

# THE READERS' WORD

2008-2009 – THE PAGEMASTERS' PICNIC OF READING SNACKS

For Hearts That Love the Art and Magic of Stories

**THE ANCHOR BOOK: Looking for Miza:**

**The True Story of the Mountain Gorilla Family Who Rescued One of Their Own**

by Juliana Hatkoff, Isabella Hatkoff, Craig Hatkoff, and Dr. Paula Kahumbu

Mrs. Howard's "Step-Beyond" Literacy Strategies and Suggestions for School and Home

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THE FAMILY BOOKMARK – READ-ALoud PAGE

#30 Week of April 27, 2009

**SNACK PHRASE-OF-THE-WEEK:** Kabirizi's gorilla family is happy and healthy because of their love, nurturing, and protective care.

Dear Families,

Kabirizi watched his gorilla family, protecting the mother and children. The authors of this wonderful story celebrate life in the Congolese forests and mountains. When Miza and her mother are lost, Kabirizi searches for them. He finds the baby gorilla, but is unable to discover the mother.

## CAREER CONNECTION

You might enjoy becoming an animal photographer, a ranger who protects animals, or a veterinarian. As a photographer, you might enjoy following a family of animals to "track" their lifestyles. As a ranger on patrol, you might watch for poachers seeking to harm endangered species. A veterinarian who works in the animals' environment might provide medical care for sick or injured animals in the wilds. More than anything... keep reading aloud and tell the stories about wildlife creatures. You will enjoy letting your imagination go wild!

ENJOY, Mrs. Howard

## PRE-EXPERIENCE – END MARK WORDS IN THE TEXT

### The Gorilla Family in the Mountain

In the Democratic Republic of Congo, there lives a family of mountain gorillas. This vast Virunga's Park in Africa is where 380 gorillas live. They live on the slopes of Mount Mikenno. Innocent Mburanumwe and Diddy Mwanaki are two brave Congolese rangers. They have dedicated their lives to protecting and saving the endangered gorillas.

In June 2007, Innocent and Diddy received news about a missing baby gorilla named Miza. Miza, born on August 12, 2005, was lost in the forest. Being almost two years old, her gorilla father searched. Kabirizi, a fierce silverback, led and protected thirty-one gorillas in his family. Kabirizi was known for his leadership, skills, and bravery.

Lessinjina was Miza's mother. The baby would cling to her mother's back or cradle on her front. Sometimes, Miza would play tag, bounce on the branches, and wrestle with the older juveniles. Miza's strong bond with her mother was like all baby mountain gorillas. She needed her mother's milk until age three. Then, Miza would begin eating roots, flowers, bamboo shoots, and other plants on her own.

- Scan for the "end mark words" in this text. There are a total of sixteen (16) words.
- Write the "end mark words" in the word grid below. The first three (3) words have been highlighted in the story and written in the grid.

|          |      |         |  |
|----------|------|---------|--|
| gorillas | live | Mikenno |  |
|          |      |         |  |
|          |      |         |  |
|          |      |         |  |

## WORD WISDOM – THE SCAN

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| G | O | R | I | L | L | A | S |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|

Upon Miza's return home, the baby gorilla was shy, timid, and very hungry. But, Tumaini, Miza's big sister took care of her. Miza's half brother Mivumbi also helped to take care of Miza. The gorilla's veterinarian, Dr. Jacques Iyanya watched Miza to make sure that she was eating. Over the next several weeks, Miza grew stronger from eating bamboo leaves.

- Scan for new smaller words.
- Use the "meaning clues" to help.

|                        |  |                      |  |
|------------------------|--|----------------------|--|
| NOT COME,<br>BUT _____ |  | SICK                 |  |
| AN OLD CLOTH           |  | TO DIP               |  |
| TO SLOW DOWN           |  | CB TALK FOR<br>TRUCK |  |

## POSTCARD GRAPHICS – ART

### Two Lost Gorillas

Diddy, Innocent, and other rangers visit the gorillas every day. The rangers make friendly gorilla sounds that do not threaten the family. Kabirizi watches as the rangers photograph and videotape them. The rangers recognize the gorillas by using nose print drawings of each one. Sometimes, the gorillas trick the rangers by stealing their hats! The rangers protect the gorillas from poachers, traps, injuries, and illnesses.

Then, one day, the rangers heard that Miza and her mother Lessinjina were missing. Kabirizi moved his family up high into the mountain to hide. Kabirizi searched for several days in feeding areas and quiet hiding places. On one quiet nap time afternoon, Innocent noticed an eye peeping through the leaves. It was Miza, and Kabirizi took her home. Sadly, Lessinjina was never found.

- Draw and color three (3) pictures of Miza.
- Read the captions below and detail the pictures.

|                                 |                            |                                  |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------------|
|                                 |                            |                                  |
| MIZA RIDES HER<br>MOTHER'S BACK | MIZA EATS<br>BAMBOO SHOOTS | MIZA PEEKS THROUGH<br>THE LEAVES |

## COMP QUEST

### Miza and Family's Recovery

Miza regained her energy, confidence, and joy. Even without her mother Lessinjina, Miza played and tumbled with the other gorillas. Miza will continue to grow up with her family. And, Kabirizi will continue to watch over his whole family group.

Miza's story reminds us of the importance of family care and protection. The nurturing setting helps the family members to stay strong and feel secure. There are many dedicated people who help endangered animals survive.

- Think about a time when you or someone you know was lost.
- Use the grid below to answer the questions.

|              |          |            |                         |
|--------------|----------|------------|-------------------------|
| WHO WAS LOST | WHY LOST | WHERE LOST | HOW LOST<br>PERSON FELT |
|              |          |            |                         |