

# The One and Only Ivan



By

Katherine Applegate

A Novel Study  
by Joel Michel Reed

# The One and Only Ivan

By Katherine Applegate



## Table of Contents

Suggestions and Expectations	3
List of Skills	4
Synopsis / Author Biography	5
Student Checklist	6
Reproducible Student Booklet	7
Answer Key	59

**About the author:** Joel Reed has over 70 published novel studies and is the author of four novels. For information on his work and literature, please visit [www.reednovelstudies.com](http://www.reednovelstudies.com)

Copyright © 2014 Joel Reed  
Revisions Completed in 2022  
All rights reserved by author.

Permission to copy for single classroom use only.  
Electronic distribution limited to single classroom use only.  
Not for public display.

# The One and Only Ivan

By Katherine Applegate

## Suggestions and Expectations

This curriculum unit can be used in a variety of ways. Each chapter of the novel study focuses on several individual sections of *The One and Only Ivan* and is comprised of five of the following different activities:

- Before You Read
- Vocabulary Building
- Comprehension Questions
- Language Activities
- Extension Activities

### Links with the Common Core Standards (U.S.)

Many of the activities included in this curriculum unit are supported by the Common Core Standards. For instance the *Reading Standards for Literature, Grade 5*, makes reference to:

- a) determining the meaning of words and phrases. . . including figurative language;
- b) explaining how a series of chapters fits together to provide the overall structure;
- c) compare and contrast two characters;
- d) determine how characters ... respond to challenges;
- e) drawing inferences from the text;
- f) determining a theme of a story . . . **and many others.**

A principal expectation of the unit is that students will develop their skills in reading, writing, listening and oral communication, as well as in reasoning and critical thinking. Students will also be expected to provide clear answers to questions and well-constructed explanations. It is critical as well that students be able to relate events and the feelings of characters to their own lives and experiences and describe their own interpretation of a particular passage.

A strength of the unit is that students can work on the activities at their own pace. Every activity need not be completed by all students. A **portfolio cover** is included (p.7) so that students may organize their work and keep it all in one place. A **Student Checklist** is also included (p.6) so that a record of completed work may be recorded.

# The One and Only Ivan

By Katherine Applegate

## List of Skills

### Vocabulary Development

1. Locating descriptive words/phrases
2. Listing synonyms/homonyms
3. Identifying/creating *alliteration*
4. Use of capitals and punctuation
5. Identifying syllables
6. Identify *anagrams*
7. Use of singular / plural nouns
8. Listing compound words
9. Identifying parts of speech
10. Determining alphabetical order
11. Identify *personification*
12. Identify/create *similes*

### Setting Activities

1. Summarize the details of a setting

### Plot Activities

1. Complete a *time line* of events
2. Identify conflict in the story
3. Complete Five W's Chart
4. Identify *cliffhangers*
5. Identify the climax of the novel.

### Character Activities

1. Determine character traits
2. Relating personal experiences

### Creative and Critical Thinking

1. Research
2. Write a newspaper story
3. Participate in a talk show
4. Conduct an interview
5. Write a short story.
6. Write a description of personal feelings
7. Write a book review
8. Complete an Observation Sheet
9. Writing poetry.

### Art Activities

1. A Storyboard
2. Create a collage
3. Create an Information Card
4. Design a cover for the novel
5. Create a comic strip
6. Create a topical sketch

# The One and Only Ivan

By Katherine Applegate



## Synopsis

Ivan is an easygoing gorilla. Living at the Exit 8 Big Top Mall and Video Arcade, he has grown accustomed to humans watching him through the glass walls of his domain. He rarely misses his life in the jungle. Instead, he passes the time quietly and thinks about art.

Then he meets Ruby, a baby elephant taken from her family, and she makes Ivan see their home – and his own art – through new eyes. When Ruby arrives, change comes with her, and it's up to Ivan to make it a change for the better. (The Publisher – Harper Collins)

A complete synopsis and other helpful reviews can be found on the following website:

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The\\_One\\_and\\_Only\\_Ivan](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_One_and_Only_Ivan)

(Warning: Website contains plot spoilers)

## Author Biography

*Katherine Applegate*

**Katherine Applegate** - Applegate was born in Michigan on October 9, 1956. Since then she has lived in Texas, Florida, California, Minnesota, Illinois, North Carolina, and after living in Pelago, Italy for a year, she moved back to Irvine, in Southern California. In 2003, she and her husband, Michael Grant, her co-author on many projects including *Animorphs* and *Everworld*, adopted their daughter, Julia, in China. Following the end of *Remnants*, Applegate took three years off. She is back at work and has written a picture book called *Buffalo Storm*, a middle reader novel called *Home of the Brave* and an early chapters series *Roscoe Riley Rules* with Harper-Collins. Her book *Home of the Brave* has won the 2008 *Golden Kite Award* for Best Fiction, the Bank Street *Josette Frank Award* and is a Judy Lopez Memorial Award honor book.



Courtesy of Wikipedia. [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Katherine\\_Applegate](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Katherine_Applegate)



# The One and Only Ivan



*By Katherine Applegate*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# The One and Only Ivan

By Katherine Applegate  
Hello (Pg 1) – Stella (Pg 29)



## Before you read the chapter:

Briefly predict what you believe the plot-line of *The One and Only Ivan* will be about.




## Vocabulary:

**Synonyms** are words with similar meanings. Using the context of the sentences below, think of an appropriate synonym for each underlined word and record it in the box on the next page.

1. Humans waste words. They toss them like banana peels and leave them to rot.
2. Gorillas are as patient as stones. Humans, not so much.
3. I'm mightier than any human, four hundred pounds of pure power. My body looks made for battle. My arms, outstretched, span taller than the tallest human.
4. Hello. Mack says that when he answers the thrilling telephone.
5. 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.
6. I used to have a neighbor, a sleek and thoughtful seal, who could balance a ball on her nose from dawn till dusk.
7. Humans are clever indeed. They spin pink clouds you can eat. They build domains with flat waterfalls. But they are lousy hunters.
8. Here in my domain, I do not have much to do. You can only throw so many me-balls at humans before you get bored.



## Vocabulary (Answers):

1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8

## Questions



1. Describe the **setting** of the story as Section One begins.


2. What particular species of gorilla is Ivan?

--

3. According to Ivan, why do gorilla's beat their chests?


4. What does Ivan enjoy drawing?


5. What happened to the large bull elephant that once performed at the circus?


# Language Activities



**A.** There are many writers that enjoy using **alliteration** – a literary device is where the author repeats the same sound at the beginning of several words. Here's an example of an alliteration: “**g**rouching, **g**rouching, **g**rumbling, **g**ripping about something or other.”



Using your imagination, create your own examples of **alliteration** from the following topics. Each example must contain a minimum of three words.

The sounds of Ivan the gorilla.	
The sounds of Stella the elephant.	
The sound of nature (think of an appropriate setting)	

**B.** A **simile** is a comparison using the words “like” or “as”. Here's an example from this section: *“Humans waste words. They toss them like banana peels and leave them to rot.”*

What two things are being compared in this example?

--	--

Invent three of your own **similes** comparing two different things from your own imagination:

a)	

b)	

c)	

### C. Come One, Come All!

Using resources from your school library or the Internet write a brief report on a famous circus act of your own choosing. Your report should include locations, dates, performers, and any other information that you might find interesting.




### Fascinating Facts

In the section 'How I Look' Ivan implied that humans are part of the greater ape family tree. However, contrary to this popular belief, there is actually no credible scientific evidence to support the theory that humans are descended from primates. Columnist Albert Fleischmann once wrote; *“The Darwinian theory of descent has not a single fact to confirm it in the realm of nature. It is not the result of scientific research, but purely the product of imagination.”*



## Extension Activity

### Storyboard

A storyboard is a series of pictures that tell about an important event in a story. A storyboard can tell the story of only one scene – or the entire novel.



Complete the storyboard below illustrating the events described in this section of our novel. You may wish to practice your drawings on a separate piece of paper.

1	2
3	4
5	6