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**Innocence, Imagination, and Moral Growth: A Comparative Reading of  
*Stuart Little and Charlotte's Web***

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**Abstract**

E.B. White's renowned children's novels *Stuart Little* and *Charlotte's Web* have remained literary staples for generations, captivating young readers with their imaginative narratives and profound moral lessons. While often read as simple animal tales, these works present sophisticated explorations of innocence, imagination, and moral development through their animal protagonists. This paper examines how both

novels use the lens of childhood innocence and imagination to explore complex moral questions about friendship, mortality, duty, and self-discovery. Through comparative analysis, this study demonstrates that White employs these thematic elements not merely as entertainment but as vehicles for guiding moral growth in young readers. By investigating the journeys of Stuart Little and Wilbur, we can better understand how White constructs ethical narratives that respect both the imaginative capacities and developing moral consciousness of children.