

Dear parents and students,

I am so excited to start our fifth grade adventure in the fall! One of my favorite things to do is READ! I love sharing my favorite books and stories with my friends and family. Our summer reading novel is one of my favorite fantasy stories that I discovered this past year.

Our summer reading novel is The One and Only Ivan, by Katherine Applegate. It is about a gorilla named Ivan who lives in a shopping mall with his elephant friend, Stella and a dog named Bob. These friends try to piece together their past as they plan to escape to a better life.

After you read this novel, you have two assignments to complete. One assignment is a set of reading comprehension questions. The other assignment is a book report brochure. These assignments are designed to get you thinking about the novel and its characters. Please have these assignments completed and ready to go by the first day of school. Also, please bring your novel with you so that we can spend some time reading it.

If you have any questions, please email me for help. You can reach me on my school email which is ehurley@ascaalbany.org. I hope that you enjoy this novel as much as I do, and have a safe and happy summer!

Best,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mrs. Hurley".

Mrs. Hurley

Name: _____

The One and Only Ivan

1. Does Ivan see humans in a positive or negative way? Use details from the text to support your answer.

2. Describe what Ivan's domain looks like.

3. Ivan thinks that Stella's trunk is a miracle. Why does he think this? What can she do with it? What is she unable to do with it?

4. There are both positives and negatives to living behind a glass wall. Why does Ivan sometimes wish the glass was there and sometimes wish it wasn't?

5. Why do you think Ivan enjoys drawing? Why does he draw different pictures for Ruby?

6. To comfort Ruby, Ivan tells her a story. What does this reveal about his past?

7. Ivan has acted very calm and collected throughout most of the story. How does Ivan finally show his anger? What are the reactions of George and Julia?

8. Describe Ivan's feelings about going into the box. Use details from the text to support your answer.

9. Explain what Ivan does to the new white wall. Why does he do this?
