



Queen Koko

READ ALOUD GUIDE

Themes: Communication, Compassion

Book Brief: The true tale of a very clever gorilla and the kitten that she loved!

Author:
Storytime

Illustrator:
Josh Cleland

BEFORE READING

The Cover: Ask students to make a prediction about the story based on the cover and title.

The Pictures: Take a quick picture walk and ask students what they notice about the illustrations.

Prior Knowledge: Ask, "How do we communicate with others? Can animals communicate too?" Explain to students that this story is about a real gorilla named Koko who learned to use sign language to talk with people and share her feelings.

Vocabulary: Frontload Tier 2 words using the accompanying [Vocabulary Guide](#).

Purpose for Reading: "As we read, think about what this book is mostly about. What is the main idea of Koko's story?"



Think Aloud: "I'm thinking about what this whole book is about. It's mainly about Koko the gorilla and how she learned to communicate and showed love by caring for a kitten. That's the main idea of this story."

DURING READING

Check for understanding & make connections:

- Who is Koko and what makes her special?
- How does Koko communicate with people?
- What happens when Koko meets the kitten?
- How does Koko show that she cares about the kitten?

AFTER READING

Our Purpose: "What is this book mainly about? Can you tell someone the main idea from Koko's story?" (Optional: Think-Pair-Share)

Extending Our Thinking: Ask students, "How do you show care and love for animals or people who are smaller or need help?" Encourage students to draw a picture showing themselves being gentle and caring with an animal, a younger sibling, or a friend who needs help. Students can share their drawings and explain one way they show kindness and care to others.

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- Explore 100 other free eBooks on Skybrary! Visit www.Skybrary.org to learn more.
- Encourage them to continue to discuss it and refer to it in other lessons and conversations.
- Let them explore more about the topic by reading other books with similar themes, structure, characters, or content.