

11/9/19

Dear Mrs. Smith,

I have been reading the novel, The One and Only Ivan by Katherine Applegate. This story is about a lonely gorilla named Ivan who lives in the Big Top Mall. Ivan has several friends, Stella, Bob, and Julia, none of them are gorillas. Ivan spends his time drawing for Mack to make money, watching westerns, and making me-balls to throw at people. He doesn't really remember much about his young life in the wild, other than his mother and his sister, Tag.

Unfortunately, he doesn't seem to be happy in his domain, but he doesn't try to get out either. I predict these feelings might change though, and he is going to try to escape this depressing life.

While I read about Ivan, I couldn't help but feel very upset about Ivan's living situation. For example, Ivan has to live in a small domain, with no room to roam, and dirty water. This is very unfair to an animal. Additionally, I felt very strong emotions about how Mack was mistreating the animals he owns. Mack hits them and forces them to keep working even when they're tired. This reminds me of the sad commercials about the abused animals that need help. It makes me want to try to help Ivan and his friends! Do you think you would enjoy this book? I think you would love to read this because you love animals too!

Sincerely,
Lauren