

Fern's Big Choice Answer Key

(Sample Responses)

For Fern Saving Wilbur

- Reason #1: Every life has value, even if the animal is small and weak.
- Reason #2: Fern's compassion shows the importance of kindness and responsibility.
- Reason #3: Without Fern saving Wilbur, the friendship with Charlotte and the events of the story would never happen.
- Sample Paragraph: Fern was right to save Wilbur because every life matters. She showed courage in standing up to her father and compassion in caring for the piglet. Her actions gave Wilbur the chance to live and form friendships that changed everyone's lives. Saving Wilbur teaches readers that kindness and empathy can make a big difference.

Against Fern Saving Wilbur

- Reason #1: Farm life is practical, and runt piglets often do not survive.
- Reason #2: Raising Wilbur created extra work and responsibility for Fern's family.
- Reason #3: If Fern had not saved him, there would have been no danger of heartbreak later.
- Sample Paragraph: Fern should not have saved Wilbur because life on a farm requires making hard decisions. Her father knew that runt pigs are difficult to raise, and keeping Wilbur put stress on the family. Although it was kind, the choice led to later struggles and sadness. Sometimes practicality is more important than emotion.

Note to Teacher: This debate format encourages **critical thinking, persuasive writing, and text-based reasoning**. It also offers balanced perspectives so students can argue either side.