination and vocal experimentation.

Science

- Leela explored life-cycle concepts by discussing the spider Charlotte and the pig Wilbur, highlighting interdependence in an ecosystem.
- Manipulating paint and paper demonstrated material properties—how liquids change the state

of solids when they dry.

- Talking about the piglets staying with Wilbur introduced basic ideas of growth, survival, and parental care.
- Opening the paint bottle required applying force, prompting an informal look at biomechanics and hand strength.

Social Studies

- Leela expressed empathy for Charlotte's fate and joy for the piglets, supporting social-emotional development.
- She recognized the farm community's cooperation, linking individual roles to the larger group's well-being.
- The activity of sharing a story and then crafting a related object highlighted cultural practices of storytelling and art.
- Discussion of friendship and responsibility on the farm reinforced values of kindness and teamwork.

Tips

Extend Leela's learning by having her write a diary entry from Wilbur's point of view, describing the day Charlotte helped him; create a mini-farm diorama using recycled materials to explore spatial relationships and ecosystems; experiment with making simple "spider silk" by stretching melted glue on a frame to discuss material properties; and compose a short song or rhythm using classroom percussion instruments that matches the emotional arc of Charlotte's Web, reinforcing the link between music and narrative.

Book Recommendations

- [The Farm Animal Alphabet](#) by Laura B. Brown: A bright, rhyming alphabet book that introduces each farm animal, perfect for reinforcing vocabulary and farm life concepts.
- [A Little Spot of Kindness](#) by Diane Alber: A gentle story about a farm dog who helps friends, echoing the themes of compassion and teamwork found in Charlotte's Web.
- [The Magic School Bus Inside a Beehive](#) by Joanna Cole: A fun nonfiction adventure that explores insect life cycles and habitats, extending the science behind Charlotte's spider web.

Learning Standards

- CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.1.1 – Ask and answer questions about key details in a text.
- CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.1.2 – Retell stories, including key details, and demonstrate understanding of characters.
- CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.1.3 – Describe characters, settings, and major events.
- CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.1.1 – Participate in collaborative conversations about a text.
- CCSS.MATH.CONTENT.1.OA.A.1 – Use addition within 20 to solve word problems involving situations of adding to, taking from, and putting together.
- CCSS.MATH.CONTENT.1.MD.A.1 – Order three objects by length; compare lengths.
- CCSS.MATH.CONTENT.1.NBT.B.2 – Count within 120, starting at any number less than 120.

Try This Next

- Story-map worksheet: draw the main events of Charlotte's Web and label characters' feelings at each point.
- Craft-math sheet: measure the paper plate's diameter, calculate its perimeter using a string, and record results.