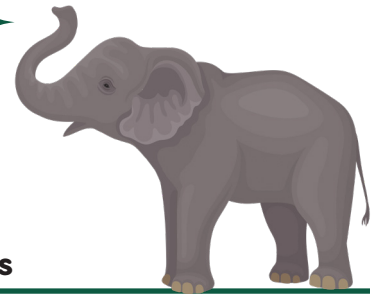


THE ONE AND ONLY IVAN: NOVEL DISCUSSION GUIDE #3



Encourage critical thinking and support your students' literacy development by asking questions during reading. Here are some questions you can ask your readers to engage them in a discussion. **Sample answers**

Chapters: nine thousand eight hundred and seventy-six days - colors

Comprehension

- ✦ How long has Ivan been living with humans?
Ivan has been living with humans for 9,876 days, which is 27 years.
- ✦ Where does Ivan mark all the days he's been living with humans?
Ivan marks the wall with the jungle scene in his domain.
- ✦ Why does Ruby stop during training?
Ruby stops during training because she is exhausted.
- ✦ Why does Mack take out the claw-stick?
Mack takes out the claw-stick because Ruby refuses to move and she is ignoring Mack's directions.
- ✦ How does Ruby react to the claw-stick?
At first, Ruby doesn't budge when Mack pokes her with the claw-stick. When Mack swings the stick in the air, Ruby hits Mack with her trunk.
- ✦ What does Julia give Ivan?
Julia gives Ivan her painting of Ruby. She also gives Ivan a set of yellow, blue, and red finger paints.

Analysis

- ✦ When Mack says, "It's time for a new beginning," what does he mean?
Mack is ready to move on from Stella's death. The billboard is bringing in more visitors, and Mack wants Ruby to do the tricks Stella used to do.
- ✦ Why do Julia, Ivan, and Bob keep a close eye on Ruby while she works with Mack?
Julia, Ivan, and Bob keep a close eye on Ruby because she's only a baby and they care about her. Ivan and Bob know that Stella did not want this life for Ruby, so they are feeling protective over Ruby.
- ✦ Describe George's feelings about helping Ruby.
George wishes that he could help Ruby, but he's unsure of how to help. He also worries that if he helps Ruby, he will upset Mack and lose his job. George needs the job to pay for his wife's medical bills, so he feels like he can't say anything about the issue.

Personal Connection

- ✦ Describe a time when you were unsure of how to handle a situation. What was happening, and what were the different ways you could have handled it? Why was it hard to make a decision about what to do?
Student answers will vary.

THE ONE AND ONLY IVAN: NOVEL DISCUSSION GUIDE #3



Encourage critical thinking and support your students' literacy development by asking questions during reading. Here are some questions you can ask your readers to engage them in a discussion. **Sample answers**

Chapters: a bad dream - another ivan

Comprehension

- ✦ What was Ruby dreaming about?
Ruby was dreaming about the claw-stick.
- ✦ What is Ruby worried about?
Ruby is worried about Mack being upset with her for hitting him with her trunk. She's also worried that she will die in this domain someday like Stella did.
- ✦ What story does Ivan tell Ruby to help her go back to sleep?
Ivan tells a story about a smart, brave baby elephant who got to a zoo with the help of a friend.
- ✦ What is a zoo, according to Ivan?
Ivan describes a zoo the same way Stella did. He says that a good zoo is where humans care for animals and keep them safe.
- ✦ Ivan says, "I feel as if I could sleep for a thousand days." What does that mean?
Ivan feels exhausted.
- ✦ What does Ivan remember?
Ivan remembers the day the humans came and attacked his parents.

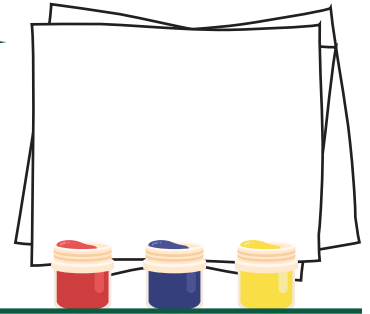
Analysis

- ✦ Why does Ivan tell Ruby that "it's not a domain, it's a cage"?
Ivan realizes that life at the Big Top Mall is not a good life for any of the animals, especially Ruby. He understands that there is not a nice way to explain where they live, so he is honest with Ruby.
- ✦ Describe the different sides to Ivan.
Ivan is mostly a peaceful gorilla, usually thinking about naps, bananas, and yogurt raisins. He enjoys his friends and art. But inside, he has a fierce side to him that he could use to protect his loved ones.
- ✦ How is Ivan feeling about the promise he made to Stella?
While Ivan is a little uncertain about his ability to keep his promise to Stella, he feels determined to follow through.

Personal Connection

- ✦ Describe a time when you felt determined to do something, even if it was going to be challenging.
Student answers will vary.

THE ONE AND ONLY IVAN: NOVEL DISCUSSION GUIDE #3



Encourage critical thinking and support your students' literacy development by asking questions during reading. Here are some questions you can ask your readers to engage them in a discussion. **Sample answers**

Chapters: days - one more thing

Comprehension

- ✦ How does Ivan spend his days and nights?
Ivan spends his days waiting and worrying about Ruby when she trains with Mack. He spends his nights painting.
- ✦ Where does Ivan hide his paintings?
Ivan hides his paintings under his pool.
- ✦ Why does Ivan hide his paintings from Mack?
Ivan hides his paintings from Mack because he doesn't want them to be sold in the gift shop.
- ✦ In what ways is Mack trying to save money? How does this impact the animals?
Mack is cutting back on the animals' food and turning off the heat at night to save money. These two decisions cause the animals to be hungry and cold.
- ✦ How does Bob feel about Ivan's night painting?
Bob isn't happy about the night painting because he misses sleeping on Ivan's stomach. So Bob sleeps on Not-Tag instead.
- ✦ What new picture does Ivan decide to paint?
Ivan decides to paint a zoo like the one he saw on the TV commercial. He plans to include details, like rocks, trees, tails, and trunks.

Analysis

- ✦ After Mack finds the paintings for Ruby, why does Ivan imagine what it would feel like to be the sheriff?
On Ivan's TV, there's a Western movie with a sheriff who gets rid of all the bad guys. Because Mack took the paintings, Ivan thinks of Mack as a bad guy. Ivan wishes he had the power to stop Mack from taking his art.
- ✦ Why does Ivan keep changing the details on his painting?
Ivan struggles to get the colors and shapes right on his painting. Even though he can't point to exactly what's wrong with his paintings, he can feel that it's not what it's meant to be. He wishes he had human words to say what he needed to say.
- ✦ How has Ivan changed as an artist?
Ivan used to paint the things he saw in front of him, but now he is painting things that he imagines.

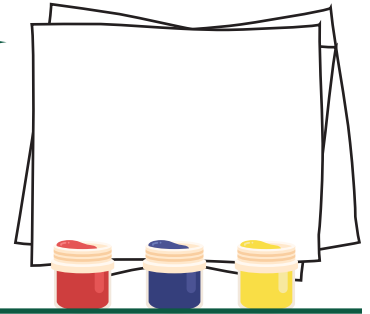
Personal Connection

- ✦ Think about the movies or TV commercials you have seen. Which movies or commercials stand out in your mind, and why? What do they make you feel?
Student answers will vary.

THE ONE AND ONLY IVAN: NOVEL DISCUSSION GUIDE #3

Encourage critical thinking and support your students' literacy development by asking questions during reading. Here are some questions you can ask your readers to engage them in a discussion. **Sample answers**

Chapters: the seven o'clock show – showing julia



Comprehension

- ✦ Why does Julia sigh while she does her homework?
Julia plans to be an artist when she grows up, and she doesn't see the value in learning how to spell. She sighs because she doesn't want to do the work.
- ✦ Describe what happens to Bob when Ivan leaps up in his cage.
Bob goes flying and lands in the pool.
- ✦ What does Ivan say is the reason for Bob not being on the billboard?
Ivan points out that Bob isn't on the billboard because he doesn't perform in the show.
- ✦ What does Ivan do when he is nervous?
Ivan knuckle walks circles around his cage.
- ✦ Why does Ivan want to show Julia his painting?
Because Julia is an artist, Ivan believes that she'll be able to see what he imagined. He believes that she will truly look at his painting, ignoring smudges and tears. He believes that she'll be able to look past imperfections and truly see what he's trying to say in his painting.
- ✦ How does Julia respond when she first looks at Ivan's paintings?
Julia is confused because she can't figure out what the painting is. She says that it doesn't matter if she can't understand it and that it's pretty as it is.

Analysis

- ✦ What is the most likely reason that Mack reaches for the claw-stick when Ruby stumbles during the seven o'clock show?
Mack probably thinks that Ruby is about to refuse to perform. When the animals refuse to obey, he uses the claw-stick to make them follow his directions.
- ✦ What does Ivan realize about words after listening to Julia and George's conversation about Julia's homework?
Ivan realizes that words can be useful to communicate. He decides to choose one important word and put it on his painting.
- ✦ Bob says that "home" is not an important word. Why do you think he believes that?
Bob thinks that home is not important because he chooses to be homeless and instead enjoys the freedom to go anywhere at any time.

Personal Connection

- ✦ If you had to choose the most important word, what would it be? Why?
Student answers will vary.