

## ASSOCIATION OF FAUNA AND MANKIND IN KATHERINE APPLIGATE'S NOVEL THE ONE AND ONLY IVAN

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### ABSTRACT

*This article aims to examine the novel 'The One and Only Ivan', by Katherine Applegate, the exclusive and inimitable story tale. In this paper, the researcher has described the characters of the novel. The work is considered to manifest the correlation between animals and human beings. The story deals with the tale of an old gorilla named Ivan.*

*The characters Ivan, Stella, Bob and Ruby represent the miserable conditions of life. An old gorilla named Ivan who has been struggling with his present conditions fails to recall his actual life. All the animal characters in the novel, portray benevolence. Their discomfort, dreadfulness and pain are revealed. Their soreness in enduring in a small cage makes them feel harassing and alienated, which is inescapable. The novel gives deep insight into the life of animals which speculates the audience. The novel also delineates the way the animals are emotionally disturbed and ought to be free. The novel celebrates the transformative power of unexpected friendship. The main objective of this research is to apprehend the life of the living creatures. Also to trace the animal characters with respect to the children's literature. This research figures out the frustration, loneliness and resignation of the animals. Through the book the author provides us an interesting opportunity to explore the nature.*

*The researcher concludes with concentrating on how there is kinship in animal kingdom and the human life.*

**Keywords-** Alienated, Affection, Inescapable, Misery, Loneliness

## ASSOCIATION OF FAUNA AND MANKIND IN KATHERINE APPLGATE'S NOVEL *THE ONE AND ONLY IVAN*

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**K**atherine Alice Applegate is an American children's fictionist, most desirable author of collection of Animorphs, Remnants and Everworld Series. She won the Best New Children's Book series award in 1997 in Publisher's weekly. She achieved the 2013 Newbery Medal for the most winsome, *The One and Only Ivan*, the children's novel.

The novel *The One and Only Ivan* shows unusual relationship between man and animals. The issues of subjugation of animals by humans is portrayed in the novel. The camaraderie amidst the animals is majorly imitated in the story. The immorality of humans towards animals is exposed by the author.

*The One and Only Ivan* by Katherine Applegate, is a work of fiction, based on true story of Ivan, who was captured from Democratic Republic of Congo and spent 27 years living in a cage in a mall before he was moved to zoo Atlanta in 1994, Ivan's twin sister died enroute to US or shortly after. Ivan was raised in a home until he became unmanageable. At that point he was added to an old collection of animals housed at circus-themed mall in Washington State. Ivan spent 27 years of his life alone in a cage. Overtime as an understanding ape needs and behavior grew, public discomfort with Ivan's lonely state grew as well. In the novel maximum characters are animals, contrasting the normal animals, they have human innate and traits. They can murmur within themselves and they interpret what the humans claim, but humans can't catch on them. Ivan was placed on permanent loan to zoo Atlanta, because the mall where he lived had gone bankrupt. Zoo has the houses of the largest groups of captive western lowlands gorillas. Ivan is a beloved celebrity at zoo Atlanta where he lives willingly with Kinyani and other gorillas. He is known for his paintings which after often signed with his thumbprints. He executes as a mighty silverback gorilla and pursues his duty properly. The real gorillas Ivan and Kinyani also Jambo whose story Stella tells to Ivan and Bob.

Research has been accomplished on *The One and Only Ivan* that puts a glimpse on how the diversity is distinguished from literature-based language lessons in the paper 'Recognition of Diversity in the One and Only Ivan from Literature-based Language Lessons'. The findings of the paper clearly show the efficiency of skills embraced in education. There is description of children's literature with reference to the novel *The One and Only Ivan*. The book connotes greatly on characters, neighborhood, surroundings and civilization to make the research more essential and blooming. It is widely centered on diction to get better judgment on research. (Hyunhee Song, Recognition of Diversity in the One and Only Ivan from Literature-based Language Lessons, February 2015 Procedia - Social and Behavioral Sciences 174:2040-2042 DOI:10.1016/j.sbspro.2015.01.874)

Researchers have also explored the children's book 'Charlotte's Web', by E. B. White, in which symbolism converse with children. The tale is loaded with symbolism, lessons of friendship, survival, and freedom. The animals are hampered to illustrate political embarrassment. The book designates greatly on children's achievement and exposes emotional skills. The themes and struggles are honestly children centered to get the connection with them. (Melvin's Melvin, Charlotte's Web for Children Literature, 2018)

Katherine Applegate was exhilarated to write *The One and Only Ivan* after reading the article about the true story of a caged gorilla known as Ivan, the shopping mall Gorilla. The real Ivan remained alone for 27 years in a small cage in a Washington State Shopping Mall before being taken to Zoo Atlanta after public hullabaloo.

*The One and Only Ivan* is an unusual tale. The gorilla Ivan who strives for his bearings has overpassed his true life. Animals play an extraordinary role. They handout natural and pure emotions. Animals stimulate the life of humans. The actions percolated by the characters in the novel represent the superiority of transformation when it comes to specific areas. They act as an abundant source of a playmate. The animals reveal inherent friendliness and give superior companionship. In a complete novel, we find that their behavior, deportment, charm, buoyancy, eagerness to provide unquestionable love, faith, honesty, camaraderie down to their uttermost breath.

The objectives of this research try to depict an extraordinary relationship between animals and humans. In addition, the researcher determines the habits and behavioral patterns of the characters of the novel. It also aims to interpret friendship as the dominant aspect of the novel.

The purpose of selecting the book is that the book is exceptional and it empowers us to determine things experienced in the story. The stories act as a kind of enthusiastic and ecstatic effects of living. The book makes us cry when there is a loyal attachment among the characters. And, also through this novel, we determine the animal's sight of their unconditional love.

The research paper has the application of a descriptive approach to study the novel. The main method associated with the descriptive research strategy is to make a proper, logical and factual description of the subject. Through the survey and observations, the researcher comes to know that there is a bizarre relationship between animals and human beings. The way they are been operated. The psychological approach is used to analyze the characters in the novel. The theory becomes a tool to explain the characters' behavior, friendship and motivation towards each other. The sociological approach is used to examine the cultural context of the novel. Throughout the novel, there is annotation of Animalia and Humanism.

In the novel, *The One and Only Ivan* friendship has a dominant aspect. The importance of friendship in the novel is beyond any description. As we know the basic plantation of every relationship is friendship. We find that the animals have only friendship as the prime offering. Animals being a friend of each other they help to prevent loneliness.

“I promise anyway.” “Never mind,” she finally says. “I don’t know what I was thinking. The pain is making me addled.” ... “You want me to take care of Ruby.” She needs a safe place, Ivan. Not –” “Not here,” I say. It wouldn’t be easier to promise to stop eating, to stop breathing, to stop being a gorilla. “I promise, Stella,” I say. “I promise it on my word as a silverback.” (Applegate. Katherine, ‘The One and Only Ivan’. Harper Collins Children’s Books, 2012, page 97)

Julia and George take the pictures to the ring, where there’s room to see them all... “Yes!” she cries. “I told you, Dad! There it is: H-O-M-E. Home.” “Are you sure that’s a giraffe? ...“It’s the logo for the zoo, Dad. ... “Because I’m an artist, and he’s an artist.” ... Julia clasps her hands together. “Come on, Dad. I’m begging you.” ... “She’s just a baby, Dad. Don’t you want to help her?” (Applegate. Katherine, ‘The One and Only Ivan’. Harper Collins Children’s Books, 2012, pp. 178-182)

The characters in the novel have attachment within themselves and affection towards Julia. Julia amours and cherish them. Animal friendship has a husky hook-up. By employing time with each other, they have fulfilled their lives with happiness. Their tenacious connection makes Ivan promise Stella and devote efforts towards Ruby. Ivan made a promise to get Ruby out of the mall. For that Ivan struggles redundantly, which proclaimed his love for Ruby. At the same time, he knew their beloved Pal Julia would comprehend their plan and assist them. Their firm and excellent friendship between the animals were honest and the mates were always there to help each other when they need them. There is an exceptional relationship between the child and the animals.

Every day there are more protesters, and cameras with bright lights. Sometimes the people carrying signs shout, “Free Ruby! Free Ruby!” (Applegate. Katherine, ‘The One and Only Ivan’. Harper Collins Children’s Books, 2012, page 194)

The researcher usually concludes library research by determining, scrutinizing and analyzing the sources. The research is stationed in content analysis of possessions available in secondary resources.

In the book, *The One and Only Ivan*, major themes are Friendship, Animal Brutality and Money. Friendship has a significant role. The animal characters simulate their bond with each other. Animal brutality is a widespread problem hastily dilating. The book shows the isolation of animals and how dreadful is their pain. Animals are demanded to execute tricks for the mall visitors all day. They are there to entertain the audience and feed their owners. The life of a circus animal is impenetrable and critical. It is not an agreeable way of life for an animal. Animals are being imprisoned and are biased against the animals. Their discomfort makes them feel torment. Circuses are one of the main places, where the animals are handled unsatisfactorily. The circuses do not have enough money and resultantly the animals suffer from insufficient care. Animals’ welfare does not matter as long as the owner’s objective is concerned. Stella is scantily wounded, Mack the owner doesn’t even desire to call the doctor because this would be too exorbitant. Stella suffers and dies due to lack of proper medication. Training another burden for the animals.

Physical punishment given to animals for training harmed the lives of animals. The baby elephant Ruby was threatened and disciplined with claw-stick to act the tricks taught by the owner Mack. Ruby was being beaten and starved by the heartless owner.

“At times like that, I wish humans could understand me the way I can understand them”. (Applegate. Katherine, ‘The One and Only Ivan’. Harper Collins Children’s Books, 2012, page 25)

Mack turns to leave. “Um, before you go, Mack,” George says, “you might want to take a look at Stella’s foot. I think it’s infected again.” “Darn thing never does heal up right.” Mack rubs his eyes. “I’ll keep an eye on it. Money’s tight, though. Can’t be calling the vet every time she sneezes.” (Applegate. Katherine, ‘The One and Only Ivan’. Harper Collins Children’s Books, 2012, pp. 79-80)

All afternoon and into the evening Mack works with Ruby. Ruby’s feet are looped with rope so that she cannot run. A heavy chain hangs off her neck. When Ruby obeys Mack, he gives her a cube of sugar or a bit of dried apple. When she doesn’t, he yells and kicks at the sawdust. ... Ruby trudges behind Mack, her trunk drooping. Sometimes Mack slaps her flank with his hand. ... Mack groans. “Idiot elephant.” ... He pushes Ruby with the heel of his boot. She ignores him. ... “I’m not gonna hurt her,” Mack says. “I just want to get her attention.” (Applegate. Katherine, ‘The One and Only Ivan’. Harper Collins Children’s Books, 2012, pp. 126-129)

The form adopted by the author is a fable. The researcher experiences that animal’s converse within themselves. The story contributes the readers with a message, as every fable does- we accomplish our goals if we conceive in them. The style of writing is so admirable we could not help but feel empathy for the animals. Ivan is fabler, we assure everything that he confesses in his tale. He is sincere and he does not emblaze his truth. Being an animal he doesn’t pretends to hide anything. His honesty is echoed in his simplified language. The way there is too much of innocence and the way he expresses the scenes.

It’s not as easy as it looks. (Applegate. Katherine, ‘The One and Only Ivan’. Harper Collins Children’s Books, 2012, page 9)

“Bob and I have seen many romance movies too. In a romance there is much hugging and sometimes face licking. ... In a western, someone always says, “This town ain’t big enough for the both of us, Sheriff.” In a western, you can tell who the good guys are and who the bad guys are, and the good guys always win.” (Applegate. Katherine, ‘The One and Only Ivan’. Harper Collins Children’s Books, 2012, pp. 26-27)

Animals have essential roles in the society. The mistreatment and misbehavior towards animals is a pessimistic aim that is existing in our society. The animals have the right to life, freedom and protection. Animals should not be abused by people and should have the equal rights as humans. They feel as much pain as humans do, they suffer when they are kept in a cage for a longer duration. Researcher would like to sensitize the global world i.e. the human world to feel for each other to respect and to establish their identity and let them live in their own way.

Through the research as well as experience, it is discovered that the novel draws our concentration to the exposure of lucid commercialism and selfishness. Animal cruelty is fallacious, because the animal can die and it disturbs their entire life. They should not be utilized to assist humans. Mankind doesn't have the right to exploit them. Animals are innocent and can be our best friends. They are loyal and they teach us positive values, they are a symbol of freedom as well as hope. We shouldn't neglect them and always behave correctly with them. Animals need care and proper concern to keep them strong, lively, happy and safe.

The most important factor in taking care of animals is making an assurance to them. Conservation of animal life is eloquent towards the survival of both species and this can be gained by noticing animal rights just like humans. Animals should not be kept in zoos, as they are often of poor quality. The human animal bond is a mutually helpful and aggressive relationship. Relationship between humans and animals is often characterized by strong emotional bonds. Animals are indeed capable of loving their caregivers. The animals live in a poor condition and they suffer. The animals have close relations with humans. The animal and human affiliation proved that there are no frames between them. Animal friendship really makes us recognize the infinity of each other's hearts. These friendships are unforgettable and unbreakable. Benevolence knows neither shape nor size and the characters in the novel proves love really knows no edge.

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