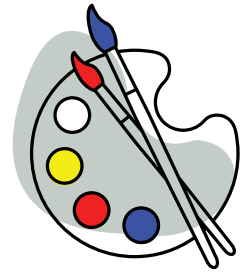


THE ONE AND ONLY IVAN: POST-READING WRITING PROMPTS



Sample answers

Choose a prompt from the list. Write your answer on the lines provided or a separate sheet of paper. Be sure to include evidence and details from The One and Only Ivan.

- At the beginning of the story, Ivan says he can't remember much about his life. Later on he tells Ruby stories about when he was a baby gorilla. How does remembering his life before the mall change how Ivan sees himself, his friends, and their home?

When Ivan begins to remember his life in the wild, he realizes that the life he had with his parents, his troop, and his sister, Tag, "was, for a while, a perfect life." Ivan recognizes the happiness he felt when he lived in the jungle with his family, and he realizes that he doesn't feel that same happiness living in his domain. While he once loved his domain with his television, soda, and life with his friends, he now sees the domain as a cage. Because he's a silverback whose goal is to protect his troop, he acknowledges that his friends deserve a better life, too. With these realizations, Ivan comes into his role as a leader among his friends, motivated to fulfill the promise he made to Stella that he would help Ruby live a better life away from the Big Top Mall.

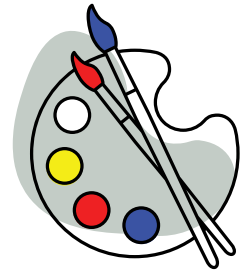
- Julia plays an important role in this story. Describe three things Julia does that make a big impact on the animals and their lives.

- Julia gives Ivan his first crayon, providing him the opportunity to draw and find joy in creating art.
- Julia pays attention to the animals and spends time with them. She notices when things are out of the ordinary. When Stella becomes sicker, Julia insists that her dad call Mack to let him know and ask him to do something. Because of actions like this, the animals know that Julia loves them.
- When Ivan creates the large piece of art and writes the word "HOME," Julia tries to understand Ivan's art and his message. She and her dad put the art on the billboard, which draws attention to the animals' poor living conditions.

- Ivan, Bob, Ruby, and Stella have their own opinions about humans. Choose two of these characters and compare how they feel about humans. How are their opinions similar and/or different?

Ruby's opinion is that humans can be good. When Ruby was stuck in a hole with high water, a village of humans worked together to rescue her. They spent hours trying to reunite her with her family. While she knows that humans can be bad, like those that killed her family, she remembers the good humans who helped her. On the other hand, because of Bob's first experience with humans, he believes they are all bad. When he was only a few weeks old, humans tossed his brothers and sisters out of a truck on the freeway. The characters' opinions of humans are different because they've each had different encounters with humans.

THE ONE AND ONLY IVAN: POST-READING WRITING PROMPTS



Sample answers

Choose a prompt from the list. Write your answer on the lines provided or a separate sheet of paper. Be sure to include evidence and details from The One and Only Ivan.

- ◆ Mack is an important character in *The One and Only Ivan*. Is Mack good, bad, or both? Give examples from the text to support your response.

Mack is the boss at the Big Top Mall, and he's Ivan's owner. He runs the circus show and cares for the animals. Throughout the story, Mack shows that he is both good and bad. Mack is good because he's taken care of Ivan since he was a baby. For example, Mack raised Ivan "like a human baby." He took Ivan to his favorite fast-food restaurant to get french fries and a strawberry shake. Some may say that Mack is bad because he isn't kind and caring toward the animals, but instead only cares about how they can make him money. For example, when Stella's foot grows more painful and infected, Mack doesn't want to spend money on the medical care Stella needs. He also uses the claw-stick with Ruby when he is trying to get her to perform without Stella.

- ◆ The billboard outside the Big Top Mall had a purpose. What was the purpose of the billboard at the beginning and end of the story? How did the role of the billboard change throughout the story?

At the beginning of the story, the billboard's purpose is to attract visitors to see an angry gorilla at the Big Top Mall. Even though Ivan is not actually an angry gorilla, the billboard's image is meant to get visitors interested enough that they will stop to see him. Later, Mack thinks the billboard's image of Ivan is no longer working to attract visitors, so he adds a picture of Ruby, a baby elephant, to hopefully attract visitors again. At the end of the story, Julia and George add Ivan's art to the billboard to share Ivan's message that Ruby should live in a zoo. The billboard's purpose is to attract attention to the way the animals live at the Big Top Mall.