

## Charlotte's Adventures Before Wilbur

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Nope by Shel Silverstein and

Charlotte's Web by E.B. White

A little or a long time ago, in the middle of somewhere, right next to nowhere, between here and there, a war ensued in Mr. and Mrs. Zuckerman's melon patch. A war between the melon rows of Cantaloupia, Honeydewia, and Watermelononia. Cantaloupia was located on the left side of the patch, Honeydewia on the right, while Watermelononia was right smack dab in the middle. The leader of Honeydewia, Hunter, was jealous of Claude's sugar quantities in Cantaloupia. The Cantaloupians had the energy to frolic day and night because they ingested sugar in enormous amounts; however, Honeydewians were constantly tired and always sleeping. Meanwhile, Walter of Watermelononia led his citizens in a peaceful life because they were happy with what they produced.

As the days passed, the melons grew and ripened, but the Honeydewians couldn't bear being so tired all the time, and greed controlled their lives! Hunter listened to his citizens groan and complain about not having enough sugar to increase their energy, so he thought of a plan. Charlotte, the youthful melon spider, scuttled by, and Hunter hitchhiked a ride on her back to speak firmly with Claude demanding that the Cantaloupians share their sugar.

"Where are you headed, Hunter?" Charlotte asked.

"Charlotte, I have a bone to pick with Claude. I need you to ferry me to Cantaloupia," Hunter requested.

"Request granted," Charlotte pleasantly replied.

Five minutes later, Hunter and Charlotte arrived in Cantaloupia. He sprang off Charlotte's back in search of Claude at the Cantaloupian headquarters.

When Hunter found Claude, he asked him, "Will you supply us with some sugar? My citizens are tired, weak, and weary and need sugar to sustain their lives."

Claude replied, "My people produced the sugar and your country didn't put forth any work or effort. Therefore, since you have not planned well, you will continue to suffer without any energy. Prepare for war!"

Disgusted, Hunter sprinted away to Charlotte, leapt upon her back, and ordered her to take him to Watermelononia to discuss this incident with Walter. Upon arrival, he put the matter to Walter and asked him to join forces to defeat the selfish Cantaloupians.

Walter replied, "Never! I'd rather side with the Cantaloupians so we can defeat your measly Honeydewia!"

Hunter turned back, recalled Charlotte, and returned to Honeydewia. On the way, he thought about Cantaloupia and Watermelononia's alliance and wondered how he could possibly defeat them. Suddenly, he thought of a plan. Charlotte had many brothers and sisters who were strong, brave, loyal, and willing to fight. Hunter asked Charlotte if her family would be willing to help. Charlotte agreed stating, "I agree on only one condition. Once we seize the two melons, you must give my family one of them, so we may enjoy some of the sugar." Hunter gathered his thoughts and simply replied, "Deal!" They shook hands, Charlotte with all eight, and went their separate ways.

The war began! Watermelononia and Cantaloupia conducted a sneak attack on Honeydewia and the cunning spiders. Charlotte noticed Cantaloupia and Watermelononia advancing from behind! She hustled back to the Honeydewian camp to warn them of the surprise attack, but it was too late. The advancing army had barged through the walls in less than ten seconds and destroyed the camp. Only a few spiders and Honeydewians survived the battle. When the Canteloupians arrived back in Canteloupia, they persuaded about one thousand other Canteloupians to join in the next battle.

The next day, the armies engaged in a second battle. Cantaloupia with their ally, Watermelononia, came in with a much stronger army than before and marched courageously into Honeydewia to fight their dismal army. After four days of vicious combat, Honeydewia turned and fled; therefore, the Canteloupian army was victorious!

Charlotte continued to fight with her mediocre spider army. As the end drew near, Mr. Zuckerman saw Charlotte and her army of spiders and decided to fetch his insect killer from his garage to kill the arachnids! Charlotte was the lone survivor and because she realized the error of her ways, she decided she would practice a generous spirit. She scampered off to Mr. Zuckerman's barn and spun herself a new, dazzling web in the upper part of the doorway. From this new angle, Charlotte observed a red-haired young girl and a baby pig trotting down the dirt road toward the barn.

"Hello," greeted Fern.

"Nice to meet you," oinked Wilbur.

"Salutations," responded Charlotte.