

One and Only Ivan, The

Applegate, K

Inspired by a true story, this is the beautifully written tale of how a mighty gorilla, Ivan, wins freedom for both himself and a baby elephant called Ruby. Told from the perspective of Ivan, this novel has an important message for readers about the plight of animals in captivity.

Collections: ARC-BC

Subjects: English Language Arts, Social Studies
Grades 4-5

Evaluation Date: Apr 2013



[ARC-BC](#)




Social Considerations

Resource Evaluation

CURRICULUM FIT

Does the resource support BC curriculum?

 Moderately

This novel strongly supports expectations for fostering social responsibility and connects to the science topic of habitats. Teachers could also use this novel and the true story that inspired it to address strands of the Social Studies curriculum as examples of public protest and changing sensibilities.

SUGGESTED CLASSROOM USAGE

This novel would be best used in a way that allows learners to read at their own pace and then discuss. Its strength lies in its exploration of themes and perspective, not in its plot, making it less engaging as a read-aloud. If used for literature circles, the discussions would likely be richest if the reading was broken into not more than two chunks, due to the style and size of the novel.

SOCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

Gender Roles, Identity & Sexual Orientation

The novel identifies that some cultures reserve some roles for men only; the story features a teen who wants to be the first female porter to climb the mountain.

Ability/Disability

An elephant is made to work when ill, dying of infection and poor living conditions.

Belief System

The fervor with which participants engage in and follow the rules of the computer game take on qualities of religious mania. "

Violence

A sharp blade is used to get a young elephant to obey owner; human anger is portrayed with throwing objects and raised voices.

Ethical and Legal

Wild animals are captured, sold and kept in in small cages.

Do the social considerations support, rather than detract from, student learning?



Extensively

The examples of abuse and neglect are necessary to help the reader develop empathy for captive animals whose needs and feelings are not adequately considered.

GENERAL CONTENT

Content

Is the resource engaging?



Moderately

Is the content current for the intended curriculum and grade?



Extensively

Is the content accurate for the intended curriculum and grade?



Extensively

Is the content relevant and important for student broad understandings?



Extensively

Audience

Is the content appropriate to the emotional maturity and cognitive level of students?



Extensively

Does the resource provide opportunities for creative and critical thinking?



Moderately

Is the level of detail appropriate?



Extensively

Is the language use appropriate to the emotional maturity and cognitive level of students?




Moderately


The large font size and simple vocabulary make the novel accessible to lower intermediate readers and English language learners while readers with more sophisticated skills will understand more of the nuances of the animals' perspectives.

TECHNICAL DESIGN

Is the location of illustrations appropriate?

 Moderately

Is the use of font, text size and presentation suitable?

 Moderately

31 small black and white illustrations are located throughout the novel, adding interest and supporting the understanding of less fluent readers and English language learners.

PRINT NOVEL

Does the text show insight into the complexity of the human condition?



Moderately

Does the text broaden students' experiences and understanding?



Extensively

To what degree is this text stylistically rich?



Extensively

Plot description

Ivan is captured as an infant, initially living with an American couple until he becomes too big and he is relocated to a tiny cage as the featured star of a mall menagerie. When a baby elephant moves to an adjacent cage, Ivan is determined to find a way to get her a fuller, happier life. He uses crayons to draw a better home for her and an attentive child interprets and posts his art, launching a public outcry that results in relocation to better environments for both the elephant and Ivan.

Genre

- Contemporary

Literary Highlights

- Point of view

Type

- Novel

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

Reading Level

- At intended grade level(s)

2013 Newbery Award Medal

GRADES AND SUBJECTS

Subjects

- English Language Arts: 4-5

ADDITIONAL INFO

Copyright
2012

Primary identifier (ISBN)
9780062135797