

Name _____

Skill: Reading Comprehension

Read the story and answer the questions.

E.B. White: The Author Who Spun Charlotte's Web

One day, on a small farm in Maine, a man sat in a barn watching a large gray spider spin a web. That man was E.B. White. Andy, as White's friends called him, thought that spiders were spectacular creatures. He thought that one day he might like to write a children's book about a spider. He had already written many articles, essays and poems. He had also written one children's book called *Stuart Little*.

Andy would never rush into turning an idea into an article or book. He felt that he needed to let his ideas "ripen." For years, Andy continued to think about writing a children's book about a spider. He did some of his best thinking while he meandered around his farm. Once, while he was cleaning his barn, he found a spider's egg sac. Andy wanted to see the eggs hatch, but he was scheduled to leave on a trip to New York City. He found a small box and carefully placed the egg sac inside of it. When he arrived at his hotel, he put the box on the dresser. One morning he woke up and there were hundreds of baby spiders scurrying across the dresser. Years later, he began to write *Charlotte's Web*. It has become a timeless story about true friendship.

1. What is the main idea of this story? (Circle the answer)

- A. Spiders can live in a box.
- B. E.B. White had always wanted to write a story about spiders.
- C. There are hundreds of baby spiders hatched from just one sac.

2. What did E.B. White's friend's call him? (Circle the answer)

- A. Andy
- B. a crazy man
- C. Stuart Little

3. How did Andy feel about spiders?

4. Why did Andy bring the egg sac to New York?

5. Why did White take so long to start writing his book about a spider?

6. Where did E.B. White do his best thinking? (Circle the answer)

- A. on his farm
- B. on an airplane
- C. in New York City

