

# 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

	<a href="#">ARC-BC</a>
	Social Considerations

# Resource Evaluation

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## 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.

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## 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.

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## 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 small cages.

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



Extensively

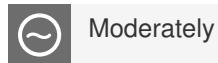
The examples of abuse and neglect are necessary to help the reader develop empathy for captive animals whose needs and feelings are not adequately considered.

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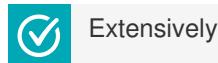
## GENERAL CONTENT

### Content

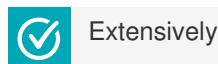
**Is the resource engaging?**



**Is the content current for the intended curriculum and grade?**



**Is the content accurate for the intended curriculum and grade?**

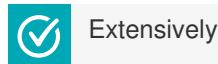


**Is the content relevant and important for student broad understandings?**

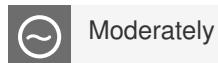


### Audience

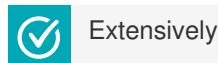
**Is the content appropriate to the emotional maturity and cognitive level of students?**



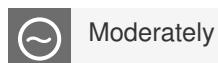
**Does the resource provide opportunities for creative and critical thinking?**



**Is the level of detail appropriate?**



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



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.

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## 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.

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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

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### ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

#### Reading Level

- At intended grade level(s)

2013 Newbery Award Medal

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### GRADES AND SUBJECTS

#### Subjects

- English Language Arts: 4-5

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ADDITIONAL INFO

Copyright

2012

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<https://focusedresources.ca/k-12-evaluated-resource-collection/one-and-only-ivan>

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