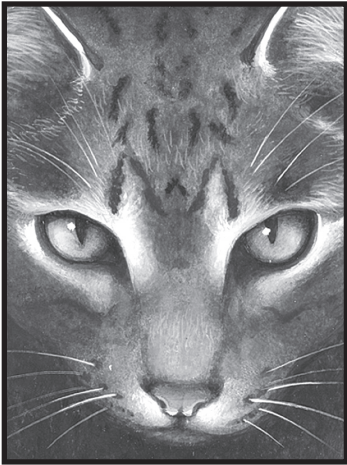


THE WORLD of WARRIORS

EXPLORING CHARACTERS



As Bramblepaw watched, the deputy was joined by Cinderpelt, the medicine cat, and her apprentice, Leafpaw, Squirrelpaw's sister. She looked nothing like Squirrelpaw; she was smaller and slighter, with pale tabby fur and a white chest and paws. The sisters were not much alike in character either. When Leafpaw sat down and tipped her head to one side to listen to what her mentor and the deputy were saying to each other, Bramblepaw wondered, not for the first time, how she managed to be so quiet and attentive when her sister Squirrelpaw never stopped talking.

—excerpted from *Midnight* (Warriors: The New Prophecy, Book #1)

ACTIVITIES

After reading some or all of the Warriors books, fans can use the following prompts—and their own powers of imagination, creativity, and research—to write about a Warriors-like Clan of their own creation.

1. Choose any kind of animal and invent an animal clan, such as the one in the Warriors series. Make a list of the clan's positions of power. Describe the requirements for and function of each position in the clan, as well as how these requirements and functions have changed through the clan's history.
2. Create an animal character that would be a part of your clan. Write a description of its physical appearance, then write about its daydreams and fears, strengths and weaknesses, favorite foods and secret hiding places.
3. Cats in the Warriors series change names as their positions in their Clans change. Pick at least three names for the animal character you've created. Explain how and why your character earned each name.
4. Make a family tree for the animal character you've created. Write a paragraph about each of your character's ancestors. Remember to describe any physical and behavioral attributes the ancestors have passed down to your character.
5. Invent friends for the animal character you've created. Describe physical appearances, as well as their personalities. Explain how each is different from and similar to your animal character.
6. Dreams may be as important to the animal character you've created as they are to the cats in the Warriors series. Create a dream book for your animal character. Write entries for his or her best dreams, recurring dreams, and nightmares.
7. Many animals, like cats, see, hear, or smell better than humans. Research how the animal character you've created might see, hear, or smell better than a human can. Describe what your character might notice in your room with his or her strongest senses.
8. Using the ideas and information above, write a short story (or the first chapter of your own book!) about your clan and its characters. If you're having fun, keep writing!

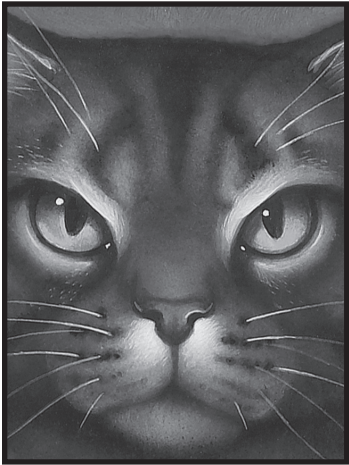
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THE WORLD of WARRIORS

EXPLORING THEMES



“As for Brook,” Firestar continued, “what matters is not where a cat was born or who their kin may be.”

Argue with that, Brambleclaw thought. Our Clan leader was a kittypet, and he’s one of the greatest cats the forest has ever seen.

“Loyalty is what matters,” Firestar declared, “and that exists now, not in the past. Loyalty has to be proved every day, in every piece of fresh-kill brought back for the Clan, every claw mark on our enemies, every patrol, every training session.”

—excerpted from *Sunset* (Warriors: The New Prophecy, Book #6)

ACTIVITIES

***NOTE—The following exercises build on students’ responses to the previous “Exploring Characters” activities and prompts.**

1. Rusty, who later becomes Firepaw, Fireheart, and then Firestar, chooses to live in the forest rather than in a human’s house. Consider his reasons for living in the wild, as well as reasons other cats have for staying with humans. Write a skit for two animal characters you’ve created during which they argue over whether they should stay in a human house or live in the wild.
2. Several characters in the Warriors series perform great acts of loyalty to protect their Clans. Pretend loyalty is important to an animal character you’ve created. Compose a speech your animal character gives to others on the value of loyalty.
3. Choose two characters from the Warriors series, one who believes kittypets can’t be great warriors and one who believes kittypets can. Write a scene for these characters during which they debate about training kittypets to be warriors.
4. Create a prophecy encyclopedia for the Warriors series. For each entry, list the prophecy and its importance to the series’ characters.
5. Imagine that a character you’ve created makes a difficult sacrifice to protect others, that some cats in the Warriors series do. Write a news story about this character’s sacrifice. Describe both what the character did and how his or her actions helped others.
6. In The New Prophecy Warriors series, humans ruin the cat Clans’ forest. Pretend you’re designing a new housing development. Draft a report that describes the innovative ways your development might provide housing for humans while maintaining wild stretches of land for animals.
7. Imagine that characters you’ve created must work together to solve an important problem, like the cat Clans must when they need new homes. Write a scene during which your characters have difficulties working together but find creative solutions to their difficulties.
8. Use some of the ideas and activities above to write another short story, or a second chapter, about your clan and its characters. If you’re having fun, keep writing!

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THE WORLD of WARRIORS

EXPLORING SETTING



“This is the Thunderpath,” meowed Tigerclaw.

Firepaw followed as Lionheart led them toward the edge of the forest. Then he sat down and all four cats looked out.

Firepaw could see a gray path like a river, cutting its way through the forest. The hard gray stone stretched ahead of him so far that the trees on the other side seemed blurred and tiny. Firepaw shuddered at the bitter smell that rose from the path.

—excerpted from *Into the Wild* (Warriors, Book #1)

ACTIVITIES

***NOTE—The following exercises build on students’ responses to the previous “Exploring Characters” activities and prompts.**

1. One of the maps at the beginning of each book in the Warriors series depict land as the cats see it, not as humans might. Choose a wild animal or pet that lives near your house. Create a map of your house and the area around it from this animal’s perspective.
2. Design a home for an animal character you’ve created. Label each area of the home and describe the area’s importance to your character.
3. Research cats’ predators, then create a cat predator encyclopedia. In each entry list a predator, as well as the predator’s physical appearance and behavior.
4. The cats in the Warriors series have different names for places than humans do, such as Twolegplace and sun-drown-place. Draw a picture of your home or school. Label areas or rooms with names you think the cats would choose for them.
5. The cats in the Warriors series use herbs, cobwebs, and other things found in nature for healing. Consider where an animal character you’ve created lives. Write a healing guide with entries for each item your character might use to treat illnesses or injuries.
6. Pretend that an animal character you’ve created needs to move to a new home, like ThunderClan does in The New Prophecy Warriors series. Write a report your character must give describing possible new home sites. Be sure to explain each site’s advantages and disadvantages.
7. Invent a place that’s as special to characters you’ve created as Mothermouth and the Moonstone are to the cats in the Warriors series. Describe what it looks like, as well as its importance to your characters.
8. Use some of the ideas and activities above to write another short story, or a third chapter, about your clan and its characters. If you’re having fun, keep writing!

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THE WORLD of WARRIORS

EXPLORING WRITING TOOLS



“Read, read, and read some more! Make sure you read a wide variety of stories: fantasy stories teach you about making up completely new worlds, crime-solving stories teach you about handling a complicated plot, stories with lots of characters teach you how to describe relationships. Also, write as many stories as you can, even if no one else reads them. And remember that the best inspiration comes from what’s around you.”

—advice for aspiring writers from *Warriors* author, Erin Hunter

ACTIVITIES

*NOTE—The following exercises build on students’ responses to the previous “Exploring Characters” activities and prompts.

- Multiple Points-of-View:** Each *Warriors* series has multiple point-of-view characters with distinctive personalities. Create two distinctive characters. Pretend they saw the same event. Write a narrative of the event from one character’s point-of-view. Then write a new narrative of the same event from the other character’s point-of-view.
- Description:** Choose a compelling descriptive paragraph from one of the *Warriors* series books. Read it through several times, and make a list of things that you like about it and that make it interesting to read. Then, using ideas from your list, write a descriptive paragraph that depicts a character or setting you’ve created.
- Prologues:** Read a few *Warriors* series prologues from different *Warriors* books. Consider how they help Erin Hunter tell her stories. Then write a prologue for a story of your own that really needs one. If you’re an artist, draw an illustration to go with it.
- Cliffhangers:** Many chapters in *Warriors* series books end with great cliffhangers. Create a Top Ten list of your favorite *Warriors* series cliffhangers. Write a first story chapter of your own and end it with a fantastic cliffhanger.
- Outlines:** Select your favorite *Warriors* series book. Make an outline of its plot. Mark the exposition or introduction section with a star. Mark the rising action section with a wavy line. Mark the climax section with an exclamation point. Mark the falling action section with a spiral. Mark the resolution section with a circle. Now make an outline for a story of your own and mark all its sections.
- Revision:** Choose your favorite *Warriors* series character. Write a descriptive paragraph about that character. Read over what you’ve written. Cut any unnecessary words, phrases, or sentences. Replace any weak words, phrases, or sentences with stronger ones. Add any details that you left out of your first draft. Then trade drafts with a friend, and see if you would suggest any further revisions to each other’s writing.
- Summaries:** Pretend you’re trying to convince a friend to read a *Warriors* series book. Write an exciting summary for that book to give to your friend. Then pretend you’re trying to convince your friend to read a story you’ve written. Write an exciting summary for your own story.
- Collaboration:** Erin Hunter is a pseudonym for the three people who create the *Warriors* series books together, Kate Cary, Cherith Baldry, and Victoria Holmes. Try creating a story as part of a team. Choose two people with whom you work well. Pick a pseudonym, or pen name, for yourselves. Then discuss your story idea, plan how you’ll work together, and start writing. If you’re having fun, keep writing!

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