



The One and Only Ivan

By Katherine Applegate

Ivan is a silverback gorilla who lives in a cage at a mall. This is a story about using your voice and inspiring courage in others to tell their own story.

Think while you read...

- *"The freeway billboard has a drawing of Mack in his clown clothes and Stella on her hind legs and an angry animal with fierce eyes and unkempt hair. That animal is supposed to be me, but the artist made a mistake. I am never angry."* (pg.24) Has there been a time when you perceived someone in a different way than how they truly are? Why did this happen? How did you discover who they truly were?



Talk

- Have you ever viewed a stranger as competition? Why do people view others as competition, even if they do not know who they are? (pg. 19)
- *"I've heard rescue stories like that before.' It's Stella's voice. She sounds weary. Slowly she makes her way over to Ruby. 'Humans can surprise you sometimes. An unpredictable species, Homo sapiens.'"* (pg.126) Do you think humans are an unpredictable species? What action have you seen from a person that surprised you? How do you think Ivan feels during the story when he speaks about humans?

Write

- The author wrote this novel about a gorilla, as if the gorilla was a human. She gave a voice to a gorilla, a backstory, friends, and emotions. Write a few paragraphs and answer: Why do you think the author did this? If you could add anything to this story, what would you include? If you could replace or take out anything from the story what parts would that be? And what would you replace them with? Do these changes make Ivan more human or more animal?

Connect

- Ivan lives in a shopping mall, which is not normal for him and this messes with his feelings of identity. Draw a picture of the Congo, a natural gorilla habitat. Write 3 words of what you think it would be like to live in a jungle. Then, draw a picture of Ivan at the B&I Mall. Write 3 words that describe what it would be like to live in a mall. Finally, repeat this exercise for two different environments you have been in. How do you feel different based on where you are?



This week, I looked at books on...

Sun. Mon. Tues. Weds. Thurs. Fri. Sat.





Drawing From Inspiration

Use your surroundings to create something beautiful!



Materials Needed: water colors, pencils, cardstock

Ivan loves to draw, and gets inspiration from the environment around him. He is also inspired by his friend Julia who first got him interested in drawing. Art is a wonderful form of self expression.

First, look around your environment and find something that catches your attention or creates some emotion in you. Be creative and draw it! Why did this catch your attention? Why does it inspire this emotion in you?

Next, draw someone who inspires you, just as Julia inspires Ivan. What is it about them that inspires you?

