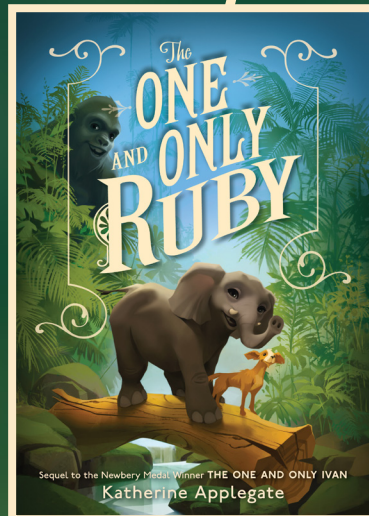
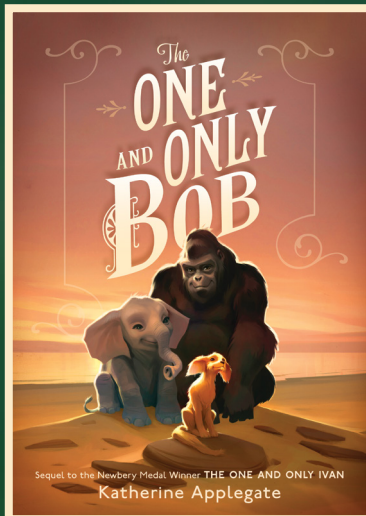
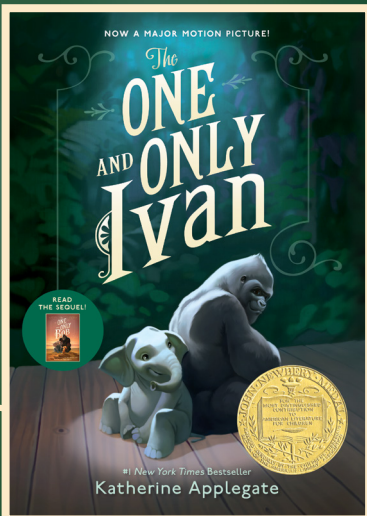


The
**ONE
AND ONLY**
**KATHERINE
APPLEGATE**
Educators' Guide



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ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Katherine Applegate is the Newbery Medal–winning and #1 *New York Times* bestselling author of numerous books for young readers, including *The One and Only Ivan*, *The One and Only Bob*, *The One and Only Ruby*, *Crenshaw*, *Wishtree*, the Roscoe Riley Rules chapter books series, and the Animorphs series. She lives with her husband, who writes as the author Michael Grant, and their children in California.



ABOUT THE REAL IVAN

The One and Only Ivan is a work of fiction, but the inspiration for this imagined tale lies in a true story. Ivan, a real gorilla, lived at Zoo Atlanta, but on the way to that happy ending, he spent almost three decades without seeing another of his own kind.

Ivan was captured as an infant in what is now the Democratic Republic of the Congo. His female companion, reported to have been his twin, died en route to the United States or shortly thereafter, and Ivan was raised in a home until he became unmanageable. At that point he was added to an odd collection of animals housed at a circus-themed mall in Washington State.

Ivan spent twenty-seven years of his life alone in a cage. Over time, as an understanding of primate needs and behavior grew, public discomfort with Ivan's lonely state grew as well, particularly after he was featured in a *National Geographic* special entitled "The Urban Gorilla." A public outcry followed, including heartfelt letters from children. In 1994, when the mall where Ivan lived went bankrupt, he was placed on permanent loan to Zoo Atlanta, which houses the largest group of captive western lowland gorillas in the nation.

Ivan became a beloved celebrity at Zoo Atlanta, where he lived contentedly with other gorillas, although he never sired any offspring. He was known for his paintings, which were often "signed" with his thumbprint. Ivan died on August 20, 2012 at the age of fifty.

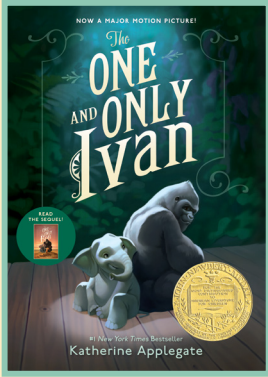
Ivan and Kinyani were real gorillas—and so, by the way, was Jambo, whose story is recounted in the book. But all other characters and situations in the novel are entirely the product of my imagination. When I started to write about the grim facts of Ivan's solitary existence, a new tale slowly began to take shape. At least on the page, where anything is possible, I wanted to give Ivan (even while captive behind the walls of his tiny cage) a voice of his own and a story to tell.

I wanted to give him someone to protect and the chance to be the mighty silverback he was always meant to be.

—Katherine Applegate



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ABOUT THE ONE AND ONLY IVAN

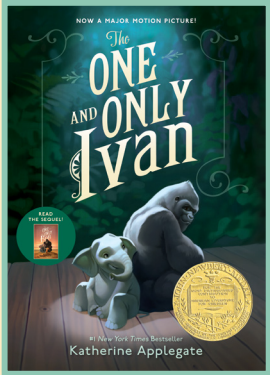
Ivan, an adult male silverback gorilla, has been living in captivity for twenty-seven years, most of that time on display at the Exit 8 Big Top Mall and Video Arcade, along with Stella, a wise older elephant, and Bob, a sassy stray dog. Julia, the janitor's daughter, helps Ivan with his artistic efforts. But when Mack, the owner of the mall, introduces a baby elephant named Ruby, Ivan sees his captivity for what it is. Realizing that Ruby needs more freedom, Ivan assumes his rightful place as a leader and secures a better future for himself and his friends.

THE ONE AND ONLY IVAN DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What does Ivan mean when he says, "In my size humans see a test of themselves" (p. 4), and "I am too much gorilla and not enough human" (p. 7)? Why does the sign for the Big Top Mall show Ivan as angry and fierce? Why doesn't Ivan express any anger in the beginning of the story?
 2. What are the characteristics of Stella and Bob that make Ivan call them his best friends? Why is each of them important to Ivan? What do Ivan and Stella have in common? How are they alike, and how are they different? What does Stella mean when she says, "Old age is a powerful disguise" (p. 31)?
 3. Discuss the special bond between Julia and Ivan. Why is she different from all the other children who come to see his shows? Why do people pay for Ivan's drawings if they don't recognize what he has drawn? Why is Ivan's art important to Mack? Why is it important to Julia?
 4. What is the importance of the television in Ivan's cage? What does he learn from watching the television? Why does he like Westerns, and what does he learn from the nature shows? What do you learn from television? What would you say is the most important thing television has taught you?
 5. Why is Bob so independent? What makes him trust Ivan enough to sleep on Ivan's stomach? What events in Bob's life have shaped his personality? How does Bob's experience with humans compare to Ivan's?
 6. Compare the personalities of Mack and George. How are they alike, and how are they different? What is the meaning of "family" to each of them? What are the contradictions in Mack's character?
- What does Stella mean when she says, "A good zoo is how humans make amends" (p. 64)? What is the importance of the



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THE ONE AND ONLY IVAN DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

story that Stella tells about Jambo (pp. 63–66)? What does it tell us about gorillas? Compare that story to Ruby's story about the humans who rescued her in the jungle (pp. 101–105). What does this story tell us about some humans?

7. What is Ivan's initial reaction to the arrival of Ruby? Compare Ruby's arrival with that of a new baby in a human household. How does her arrival affect all the other animals at the mall? When and why do Ivan's feelings about Ruby change?
8. Why does Ivan promise Stella that he will take care of Ruby, when he knows how hard it will be to keep that promise? How does Ivan know that Stella is gone before anyone else does?
9. Discuss the importance of memory in this story. How does Ivan's perception change when he begins to remember more of his own history? What are his most vivid memories? What was Ivan's name in the forest? Why is it important for him to remember his name and his life as a baby gorilla?
10. What is the turning point in the story? When does Ivan start to believe that he will be able to help Ruby, and perhaps himself as well? What events come together to

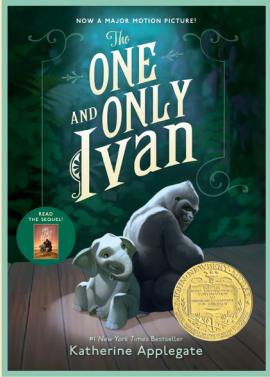
change Ivan's acceptance of the situation and to help him grow into his own strength and wisdom? How do you know he is changing?

11. How does Julia convince her father that Ivan's picture has a very important meaning? Why does George agree to help Julia display Ivan's art on the billboard, even though he knows it might cost him his job? Discuss the meaning of the word "principle."
12. Why is Ivan reluctant to join the other gorillas when he arrives at the zoo? How does he learn to be a true gorilla? What does he need to do to be accepted by the others? How do you feel when you are in a situation with other children you don't know?
13. Discuss the theme of belonging in this story, from the point of view of each of the characters. What is the meaning of belonging for each of them? What does the idea of belonging mean to you?



The ONE AND ONLY KATHERINE APPLIGATE

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THE ONE AND ONLY IVAN EXTENSION ACTIVITIES

Fact Meets Fiction. Help students to learn about the history of the real Ivan, the inspiration for this book, and find out how he adapted to his new home at Zoo Atlanta. Have your students plan a campaign to rescue an animal in a similar situation. How would they raise awareness of the animal's plight? Whom would they enlist to help them?

Gorillas in the Wild. Have students research the mountain gorilla in its natural habitat and investigate what they can do to help the gorilla population worldwide. Go to www.gorillas.org to find ways to help your students learn about efforts to protect gorillas from the kind of hunter who killed Ivan's parents.

People Who Care. Break students into small groups and have each group research people who have helped the world learn more about our relatives in nature—people like Charles Darwin, Jane Goodall, Biruté Galdikas, and Dian Fossey. What did each of these people contribute to our knowledge? How did they get interested in the natural world and the animals they helped us to learn about?

Birds of a Different Feather. Give students the task of finding stories about unlikely friendships among different species of animals. What are the strangest pairings your students can find? There are several fine books, many photos on the internet, and even videos on

YouTube that showcase these unusual animal friendships. How many can you and your students discover?

Truth Is Stranger than Fiction. *The One and Only Ivan* is a work of fiction, but is based on a true story. Find information about the real Ivan and what happened to him. (www.zooatlanta.org/animal-legend/ivan). Compare the fictional story and the true story and make a chart of the ways that they are different. Discuss the decisions authors might make when they are writing fiction as opposed to relating a true story and why they might make those decisions.



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ABOUT THE ONE AND ONLY BOB

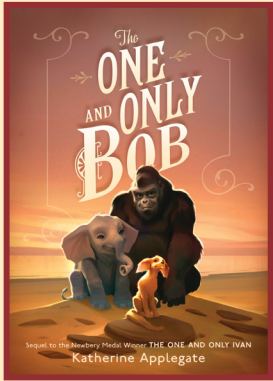
Bob is a realist. Once a homeless puppy, tossed out of a truck on a highway, he has learned the hard way how to be a survivor. One thing's for sure—it certainly helps to have good friends, like Ivan, the gorilla who let Bob sleep in his cage at a shopping mall. Bob was part of the plan that helped Ivan and the baby elephant Ruby move to a nearby zoo and a much-improved habitat, while Bob's reward was to be adopted by Julia, whose dad now works at the zoo. It was a happy ending for all, especially since Bob can now visit his old friends by sneaking into the zoo in Julia's backpack. But Bob has a secret about his past, something he was too ashamed to share with anyone, until a series of events forces Bob to share his secret. In the chaos of a horrendous hurricane, Bob needs to find the courage to help his best friends and allow them to help him in ways he never dreamed were possible.

THE ONE AND ONLY BOB DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How does Bob feel about the phrase “man’s best friend,” which he heard on a TV show he watched with Ivan? Why does that phrase make him so angry? Discuss how his early experiences in life shaped his personality. What does Bob mean when he says, “When you’re an animal, it helps to be a realist” (p. 32)?
2. Compare Bob’s character with Ivan’s. How were their early lives different and how were they similar? Why do you think Ivan was so accepting of Bob sleeping on his stomach when he first came to the mall?
3. Discuss the difference between Bob’s friendship with Ivan and Ruby and his interactions with Minnie and Moo, the guinea pigs, and Nutwit, the squirrel. Why does he dislike Snickers, the poodle?
4. According to Bob, what are the biggest differences between dogs and humans? What is the one human feature that he says he would find very useful? What can you learn about other animals that have opposable thumbs?
5. Why does Bob hate to walk past the animal shelter? Describe his feelings about the animals he can hear in the shelter. What does he mean when he says, “the shelter harshes my mellow” (p. 77)?
6. Compare Bob’s stories about his conversations with Droolius, when he was a stray, and with Kimu the wolf, when he visits the zoo. How does Bob feel about their different environments and their interactions with humans?



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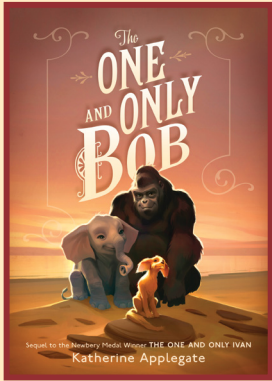


THE ONE AND ONLY BOB DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

7. Describe Bob's impressions of the zoo and the animals that live with his friends Ivan and Ruby. What does he mean when he says he is considered "enrichment" at the zoo (p. 102)? Why doesn't Bob like Kinyani?
 8. Why has Bob never told anyone the secret that haunts him? Why does he think he is really a coward? Describe the ways in which Bob shows bravery at the zoo after the tornado and at the animal shelter later.
 9. How does Ruby come up with the idea to save the baby gorilla Kudzoo? Why do the other elephants allow Ruby to go with Bob to find Ivan? Why does Bob call Ruby "wise beyond her years" (p. 191)?
- Why hasn't Bob told any of his animal friends about Boss? Why did he not look for her on the highway? What does he mean when he says, "There's a certain freedom that comes with owning your faults" (p. 234)?
10. Compare Boss's experience of the last several years to Bob's. How has her life experience affected her feelings about people? What does Boss mean when she says, "I've had to forgive myself plenty, just, you know, to get through the day" (p. 256)? Why is it so hard for Bob to forgive himself?
11. Why does Bob go to look for Boss's puppy? What does he mean when he says to Ivan, "I let her down once, and now, well, I have a second chance" (p. 290)? What is the bravest thing Bob does in his rescue of Rowdy? How have Bob's feelings about people changed throughout this story?



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THE ONE AND ONLY BOB EXTENSION ACTIVITIES

Man's Best Friend—Really? Bob refers to Hachiko, though he can't remember the dog's name. This is a true story about a dog's loyalty to the man he lived with in Japan. Research information about him through one of the books or websites that tell Hachiko's story. Write a short biography of this famous Japanese dog and compare his life to the experiences that Bob lives through in this book.

Animals in Danger. While dogs are not an endangered species, some of Bob's friends are. Find out how different organizations are trying to help animals in the wild and save them from becoming extinct.

www.gorillafund.org

www.sheldrickwildlifetrust.org

Learn about other efforts to keep animals safe in their native habitats.

Building a Better Zoo. Zoos have been changing rapidly in recent years to provide better experiences for the animals and the humans who come to see them. Look up information about some of the best zoos in America and make a list of changes that have been made to improve zoos over the last fifty years. How do they compare with a zoo that you have visited? Draw a map of the zoo as Bob describes it when Julia takes him in her backpack.

Stormy Weather. Make a list of the warning signs of a hurricane or tornado and the precautions that need to be taken for people to stay safe during a major storm. Learn about the ways in which various animals can sense a storm approaching better than humans can. What are the tools that humans use to detect and predict hurricanes and tornadoes?



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ABOUT THE ONE AND ONLY RUBY

Ruby is a lucky little elephant. She has been rescued more than once, most recently from a mall that exhibited her in a cage. Now she is in a natural habitat in a safe wildlife sanctuary with a herd of aunts who look after her, and she can visit her friend Ivan the gorilla anytime she wants. But Ruby has a secret she hasn't told anyone—she hates her tusks. She is dreading the approach of Tuskday, a ritual the herd is planning to celebrate the growth of her tusks, and she wants to run away. A surprise visitor to the sanctuary spurs difficult memories Ruby has kept to herself. Only through the gentle coaxing of her friends Ivan and Bob does Ruby begin to tell the story of her life in Africa and the events that led to her capture. Some things are just hard to talk about, but Ruby is learning more about the value of good friends and a supportive family herd.

THE ONE AND ONLY RUBY DISCUSSION QUESTIONS



1. As you read the glossary of elephant terms at the start of the book, is there anything that surprises you? Are there facts you did not know about elephants? What can we learn about elephants from their 'body language'? Do you learn similar things about people from body language?
2. What is the meaning of a "Lodestar" in the Elephant Glossary? How are each of the Four Lodestars exhibited in Ruby's behavior during this story? How are these principles shown in the behavior of others in her herd at the sanctuary? How were they shown in her memories of life in Africa?
3. Why does Ruby "hate" her tusks—and the nickname Tusky—so much? What does she mean when she says, "I'm not pouting, I'm protesting" (p. 7)? Why is she so worried about her Tuskday? What do you think Aunt Laheli means when she tells Ruby, "Birthdays are about *you*. Tuskdays are about *us*" (p. 38)?
4. What does Ruby mean when she says, "Families can be complicated" (p. 14)? Describe her feelings for Ivan and Bob and why she calls them her "uncles." Why do you think each of them has a different way of talking about the loss of Stella, the older elephant who lived with them when they were caged at the mall? What did Stella mean to each of them? Why doesn't Ivan want to talk about Stella?
5. Describe Bob's sense of humor and Ruby's love of riddles. How do each of them use

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THE ONE AND ONLY RUBY DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- their humor to express themselves? What is the importance of humor in everyday life—for these animals and for humans?
- How did Stella's two questions help Ruby every day: What amazed you today? What made you proud today? Discuss the meaning of the Creed of the Herd: "An elephant alone is not an elephant." What did it mean to Stella? What does it mean to Ruby?
 - Discuss the importance of Ruby's reunion with Jabori when he comes to visit the Sanctuary. How does Jabori's visit help her to tell the story of her life in Africa? Why do you think she has never talked about those memories with Ivan and Bob?
 - Discuss the importance of Ruby's relationship with the cattle egret Gichinga. What does Ruby mean when she says, "A first friend is a true gift, because forever after, your heart knows what's possible" (p. 84). Discuss the difference in Ruby's experience between good humans and bad humans. Why does she remember more about life in Africa than Ivan does?
 - What does the word "sentinel" mean to Ruby? How many sentinels has she had in her short life? Why does she say, "I think Jabori may have been part elephant" (p. 122)? Discuss the importance of the elephant orphanage to her. Why does she feel that Ivan and Bob are sentinels for her as well as the elephants of her new herd?
 - How did Ruby leave the orphanage? How do you think she was able to survive the terrible conditions after her capture? How did Stella help her when she arrived at the mall, and how did Ruby help Stella? Is Ivan right when he says to Ruby, "You were all the herd she ever needed" (p. 167)?
 - Why does Ruby try to run away from her Tuskday ceremony? What does Aunt Akello say that surprises Ruby when she gets stuck in the fence? What does Ruby learn about Aunt Akello—and about herself—in that conversation? What does Akello tell her is the hardest part of growing up?
 - What does Ruby learn during the Tuskday ceremony? How does the herd help her honor the memory of Stella? How did Stella's questions, in the past, help her to understand the importance of the Tuskday ceremony in the present? Why does Ruby call herself the luckiest elephant?



The ONE AND ONLY KATHERINE APPLGATE

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THE ONE AND ONLY RUBY EXTENSION ACTIVITIES

A Forever Home at Last. Some lucky elephants who have lived in captivity find a wild sanctuary at last, like the one where Ruby lives in the story. Choose one of these places in our country and write about its history—who founded it, how it is funded, and how you can learn more about the animals who live there.

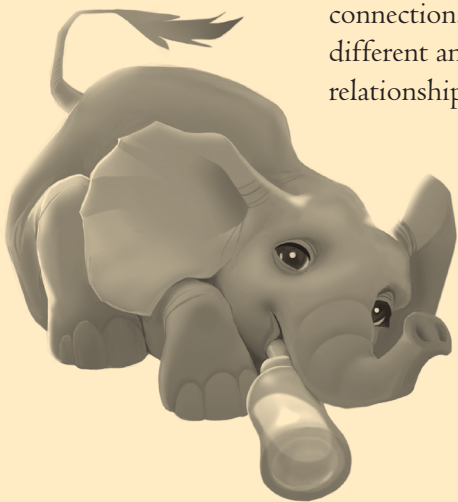
A place specifically for elephants:

www.elephants.com/mission

Sanctuaries you might be able to visit in your part of the country:

www.humanedecisions.com/list-of-animal-sanctuaries-in-the-u-s

Building Better Relationships. Ruby's friendship with Gichinga, the cattle egret, is an example of a symbiotic relationship. The word *symbiosis* comes from the Greek words *sym* and *bios*, which mean *together* and *living*. It describes a long-term, close relationship between two different organisms or species. The elephant and cattle egret have a mutually beneficial connection. Look up other examples of very different animals who develop a symbiotic relationship that benefits both.



Ruby the Riddler. Ruby loves riddles, especially elephant riddles, and she often uses them to make herself comfortable in a difficult situation as well as purely for fun. Make a list of elephant riddles that you can find in books or online—or make up some of your own—and see how many of them your friends and family can answer.

A Memory Like an Elephant. Look for information that supports the old saying that “an elephant never forgets.” Learn how animal trainers and observers have found ways to prove that elephants have long memories that can cover many years.

www.scientificamerican.com/article/elephants-never-forget