



THE ONE AND ONLY IVAN: FACT VS. FICTION



Katherine Applegate’s *The One and Only Ivan* is based on a true story. While the novel includes some real people, places, and events, some parts of the story are fiction. Explore which parts of Ivan’s story are fact and which are fiction by reading a nonfiction book about Ivan’s life.

Compare Ivan’s story as it’s told in *The One and Only Ivan* and *Ivan: The Remarkable True Story of the Shopping Mall Gorilla*, both written by Katherine Applegate. Complete the graphic organizer, and then answer the questions that follow. **Sample answers**

	Information only in <i>The One and Only Ivan</i>	Information in both stories	Information only in <i>Ivan: The Remarkable True Story of the Shopping Mall Gorilla</i>
Early life in the wild	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -lived in a troop that had one other baby (Ivan’s twin sister) -humans killed his troop and stole Ivan and his twin sister 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -was born in a rainforest in central Africa -lived in a troop -played and rode on his mother’s back 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -lived in a troop that had other babies -poachers stole Ivan and another gorilla baby
Life with humans and at the mall	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -lived with Mack and Helen -broke many items in the house -created art with crayons -had friends named Stella, Bob, Ruby, and Julia 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -lived in a home like a human child -slept in a bed, went to baseball games, held a baby, rode a motorbike -ate a lot of food and grew too big for a human house -lived in a cage at the mall with a TV and tire -finger-painted -watched visitors at the mall 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -named as a result of a “Name the Babies” contest
New home at the zoo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -was cared for mostly by Maya -watched a TV that showed the other gorillas -watched a TV that showed Ruby with the other elephants 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -had time to adjust to his new life -was cared for by scientists -had trees, grass, fresh air, and other gorillas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -reporters and people watched when Ivan joined the other gorillas



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Now use your knowledge of both stories to answer the questions below.

Sample answers

1. What are three examples of fictional events that happen in *The One and Only Ivan*?

1. Ivan created art with crayons that Julia gave him.

2. Ivan's friend Bob, a stray dog, lived in his domain with him.

3. Ivan's art on the billboard brought protestors to the mall.

2. Ivan makes a few transitions during his life. He goes from the jungle to Mac's house, then from Mac's house to the mall, and finally from the mall to the zoo. Choose one of the transitions and compare how it is detailed in each book.

Both books tell the story of Ivan and another baby gorilla traveling in a dark crate when they were taken from the wild. The nonfiction book explains that the other gorilla survives the trip and dies shortly after arriving, but in *The One and Only Ivan*, the other baby gorilla—Ivan's twin sister—does not survive the trip.

3. What difference between the books surprises you the most? Why?

Student answers will vary.

4. Which book was more enjoyable for you? What made it a more enjoyable story?

Student answers will vary.

5. Art plays an important role in *The One and Only Ivan*, but art is only a small part of Ivan's story in *Ivan: The Remarkable True Story of the Shopping Mall Gorilla*. Why do you think Katherine Applegate made art such a big part of the story in her fiction novel?

Student answers will vary but may include an inference about Katherine Applegate's decision to use art as a way to make the story more interesting.