

Reading Group Guide

Warriors #1: Into the Wild

by Erin Hunter

About the Book

Who hasn't suspected that there's more to cats than meets the eye?

Rusty starts out as an ordinary house kitten, but his travels deep into the forest involve him in the epic battles of the cat warrior Clans who roam (and rule) the wild.

With a new name—Firepaw—and a position as a Thunderclan apprentice, our feline hero faces his destiny, struggles with issues of friendship, honor, and courage, and betrayal, and learns what it truly means to be a warrior.

Discussion Questions

1. What does Bluestar mean when she says, "We are warriors, not savages" (p. 100)?
2. Bluestar chooses Ravenpaw, Graypaw, and Firepaw to accompany her and the warriors to the Clan Gathering at Fourtrees (p. 135). Why is this important?
3. The ThunderClan cats often use body language to express their feelings. Find five examples in the book where the cats interact with one another and are able to show their feelings without using words.
4. At one point, Firepaw has a chance to tell Bluestar about Tigerclaw's betrayal of the clan, but he chooses not to (p. 214). Why do you think he held off in telling her? What would you have done in that situation? Why?
5. On page 215 Bluestar tells Firepaw, "One day you will meet an opponent who is all these things as well—quick, and fierce and clever. It's my duty to prepare you for that day." Do you think this is a sign of future events? What do you think will happen down the road?

Science Questions

1. Firepaw and his friend survive on what they call "fresh-kill"—mostly mice or birds that they capture and kill themselves. These cats are carnivores, because they eat raw meat. What are animals that eat plants called? Find five examples of these animals—where they live, what they eat, etc.
2. Cats are not alone in using scent to track down prey and enemies. Choose three animals that use more than their eyesight in the wild, and think about why it is important that these animals also rely on other senses.

3. At times, Firepaw notices that the forest around them is being cut down for more "Twoleg land." The forest, and the trees that live inside of it, are an important part of the environment that is being destroyed by humans. Can you think of some ways in which you can do more for the trees and the forest in your own home?

Social Studies Questions

1. Respecting and honoring one's elders is integral to the inner workings of all the Clans. Discuss three ways in which the elders in your own family are honored. If you cannot think of any, take a look at other societies, for example Japan or China, and discuss the ways in which that particular culture honors and respects its elders.
2. In *Warriors #1*, the main conflict begins when ShadowClan attacks ThunderClan. Think of three times in history when one country has invaded another. What were the reasons for invasion? Do you think that they were justified in doing so? What was the outcome?
3. Different cultures and religions from around the world use ceremonies as a way of marking important milestones in one's life. Can you think of three cultures or religions that do this? What are these ceremonies called and what customs accompany each? Have you ever either participated in or observed one?

English Questions

1. When someone passes away, a close friend or relative may write an obituary, honoring the dead's life. Pretend you are Graypaw and write an obituary for Lionheart, using examples of his character from the book.
2. A story's climax is defined as the book's turning point. What do you think is the climax of *Warriors #1: Into the Wild*? Please use three examples to back up your choice.
3. Conflict is the struggle found in fiction. Firepaw faces internal battles in addition to his physical training and fights. Can you find two points in the book in which Firepaw feels conflicted while trying to make a decision?

Praise for books in the Warriors series:

"Certain to please any young reader who has ever wondered what dreams of grandeur may haunt the family cat."—*Publishers Weekly*

"Patterned on the style of classics by J.R.R. Tolkien or Brian Jacques. It will hook fantasy fans immediately."—*Cleveland Plain Dealer*

"Spine-tingling. Sure to appeal to followers of Brian Jacques' ongoing Redwall series." —*ALA Booklist*

"This exciting book is not for the faint of heart. Fans will lap it up while impatiently awaiting the next entry."—*School Library Journal*

"A fast-paced animal adventure. Recommend this series to fans of animal fantasies such as Redwall or Dark Portal."—*Voice of Youth Advocates (VOYA)*

"Erin Hunter has created a complex and sometimes brutal cat world to rival Brian Jacques' popular "Redwall" universe."—*Denver Post*

About the Author

Erin Hunter is inspired by a love of cats and a fascination with the ferocity of the natural world. As well as having a great respect for nature in all its forms, Erin enjoys creating rich mythical explanations for animal behavior, shaped by her interest in astrology and standing stones.

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