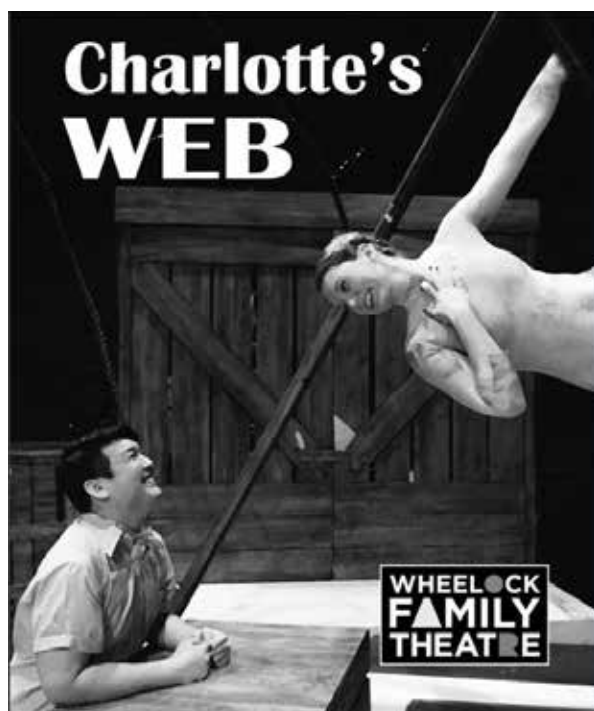


Get ready to see

# ***Charlotte's Web***

at Wheelock Family Theatre



A social story to help families prepare children\*  
for a visit to  
**Wheelock Family Theatre**

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Education Support Specialist

**WHEELOCK**  
**FAMILY**  
**THEATRE**

**Affordable.**  
**Professional.**  
**Accessible.**  
Theatre for all Families and Children.

**\*PLEASE NOTE:**

Social stories were originally developed for children on the autism spectrum, but we have found that they are helpful for preparing any child who is very young or has never been to the theatre before. Wheelock Family Theatre offers a social story for each of our productions. We hope you find them helpful!

I am going to see a play called  
***Charlotte's Web***  
at Wheelock Family Theatre.



When I get to the theatre, we will walk  
through the lobby. It might be crowded.

I will take deep breaths and be patient  
as we move through the crowd.



In a play, people on a stage tell  
a story — right in front of us!  
These people are called actors.



This play is about a young pig named Wilbur and his friend Charlotte, a spider.



Wilbur lives on a farm where they only raise pigs for food. That means when Wilbur is big enough, he will be killed and turned into meat for people to eat.



The farmer's daughter Fern gets very upset when she learns this, and begs her father to let Wilbur live.



Fern's father decides to send Wilbur to another farm nearby, where Fern can visit any time, and Wilbur won't be killed for food.



If anything about the story makes me feel sad or scared, I can always cover my ears.



I can hug or hold hands with my mom or dad — or with someone else who came with me to the theatre.



I will know that the play is about to start when the lights in the room get darker and the lights on the stage get brighter.



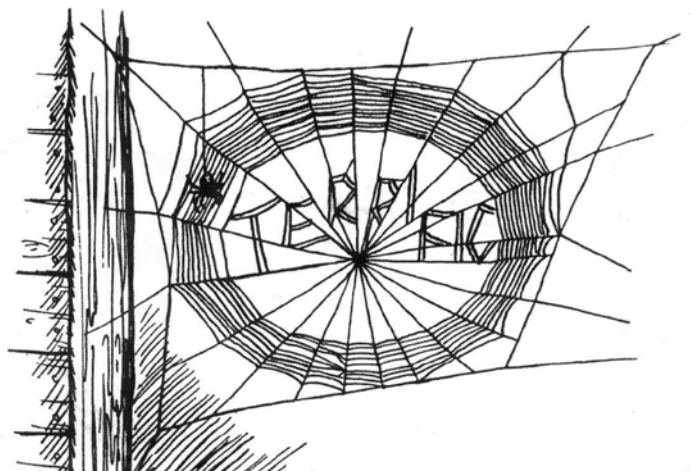
The audience will get very quiet. It is important that I try to be quiet during the show, so I can hear everything.

Many characters in this play are animals or birds. But the actors do not crawl on their hands and knees like real animals or birds.



They walk on two feet like humans. They use movement and costumes to show us what kind of animals they are.

In the story, Charlotte weaves her web into words that describe Wilbur, and he becomes very famous.



In this play Charlotte does this with a special kind of movement called **aerial acrobatics**.

She sits high above the stage on a special metal hoop with very long pieces of fabric hanging from it.



She wraps the fabric around her arms, legs, and body, so she can slip off the hoop to swing, twirl, and dance in the air.

Even though I might be nervous or scared, I know that everyone is safe. The woman playing Charlotte has practiced a lot.



Also, there is a soft mat on the floor below her, just in case.



If I am nervous or scared, I can always hug or hold hands with my mom or dad —



or with someone else who came with me to the theatre.



If I need to take a break, I can go into the lobby —





or to a quiet, cozy space nearby.



If I need something to hold on to, I can ask an usher for a squishy toy.



At the end of a scene, some people will clap. Clapping tells the actors that I liked their performance.

If I want to clap, I can.

If I don't want to clap, I don't have to.



In the middle of the play, we will have a break called **intermission**.

Lots of people will get up from their seats, and go back to the lobby.

During this time the lobby can get crowded and loud.

I can go to the lobby if I want to, but I don't **have** to. I can stay in my seat.



I can cover my ears.



I can hug or hold hands with my mom or dad — or with someone else who came with me to the theatre.



Or I can go to a quiet, cozy space in a different room.



I can ask for a snack.

I can eat my snack in the lobby or outdoors.  
But there is no eating or drinking inside the theatre.



I can ask to use the bathroom if I need to.



If I am thirsty, I can ask to use the water fountain.



After intermission, everyone will come back to the theatre and sit down in their seats again.



When the lights in the room get darker and the lights on the stage get brighter, I will know that the play is about to start again.



It is important that I try to stay quiet, so I can hear everything.

The actors will come back on stage to finish telling the story.

The Zuckermans take Wilbur to a big fair. Charlotte comes along and helps him win a prize.



Then something sad happens --  
Charlotte dies. Wilbur is extremely sad.

But when Charlotte's eggs hatch,  
three of her babies decide to stay with  
him. This makes him feel much better.



At the very end of the play, all of  
the actors will come out on stage  
and bow.

This is called a **curtain call**.



People will clap a lot, so the actors will  
know how much they liked the play.



Sometimes people will stand up and clap.  
Sometimes they will cheer.



If I want to clap or stand up or cheer, I can.  
But I do not **have** to do any of these things.

When the play is over, we will  
go back to the lobby. It might  
be loud and crowded.



If the sound is too loud, I  
can always cover my ears.



I will take deep breaths  
and be patient as we  
move through the lobby



and go outside.



I can hold hands with mom  
or dad — or with someone  
else who came with me to the  
theatre.



After this I will leave  
Wheelock Family  
Theatre.



Going to the theatre is very exciting!

I hope I will have a great  
time when I go to see  
***Charlotte's Web!***



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For more information about access and inclusion at Wheelock Family Theatre, please contact Peyton Pugmire, Director of Education, Outreach, and Community Engagement, at [PPugmire@wheelock.edu](mailto:PPugmire@wheelock.edu) or (617) 879-2148.

We hope you found this social story helpful!