

### 3. How Times Have Changed!

Charlotte's Web was published in 1952, over seventy years ago. Did you know that in 1952:

- The President of the United States was Harry S. Truman and the Vice President was Alben W. Barkley. The President-elect was Dwight D. Eisenhower and Vice President-elect was Richard Nixon.
- The population of the United States was 157,552,740. In 2019, the U.S. population was 328,200,000.
- The *Today Show* debuted on NBC and popular movies were: *Singin' in the Rain*, *High Noon*, and *The Greatest Show on Earth*.
- The average house price was \$7,570 and the average income was \$3,515. Gas was \$.20/gallon and a postage stamp for regular mail was \$.03. There was no Disneyland. County fairs were a major business and entertainment.

Wilbur cost \$6.00 when Mr. Zuckerman bought him. A piglet on the market today can cost between \$70.00 and \$200.00 (as of July 2020, depending on the breed of the pig.)

What do you think has changed since 1952? What are some important events that happened in 2020? Write your answers in your journal.

#### ***An Invitation to Explore Further:***

1. Check out the movies and the music that were popular in 1952. (They may be available at A. K. Smiley Public Library or on Kanopy.)
2. If you were going to list the most important events since 1952, what would they be? Would they include the development of computers or landing on the moon? What would other friends and family members identify as the most important events during the last seventy years?
3. Is there anything that you miss from the 1950's?