

"One and Only Bob": The tiny, tough-talking dog with a huge heart

By Mary Quattlebaum, Washington Post, adapted by Newsela staff on 05.21.20

Word Count **415**

Level **430L**



Katherine Applegate poses with her dog, Stan, the inspiration for the main character in "The One and Only Bob." Photo: Alla Dreyvitser/The Washington Post/photo courtesy Katherine Applegate. Book Cover: HarperCollins

Many kids love the book "The One and Only Ivan." In 2013, it won the Newbery Medal. The Newbery is awarded to the best children's book. Katherine Applegate wrote the story.

A character from that book is popular. His name was Bob. He was a tiny, tough-talking dog.

Now, Bob is the star of his own story. It is called "The One and Only Bob." The book came out on May 5.

The new book talks about animals that are best friends. Ivan is a gentle silverback gorilla. Ruby is a baby elephant. Both are friends with Bob. In the last book, Ivan was the main character. This time, Bob is. The original story had them in a circus together. The new book begins with Ivan and Ruby. They are in a wildlife sanctuary. A wildlife sanctuary cares for certain animals. Often, they are hurt or need extra help. Bob lives near the sanctuary with his owner.

Students Asked For A Story About Bob

Ms. Applegate did not think she would make another book with these characters, she said.

However, she visited many schools. Students told her how much they liked Bob. They asked for a story about him.

Ms. Applegate has a Chihuahua pup. His name is Stan. Bob's character is based on Stan.

"He has a big personality like Bob," said Ms. Applegate.

In the new book, an animal shelter is hit by a big storm. A tornado hits the wildlife sanctuary. A tornado is a spinning tube of wind. It goes from the top of a thunderstorm to the ground. It is very dangerous.

Bob Faces Doubt And Fear

No one can find Ivan. Bob faces doubt and fear. Is he brave enough to help his friends?

Meanwhile, "The One and Only Ivan" has been made into a movie. Part of it is live action. Some of it is computer animation. Actor Danny DeVito is the voice of Bob. Sam Rockwell plays Ivan. Brooklynn Prince is the voice of Ruby. The movie will arrive in August.

In the book, Bob is living through a hard time. So are kids today, Ms. Applegate said. They are dealing with the coronavirus outbreak. She has advice for young people interested in writing. They could use the extra time at home to keep a daily journal, she said.

You can also "let your imagination go wild," she added. You can write whatever you want. "There's no need to show anyone unless you want to."

Quiz

1 What is the Introduction [paragraphs 1 to 4] MAINLY about?

- (A) who inspired the character of Bob
- (B) the plot of the "The One and Only Bob"
- (C) how "The One and Only Ivan" won a prize
- (D) the author who won the Newbery Medal

2 Read the paragraph below from the section "Bob Faces Doubt And Fear."

In the book, Bob is living through a hard time. So are kids today, Ms. Applegate said. They are dealing with the coronavirus outbreak. She has advice for young people interested in writing. They could use the extra time at home to keep a daily journal, she said.

What is the focus of this paragraph?

- (A) the challenge Bob faces in the book
- (B) who voices Bob's character in the movie
- (C) how kids can deal with their current challenge
- (D) different ways that kids can write in their journals

3 What happened because of the success of "The One and Only Ivan"?

- (A) Katherine Applegate decided to write about new characters.
- (B) Katherine Applegate wrote a second book about Ivan.
- (C) Katherine Applegate wrote a screenplay for a movie.
- (D) Katherine Applegate won an award for the best children's book.

4 What event happened after Ms. Applegate visited many schools?

- (A) The movie of "The One and Only Ivan" came out.
- (B) Kids asked for a book about Bob.
- (C) She wrote a new story about Ivan.
- (D) She got a new dog named Stan.

Answer Key

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