



IVAN: THE REMARKABLE STORY OF THE SHOPPING MALL GORILLA

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ILLUSTRATOR: G. BRIAN KARAS

See a video of the book read aloud here: [Ivan: The Remarkable Story of the Shopping Mall Gorilla](#)

**** REMEMBER: HAVE FUN AND THE KIDS WILL TOO! ****

OVERVIEW

ABOUT THE BOOK

This is the extraordinary real story of a special gorilla. Captured as a baby, Ivan was brought to a Tacoma Washington Mall to attract shoppers. Gradually, public pressure built until a better way of life for Ivan was found at Zoo Atlanta. From the Congo to America, and from a local business attraction to a national symbol of animal welfare, Ivan the Shopping Mall Gorilla traveled an astonishing distance in miles and in impact. This is his true story and includes photographs of Ivan in the back matter. (amazon.com)

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Katherine Applegate is the author and winner of the 2013 Newbery Medal. Her novel *Crenshaw* spent over twenty weeks on the New York Times children's best-seller list, and her first middle-grade stand-alone novel, the award-winning *Home of the Brave*, continues to be included on state reading lists, summer reading lists, and class reading lists. Katherine has written three picture books and books for beginning readers. Katherine lives in Marin County, California, with her family and assorted pets. (goodreads.com)

ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

G. Brian Karas was born in September 1957 in Milford, CT. In 1979 he graduated from Paier School of Art in Hamden, CT. From 1979 to 1982 he worked at Hallmark Cards as a greeting card artist in the Humorous Department. He has been a freelance artist since 1982 and has written and illustrated many books that have won numerous awards. He lives in the Hudson Valley of New York.

THE READ ALOUD

BEFORE READING

Use these before reading the story to help students activate background knowledge and make predictions:

- Give me a thumbs up if you have ever seen a gorilla?

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TOPICS & THEMES:

- Animal rights
- Gorillas

Tips for every book!

POWER PHRASES:

I WONDER...

I NOTICE...

TELL ME MORE...

DIGGING DEEPER:

"Tell me more, why do you think that?"

"How do you know that?"

"Why do you think they feel like that?"

"Interesting, did you notice anything else?"

- What do you think of a gorilla living at the zoo?
- Would you want to visit a gorilla at a shopping mall? Why or why not?
- Let's see if we can find where the Congo is located on this globe (reader: or map, depending on what is available).
- I'm curious to read this true story to find out about Ivan the gorilla. Let's start.

DURING THE STORY

Use these while reading the story to help students interpret the action and content.

- (p.4) How is a tropical forest different from a city?
- (p.6) What are some of the things a baby gorilla would need to learn to live in the wild?
- (p.10) How did the baby gorillas feel in their crate?
- (p.14) How do you think people reacted when they saw the gorillas at the mall?
- (p.20) Why would it be difficult for Ivan to live in a human's house?
- (p.27) Do you think Ivan will be happier in his new home?

AFTER READING

Use these after reading the story to help students understand what they just read.

- Why do you think it took so long for people to show concern about Ivan?
- How did the tone of the writing change once Ivan was released in his new home?
- Why do you think Katherine Applegate wanted to write a story about Ivan?

BRINGING THE BOOK TO LIFE!

- If you were to imitate a gorilla, what would it look and sound like?
- Can you tell me how the author feels about what happened to Ivan?

COOPERATIVE LEARNING

- Turn to your neighbor and talk about how you feel about wild animals living with humans in their homes. Discuss what you can do to make sure that animals live in the right environment.

SMALL-GROUP IDEAS

1. DISCUSSION ACTIVITY

- Conduct a picture walk and let students find their favorite page and tell why.
- Did your feelings change from the beginning to the end of this story? If so, how?
- What is a poacher? Why would poachers want to steal baby gorillas?
- What feeling do you get when you read the words "had ordered and paid for them, like a couple of pizzas, like a pair of shoes"?
- Do you think our ideas have changed over time about how animals should be treated?
- Compare and contrast the 3 different living conditions that Ivan experienced.
- What can you do to make sure that all animals have the proper care and rights?
- Do you think it is important for people to know the story of Ivan? Why or why not?

Suggested Optional Activity:

- (reader: distribute two pieces of paper to each student) Draw a picture of gorillas in the wild on one paper. On the other, draw a picture of gorillas in a zoo. Think about how they are different.

2. WRITING ACTIVITY

- Write a letter to the shopping mall owner and discuss what you think about Ivan's living situation.

3, EXTENSION ACTIVITY

- Fold your paper in half. On one half of the paper write all of the things a gorilla would need to learn in order to survive in the jungle. On the other half of the paper, write all of the things a baby needs to learn to live in a house.

COMMON CORE LINKS