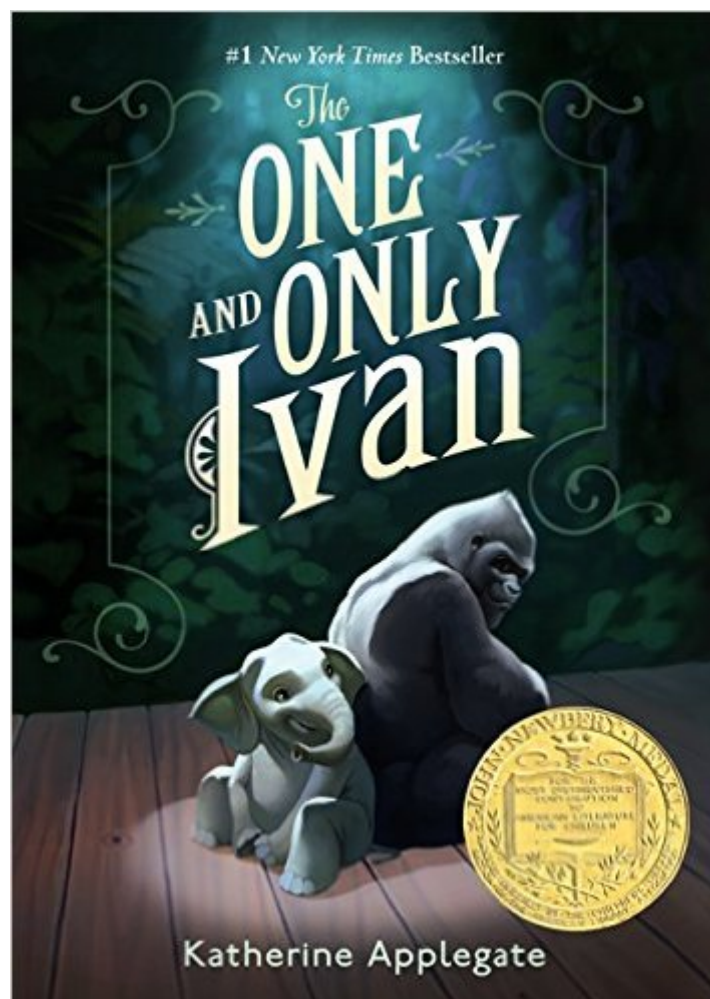


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The One And Only Ivan



Synopsis

Winner of the 2013 Newbery Medal and a #1 New York Times bestseller, this stirring and unforgettable novel from renowned author Katherine Applegate celebrates the transformative power of unexpected friendship. Inspired by the true story of a captive gorilla known as Ivan, this illustrated novel is told from the point of view of Ivan himself. Having spent twenty-seven years behind the glass walls of his enclosure in a shopping mall, Ivan has grown accustomed to humans watching him. He hardly ever thinks about his life in the jungle. Instead, Ivan occupies himself with television, his friends Stella and Bob, and painting. But when he meets Ruby, a baby elephant taken from the wild, he is forced to see their home, and his art, through new eyes. In the tradition of timeless stories like *Charlotte's Web* and *Stuart Little*, Katherine Applegate blends humor and poignancy to create an unforgettable story of friendship, art, and hope. This paperback edition includes an author's note highlighting the differences between the fictional story and true events, a version of the author's Newbery Medal acceptance speech, Ivan's "signature," discussion questions, and more. *The One and Only Ivan* is a strong Common Core title that features these important strands and standards: first-person narrative; author's use of literary devices (personification, imagery); story elements (plot, character development, perspective).

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 570 (What's this?)

Paperback: 336 pages

Publisher: HarperCollins; Reprint edition (January 6, 2015)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0061992275

ISBN-13: 978-0061992278

Product Dimensions: 5.5 x 0.9 x 7.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 12 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (2,012 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #346 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) [#1 in Books > Children's Books >](#)

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[Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > Friendship](#)

Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 7

Customer Reviews

Parents on the qui vive for deeper stories to share with their children need look no further than Katherine Applegate's tale, "The One and Only Ivan", written from the perspective of a Silverback gorilla living in a shopping mall. Too many children are sheltered from animals, left to draw their experiences from animated movies like Madagascar, Kung Fu Panda and Alvin and the Chipmunks. What's missing from those stories? Humanity and tenderness; qualities you will find in abundance in this book. Applegate's story should resonate with animal lovers, too. The gorilla lives a simple, sad life with only a couple friends, including Bob, a stray dog, and Stella, an aging elephant. The years of living behind a glass wall at the Exit 8 Big Top Mall and Video Arcade has numbed Ivan to his own misery. He is barely self-aware of his suffering until the arrival of a baby elephant named Ruby arouses emotions long dormant in Ivan. I read the book to my sons as a bedtime story. The first-person narrative hooked them after only a few pages. The chapters are short, which makes it easy to reach a stopping point each night. A word of caution, only the cold-hearted will finish this book without feeling a pang or shedding a tear.

This is probably one of the hardest reviews I have written yet. On one hand I did like it. On the other I really did not. I am not sure who wrote the overview above but they obviously did not read the same book I did. I found very little humor in this book. The funniest part was when Ivan painted with chocolate frosting on the fridge. The use of the poignancy however is very accurate. This book won the Newbery Award. This is awarded to the author of the most distinguished contribution to American literature for children. I can't say that I agree. I personally found 80% of this book depressing and cried through parts of it. Normally, I would say that is the sign of a great book but in this case I disagree. This has a reading level of 3.6 (3rd grade 6 month). I am not sure I would let my 6th grader read this. Ok, I would but I would warn her beforehand. Actually, she walked in while I was reading at one point and asked why I was crying. I would not want my children crying themselves to sleep at night over a book. This book is like a Hemingway novel for children. I am certainly not saying that books need to always be happy. I understand life is not always sunny. But this story went overboard trying to make the reader feel empathy for not only the animals but the people in the book. EVERYONE had a sad back story. Divorce, sickness, death, lack of money, being kidnapped, homelessness and abuse are just a few examples. This book did have a nice happy ending but the arrival to that point was just too emotionally exhausting for me. I felt it was bit unrealistic (and that is coming from a person who loves unrealistic books). That part just didn't fit with the rest of the story in my opinion.

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