Antonyms are words or phrases with the opposite meanings. This activity will practice identifying and locating antonyms for vocabulary words used in Charlotte’s Web. Antonyms are a vocabulary skill that is important due to changing sentence meaning.

Methods / Teaching Strategies
- Class Discussion
- Partner Work
- Use of a Reference Book (Thesaurus)
- Independent Practice

Assessment of Learning
- Antonyms Page (provided)
- Demonstrated an understanding of how to use a Thesaurus.

Key Learning Areas
- Vocabulary

Concepts Taught
- Antonyms

Target Age
- 9 – 10 Year Olds

Duration
- 1 x 60 minute Session

You will need:
- Thesaurus
- Antonyms Page

Online Resources:
- http://edgalaxy.com/education-quotes
- http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iPnYfwLQw84

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Activity 1: Give each child a Thesaurus.

Students will probably remember that antonyms are words or phrases with opposite meanings. Reinforce this understanding by showing the following chart. Have students locate each word in a thesaurus for practice. Look at the antonyms for each word (you might have to look up one of the antonyms to find other antonyms). Discuss the words or phrases that could be used to change the meaning of the common vocabulary words

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>pretty</th>
<th>ugly, hideous, unsightly</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>point</td>
<td>dull, rounded, blunt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>depart</td>
<td>arrive, abide, remain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Open</td>
<td>close, shut, block</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>all</td>
<td>none, no, no one,</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Activity 2: Display the following short paragraph for student viewing. Discuss how the word “good” is used throughout the paragraph. Ask students to pair up and brainstorm a list of words that could mean the opposite of “good.” Then as a class decide which antonyms would be best to replace each “good” used throughout the paragraph. Explain how replacing “good” in the paragraph changes the meaning.

The party last night was good. The good food and good punch were not party favorites. Everyone thought the games were good too. Good friends being together at parties can be good.

(Rewrite paragraph as a class: Answers may vary)

The party last night was awful. The nasty food and tasteless punch were not party favorites. Everyone thought the games were boring too. Bad friends being together at parties can be misfortunate.

Activity 3: Pass out the antonyms page and allow students to complete this independently.
1. We're born, we live a little while, we die.

2. Usually he slept during the daytime and was abroad only after dark.

3. “Control myself?” yelled Fern. “This is a matter of life and death.”

4. “I’m not inventing,” said Fern. “I’m just telling you the facts.”

5. Wilbur’s farm friends worried he would become stuck up but Wilbur never did, he was modest.

A. Read each sentence from Charlotte’s Web and replace each underlined word with an antonym from the thesaurus.

6. “I’m going to visit Wilbur,” Fern announced.

7. “Special announcement!” said the loud speaker in a pompous voice.

8. “Have you heard about the words that appeared in the spider’s web?” asked Mrs. Arable nervously.

9. Templeton moved indoors when winter came.

10. A great feeling of happiness swept over the Zuckermans and the Arables.
Antonyms

Answer Key

READ EACH CONTEXT CLUE FROM CHARLOTTE'S WEB.
UNDERLINE THE ANTONYMS IN EACH ONE. REMEMBER THAT
ANTONYMS ARE OPPOSITES.

1. We're born, we live a little while, we die.

2. Usually he slept during the daytime and was abroad only after dark.

3. “Control myself?” yelled Fern. “This is a matter of life and death.”

4. “I'm not inventing,” said Fern. “I'm just telling you the facts.”

5. Wilbur’s farm friends worried he would become stuck up but Wilbur never did, he was modest.

B. READ EACH SENTENCE FROM CHARLOTTE’S WEB AND REPLACE EACH UNDERLINED WORD WITH AN ANTONYM FROM THE THESAURUS.
***ANSWERS WILL VARY***

6. “I’m going to visit Wilbur,” Fern announced. (leave, depart)

7. “Special announcement!” said the loud speaker in a pompous voice. (meek, mild)

8. “Have you heard about the words that appeared in the spider’s web?” asked Mrs. Arable nervously. (calmly, surely)

9. Templeton moved indoors when winter came. (outdoors)

10. A great feeling of happiness swept over the Zuckermans and the Arables. (sadness)