

This is an idea that I have used with third graders. Even though they loved doing it, it was a little difficult for them. I think it would work better with older students. It is helpful to have the students write their sentences out on a sheet of paper first, writing the title vertically, similar to an acrostic poem. Then they can revise easily before they start the books.

Flip a Title

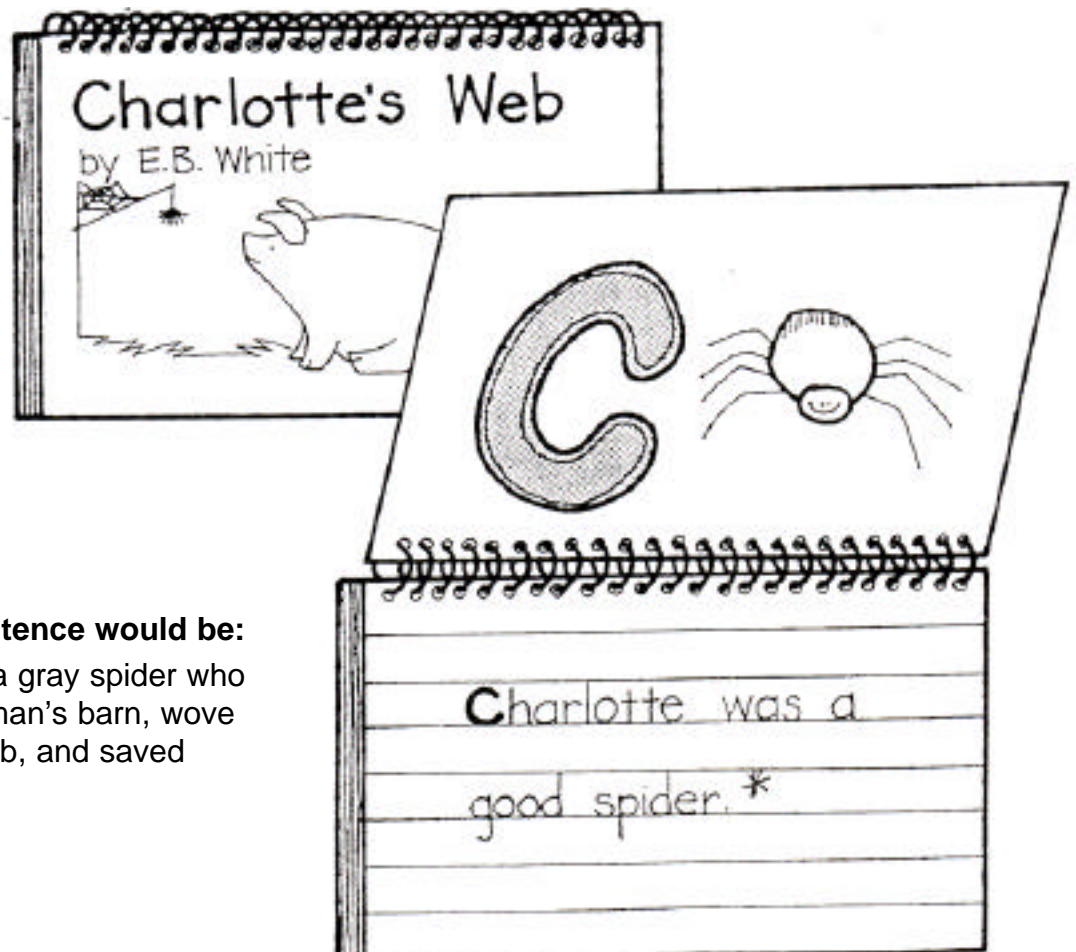
by Karen Antikajian

What You Need

4" x 6" index cards (ruled except for the first one)
crayons, markers, and/or colored pencils

What You Do

1. Print the title and author of your book on the first index card.
2. Put your name on the bottom of the first card.
3. Flip the title card up and print the first letter from the title of the book on the back of this card. Make the letter as fancy as you want but leave room to illustrate the sentence that goes with it.
4. Write a sentence beginning with that letter on the lined card below.
5. Make sure your sentences tell something interesting and important about the story.
6. Vary your sentences and make them fun to read by using writing techniques (series of threes, similes, alliteration, interesting words, specific examples.)
7. Make your illustrations colorful and exciting.
8. Put your cards in order (use page numbers if you want) and we will spiral bind them at school.



* A better sentence would be:

"Charlotte was a gray spider who lived in Zucherman's barn, wove words in her web, and saved Wilber's life."