



Read aloud (or have students read) Charlotte's Web (or you may want to watch the movie version, if available.)

1. Draw attention to the passages below on the fun and excitement of going to a fair. Then facilitate a class discussion using the questions provided.

The night before the County Fair, everybody went to bed early. Fern and Avery were in bed by eight. Avery lay dreaming that the Ferris wheel had stopped and that he was in the top car. Fern lay dreaming that she was getting sick in the swings. Lurvy was in bed by eight-thirty. He lay dreaming that he was throwing baseballs at a cloth cat and winning a genuine Navajo blanket. Mr. and Mrs. Zuckerman were in bed by nine. Mrs. Zuckerman lay dreaming about a deep freeze unit. Mr. Zuckerman lay dreaming about Wilbur. He dreamt that Wilbur had grown until he was one hundred and sixteen feet long and ninety-

two feet high and that he had won all the prizes at the Fair and was covered with blue ribbons and even had a blue ribbon tied to the end of his tail. (Ch. 16, p. 118-9)

After the heat of the day, the evening came as a welcome relief to all. The Ferris wheel was lighted now. It went round and round in the sky and seemed twice as high as by day. There were lights on the midway, and you could hear the crackle of the gambling machines and the music of the merry-go-round and the voice of the man in the beano booth calling numbers. (Ch. 18, p. 138)

- a. What is a fair? What's its purpose?
- b. The characters had different feelings about the fair. How do you feel when you hear a fair is coming to your town or neighbourhood? Why?



When they pulled into the Fair Grounds, they could hear music and see the Ferris wheel turning the sky. They could smell the dust of the race track where the sprinkling cart had moistened it; and they could smell hamburgers frying and see balloons aloft. They could hear sheep blatting in their pens. An enormous voice over the loudspeaker said: "Attention, please! Will the owner of a Pontiac car, license number H-2439, please more you care away from the reworks shed!"

"Can I have some money?" asked Fern.

"Can I, too?" asked Avery.

"I'm going to win a doll by spinning a wheel and it will stop at the right number," said Fern. "I'm going to steer a jet plane and make it bump into another one."

"Can I have a balloon?"

"Can I have a frozen custard and a cheeseburger and some raspberry soda pop?" asked Avery.

"You children be quiet till we get the pig unloaded," said Mrs. Arable.

"Let's let the children go o by themselves," suggested Mr. Arable. "The Fair only comes once a year."

Mr. Arable gave Fern two quarters and two dimes. He gave Avery ve dimes and four nickels. "Now run along!" he said. "And remember, the money has to last all day. Don't spend it all the rst few minutes. And be back here at the truck at noontime so we can all have lunch together. And don't eat a lot of stu that's going to make you sick to your stomachs."

"And if you go in those swings," said Mrs. Arable, "you hang on tight! You hang on very tight. Hear me?"

"And don't get lost!" said Mrs. Zc. as0 76.(")][TJI0 OT1_ and a chog msi0 10 lost8539 T39.9(T)7()72TJ 0caTw 74.8491_2o