

THE ONE AND ONLY IVAN: NOVEL DISCUSSION GUIDE #4



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.



Chapters: more paintings - a star again

Comprehension

- What does George suggest they do with Ivan's paintings?
- → Why does Julia like Ivan's art?
- → Why does Ivan thump his chest?
- ♦ According to Julia, where does Ivan want his painting to go?
- What does Julia say that makes George change his mind?
- Why do more visitors come to see Ivan?

Analysis

- Ivan says, "I'm angry, at last." Why is that an important moment in the story?
- ♦ What impact does Julia hope the new billboard change will make? What actually happens?
- + How and why do Mack's behavior and attitude change after the phone call from the reporter?

Personal Connection

Ivan's goal is to get Ruby to a zoo where she can live with other elephants. What is a goal of yours that you haven't accomplished yet? What will it take to accomplish that goal?

Chapters: the ape artist - good-bye

Comprehension

- What are Ivan's new nicknames?
- + When Ivan says that his idea isn't working, what advice does Bob give?
- Why do the people holding signs come to the mall?
- What is clicker training, according to Bob?
- What does Ivan do when the animal doctor enters his cage?
- Describe the picture Julia gives Ivan. How is it different from the others?

Analysis

- + How does the cameraman's focus on the claw-stick impact the story?
- What is the most likely reason that Ruby does not "trumpet with joy" when Ivan explains that the large box is her way out of the Big Top Mall?
- + How is each character most likely feeling at this point in the story? How do you know? Provide answers for Ivan, Bob, Ruby, Julia, George, and Mack.

Personal Connection

→ Describe a time you had to wait patiently for something. How did it feel, and was it worth it? Explain.

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Chapters: click - silverback

Comprehension

- + Why does Ivan choose to go into the box, and why doesn't Bob join him?
- → What gift does Ivan give Bob as they say good-bye?
- → What does Ivan do when he arrives at the zoo?
- → What can Ivan see when he climbs the tree?
- → Who comes to visit Ivan?
- What does Ivan learn about Bob's new home?

Analysis

- + How does the thought of Ruby help Ivan face his fears?
- + How is Maya different from Mack? Explain your answer with details from the story.
- + From the time Ivan arrives at the zoo to the end of the story, how does Ivan's relationship with his new troop change?

Personal Connection

Ivan finally feels like he belongs with the other gorillas. What does it feel like to belong? Describe the
place where you feel you most belong.