



Disney  
The *One* And *Only*  
**IVAN**  
**DRAW ME A STORY**

New York Times best-selling author **BETH FERRY** • Drawings by **GONZALO KENNY**

**SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL LEARNING GUIDE**

Disney PRESS



# What Is Social and Emotional Learning?

Social and emotional learning is the process of acquiring and effectively applying the knowledge, attitudes, and skills necessary to understand and manage emotion, set and achieve positive goals, feel and show empathy for others, establish and maintain positive relationships, and make responsible decisions. The following discussions and activities offer ways to focus and utilize *The One and Only Ivan: Draw Me a Story* to target social and emotional learning competencies.



## How Does Reading and Sharing Books with Young People Help Social and Emotional Learning Competencies?

Reading about characters who experience and manage their own emotions while facing challenges helps children better understand how to identify their own challenges and deal with them in appropriate ways. *The One and Only Ivan: Draw Me a Story* offers young readers an opportunity to engage in thinking, discussion, and activities targeted at social and emotional learning (SEL) competencies.

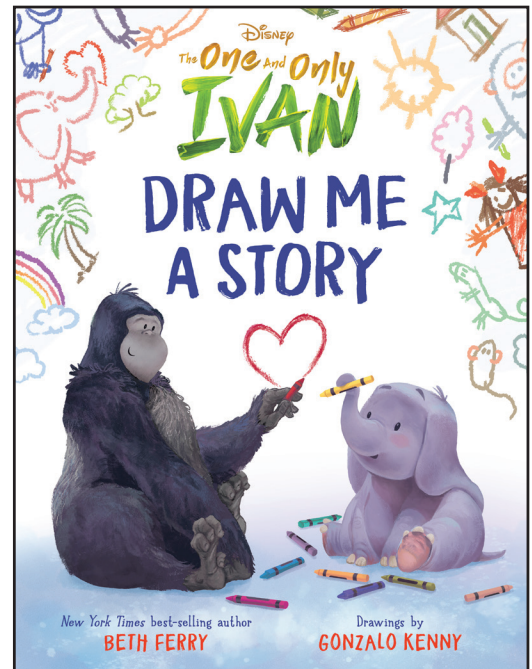
Definitions for SEL terms and competencies are outlined by CASEL (the Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning) and can be found here: <https://casel.org/core-competencies/>



## ABOUT THE BOOK

Based on a true story, this beautifully illustrated picture book tells the sweet story of Ruby and Ivan. It's a tale of friendship, courage, and creativity.

Ivan is a gorilla in captivity. Life wasn't always that way, but he has trouble remembering a time when he wasn't living in a shopping mall. In his cage, he draws with crayon and paper, gifted to him from his human friend. There is no doubt that Ivan is special. And he's always been the star of the show. Until the day a little elephant named Ruby enters his world and shows him the significance of the place we call home.



## BEFORE YOU READ

Ask readers the following:

**Have you ever been the new person somewhere?**

**What was that experience like?**

**What did others do to help make you feel more comfortable?**

- Discuss what the word “home” means. Does it only apply to people? After sharing some brief information about the story’s unusual setting, ask readers the following: In what ways is living in a mall possibly challenging for Ivan and the other animals? How might they make the best of it?
- Ask readers the following: What are clues to help you know someone may need your help? How do you go about solving the issue? What do you do if you can’t solve it by yourself?



# READ AND SHARE *The One and Only Ivan: Draw Me a Story*

## AS YOU READ . . .

Ask readers to consider and respond to the following questions that are SEL-focused:

- What are Ivan, Bob, and Ruby good at doing?
- How does Ivan react to learning that his new friend Ruby could use his help?
- How does Ivan understand that it might be difficult for Ruby to see her own beauty?
- In what ways does Ivan go out of his way to help Ruby fit in?
- Ivan tells Bob, “Art has to come from the heart.” What do you think Ivan means by that? What’s your favorite kind of art to create? Do you like to share it with others, or is it something you keep for yourself?
- Ruby learns that the other animals are her new family. Who do you consider to be your family? Why is family so important?
- What makes Ivan and Bob’s friendship so special? How can you tell?



# POST-READING SEL ACTIVITIES

## Activity 1

In *The One and Only Ivan: Draw Me a Story*, Ivan tells Ruby, “Sometimes art isn’t just what you see. Sometimes it’s what you feel,” and he helps her see her own best attributes. Give readers a chance to move beyond what they “see” to find what shines in others. Model this by using another adult as an example. You might say, “[Insert chosen example] shines by showing love,” “They like to laugh,” “They are funny,” or “They are fast.” Stress to the students that this is an opportunity to be generous and kind to others as a way to find their best selves. Next, distribute a piece of paper for each student and have them write their name in the center. After doing so, place the papers around the room and have readers rotate and list a “shine” quality they’ve noticed about each person.

## Activity 2

In *The One and Only Ivan: Draw Me a Story*, Ivan gives Ruby his treasured silver crayon because he knows it will help her express herself and find her beauty, as well as build a connection with Ivan through art. Begin by asking students the following: Why is Ivan’s gift to Ruby so special? After discussing why Ivan’s gift to Ruby is such a special one, ask students if they have a cherished item. Have they ever shared it with another person? Ask students to draw a picture of their favorite object and prepare to share why this item is important to them. After they finish their art but before you have each child share, model how to offer a positive reaction to what was shared, and then offer readers the opportunity to practice doing the same.

## Activity 3

To begin, lead a discussion about why having a place that feels like home matters. For some, it may be a place where your family lives. For others, it may be a home of someone else, school, or even an outdoor space. Next, ask readers to complete the reader activity (see reproducible on next page). After everyone finishes their illustrations, display the art and allow readers to each share with the group why their favorite place matters to them.



# MY FAVORITE PLACE

In *The One and Only Ivan: Draw Me a Story*, Ruby is introduced as the newest member of the Big Top Mall, where Ivan, Bob, and the other animals have lived together for a long time. After a brief discussion about the ways Ivan commits to helping Ruby feel welcome and at home at Big Top, draw a picture of your favorite place and prepare to share three reasons it is unique and important to you.

1

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2

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3

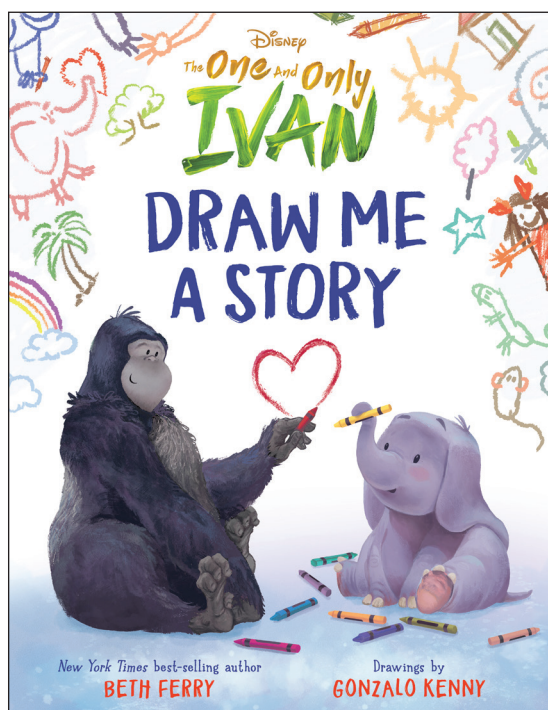
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