The World of Warriors

Educator's Guide

Praise for Erin Hunter's Warriors

"A hit with young readers."
—*New York Times Book Review*

"Compelling intrigue and fast-paced."
—ALA *Booklist*

"Exciting."—*School Library Journal*

"Suspenseful animal adventure."
—*Kirkus Reviews*

"Engaging."—*VOYA*

Top 4 Things You Absolutely Must Know About Warriors

1. What is Warriors?

Warriors is a bestselling series of books about Clans of wild cats that has become a sensation among middle grade and young adult readers. Unlike "kittypets" living with humans, the wild cats in these books care for themselves. They tend to their young and elders. They heal with herbal remedies. They train warriors to protect the Clans. The warrior cats have a code of honor and value valor and Clan loyalty. Great warriors also receive guidance from StarClan, the spirit-cat ancestors.

2. What is the Warriors book series about?

Three six-book story arcs currently make up the series: the original **Warriors**, **Warriors: The New Prophecy**, and **Warriors: Power of Three.**

The original **Warriors** books introduce readers to Rusty, a kitten who leaves his comfortable human home for the warrior life. Despite Clan prejudice against cats born in captivity, Rusty becomes a warrior, and his Clan, ThunderClan, renames him Firepaw. Clever and strong, Firepaw fights to protect ThunderClan from other cat Clans. He also battles cats within ThunderClan who treacherously violate the warrior code. Firepaw eventually rises to become the leader of ThunderClan.

In **Warriors: The New Prophecy**, the warrior cats' forest home is threatened. Following the guidance of StarClan, children of cats from the original Warriors books seek a new home for all of the Clans. These young, valiant cats venture farther than they ever expected to travel and forge unexpected cross-Clan alliances.

Warriors: Power of Three features the third generation of warrior cats. These cats are especially gifted, and StarClan prophesies their importance to the Clans. As prejudice against cats born outside the Clans grows and fighting threatens the warrior code, the gifted cats struggle to help the Clans survive.

The series also includes several companion books—***Warriors Super Edition: Firestar's Quest***, ***Warriors Field Guide: Secrets of the Clans***, and ***Warriors: Cats of the Clans***—as well as a series of manga titles.

3. Why do kids love Warriors?

Kids are such huge fans of Warriors for many reasons. They embrace the universal flaws, doubts, and fears of the cat characters, and they relate to the warrior cats' struggles to be brave and honorable. Fans also become caught up in the complex world depicted in the stories, with its unique geography, history, and mythology.

As ninth-grader Sami Rae Beyer summed up in a review in the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution,* "Author Erin Hunter makes you feel like you really know the characters. You sweat during the intense parts and cry in the sad times. You'll want to read the series . . . over and over again."

4. Where can I find out more about Warriors?

For Warriors news, games, illustrations, and information, visit the official website: **www.warriorcats.com.**

Introduction to This Guide

The bestselling Warriors series has captured the imaginations of children and teens across the country. Readers are fascinated by the feline characters and the series' primary themes: behaving courageously, working hard, staying loyal, and finding one's inner strength. Because of this fascination, kids and teens are rereading the books again and again, as well as discussing what they've read in libraries, in chat rooms, and on online discussion boards. Many write fan fiction that incorporates elements from the series.

Educators and librarians can capitalize on their students' enthusiasm for Warriors by using the series to teach essential academic skills. The purpose of this guide is to give you background information on the books, as well as provide you with educational activities appropriate for a variety of curriculums and settings.

Below, read about Erin Hunter, the pseudonym for the writers behind the successful series. Then flip to the easy-to-follow two-page spread that outlines the three Warriors story arcs, along with all of the books currently in the series. Finally, turn to the **Classroom Activities** section, where you'll find:

- **Discussion Questions:** open-ended questions relating to each of the three storylines
- **Curriculum Connections:** project ideas based on the series and reaching across curriculum boundaries
- **Get Creative:** arts-based Warriors activities that call upon students' creativity

Use this guide as a starting point for ideas on how to incorporate the Warriors books into the life of your classroom or library. As you find new ways to enjoy the series with your students, you may want to combine activities and spin off your own discussion questions.

Who is Erin Hunter?

Erin Hunter is actually a pseudonym. Victoria Holmes comes up with the Warriors story ideas, while Cherith Baldry and Kate Cary take turns writing the books. Working together, Victoria, Cherith, and Kate are Erin Hunter.

Cherith Baldry, a former teacher, lives in England. On the subject of writing, she has said, "It's more interesting to have characters who have shades of gray in their personalities rather than being black or white. That's how the real world is, after all." Cherith's cats Bramblepaw and Sorreltail are the inspiration for the Warriors cats with the same names, and they behave just as they do in the stories.

Kate Cary lives in the north of England. She has said that she credits the popularity of these books to the fictional Warriors world, which is "an exciting place to escape into—it encompasses very human themes, like bravery, loyalty, love, kindness, cruelty, greed, and loss." Kate's cats Willow, Flower, and Miu-Miu are known to take naps on her Warriors manuscripts.

Like her Warriors colleagues, **Victoria Holmes** lives in England. She thinks that writing Warriors as part of a team works well: "Teaming up with Kate and Cherith on the Warriors books is an unconventional way of working, but we love writing the books together and it means we can produce them much faster than a single writer could. We each have our favorite characters and ideas for what could happen next, which means the stories have three times as much energy and passion!" Victoria grew up on a farm and loves all animals, including cats, though she is especially fond of dogs and horses.

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www.warriorcats.com

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Warriors: Cats of the Clans
Tr 978-0-06-145856-9 • $15.99 ($17.25)
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Classroom Activities for

House kitten Rusty wanders into the forest and meets a wild cat——a kind of cat that he didn't even know existed. Rusty joins a wild cat Clan, and though warrior blood doesn't run in his veins, he strives to become one of the Clans' greatest warriors.

Discussion Questions

1. Some ThunderClan cats say that only those born with "warrior blood" can become warriors. What do they mean by "warrior blood"? Why might they think cats need it to become warriors? What similar arguments have you heard about people, their "blood," and their abilities or talents? What do you think of these arguments? Explain your answer.
2. Why does Rusty (later Firepaw, Fireheart, and Firestar) decide to become a warrior rather than live as a "kittypet" in a comfortable home with humans? Under what circumstances would you choose a difficult life? What might you learn from hardship?
3. Why are prophecies so crucial to the cat Clans? What might the warrior cats' lives be like without prophecies? Are prophecies important to you? Why or why not?
4. Sometimes cats in Warriors must choose between being loyal to friends and being loyal to their Clans. Why do you think they make the choices they do? Have you ever had to choose between being loyal to a friend and being loyal to your family or school? What choice did you make, and why?
5. Are the treacherous cats in Warriors evil, or do they only have mistaken beliefs? What is the difference between someone who is evil and someone who is simply mistaken? Explain your answer.
6. What traits make Rusty (later Firepaw, Fireheart, and Firestar) a successful leader? How are these traits similar to or different from those that people need to become successful leaders? Who are the great leaders in your life, and what makes them great?

the Original WARRIORS

Curriculum Connections

1. Erin Hunter's warrior cats often behave as real cats do. Instruct your students to choose an animal and then research its appearance, habitat, and behavior. Incorporating the information they've collected, have them write a short story about their animal. (Science, Language Arts)
2. Invite your students to study the maps at the beginning of each Warriors book. Then ask them to craft a similar map of their neighborhood, schoolyard, or library for either a cat of their own imagining or a cat that they know in real life. Have them label or designate each important landmark and geographic feature. (Social Studies)
3. Instruct students to conduct a survey by asking their friends, family, and classmates which Warriors book or which Warriors character they like best. Have them collect all of the answers and then design a graph that accurately represents the data they collected. Students could create the graph by hand or use a spreadsheet program, like Excel. (Mathematics, Technology)

Get Creative

1. Encourage each student to brainstorm a list of adjectives that describes his or her favorite Warriors cat. Then have students use at least five of these descriptive words in a shape poem about the cat. A shape poem takes the form of the object it is describing, so your students' poems should all be shaped like cats. (Language Arts)
2. Have students gather photos, pictures or words from magazines, fabric, leaves, or anything else that catches their eye and that calls to mind the Warriors books. Then invite students to construct a collage illustration of their favorite Warriors book or character. (Fine Arts)

Classroom Activities for

When StarClan prophesies terrible danger for the Clans, young cats are selected to seek help by banding together across Clan alliances. These warriors face a treacherous journey and a crucial test: to become companions despite past Clan rivalries and warfare.

Discussion Questions

1. How might Firestar's successes as a leader and a warrior influence the choices Squirrelpaw makes? How might knowledge of Tigerstar's violence influence Brambleclaw's choices? Do the successes and failures of parents always affect children's choices? Explain your answer.
2. In what ways are sisters Squirrelpaw and Leafpaw different? Why might they still get along so well, despite their differences? How might personality dissimilarities be important to siblings, and how might they be unimportant?
3. Brambleclaw and his companions initially choose to keep their dreams from the other cats in their Clans. Why? Have you ever decided that keeping a secret was for the best? Why, or why not? Under what circumstances is keeping a secret necessary or beneficial?
4. In what ways is the cross-Clan collaboration successful? Think of a situation during which people you know from disparate groups had to work together. What made working together difficult for them? How did they overcome their difficulties and collaborate successfully?
5. Why do many Warriors cats feel uncomfortable with cross-Clan romantic relationships? How might their discomfort be similar to the discomfort people feel in regard to relationships between members of different racial, ethnic, or religious groups? What reasons do people have for such discomfort, and how can they become more tolerant and accepting?
6. For what reasons might humans have chosen to change the cat Clans' forest? Are human needs for things like homes, roads, and stores always more important than the needs of animals? Why, or why not?

WARRIORS : The New Prophecy

Curriculum Connections

1. In Warriors: The New Prophecy, the cats set out like explorers to save the Clans from the threat to the forest. Instruct students to pretend that they are searching for a new place to live by taking a virtual exploration trip. Have them choose a location anywhere in the world and then research everything they would need to know before moving there: necessary travel plans, living conditions, customs or laws that differ from those where they live now, means of transportation, geography, weather, political and economic stability, costs of living, and recent news items. Have students create a brochure or multimedia presentation about their new home and present it to the class. (Social Studies, Language Arts, Technology)
2. Erin Hunter often uses similes in the Warriors books. Ask students to write down seven of their favorite Warriors similes. Then have them invent at least seven of their own similes and incorporate them into a short story. (Language Arts)
3. Instruct students to imagine that they are designing a new housing development and that it is to be built on land that is currently home to many wild animals. Have each child brainstorm innovative ways that his or her development might provide housing for humans while maintaining wild stretches of land for animals. Ask each student to draft a report outlining his or her innovations. (Science, Social Studies, Technology)

Get Creative

1. Invite students to create real-life representations of the make-believe world of Warriors. Assign a creative medium, whether papier-mâché, clay, collage, fabric, a mobile, or a diorama, and have students construct a scene or setting that is significant to ThunderClan. (Fine Arts)
2. Ask small groups of students to choose a favorite Warriors character and an important event in that character's life. Have each group write a play that depicts this event and then perform the play in front of the class. (Fine Arts)

Classroom Activities for

Three powerful ThunderClan kits start training, following in the footsteps of their much-honored parents, Brambleclaw and Squirrelflight, and their revered grandfather, Firestar. As prejudice against cats who aren't ClanBorn threatens the Clans' survival, three kits—Hollypaw, Jaypaw, and Lionpaw—rise to become the most powerful cats the Clans have ever seen.

Discussion Questions

1. How does Jaypaw "see" the world differently than others? What are the advantages and disadvantages to the ways he views things? Which famous blind or visually-impaired people does he remind you of? Why does he resemble them?

2. How does Jaypaw's pride help him, and how does it hinder him? Is pride usually an asset, a failing, or both? Provide reasons for your answer.
3. Considering StarClan's prophecy, what might Hollypaw's, Jaypaw's, and Lionpaw's destinies be? As they make choices, how might they change their destinies? Do you believe that destiny or fate rules your life? Why, or why not?
4. Why do Hollypaw and Jaypaw have trouble choosing their roles in ThunderClan? What problems have you faced in your own life when choosing a job or role? How did you find solutions?
5. Why do the cats mistrust those who aren't ClanBorn? What effect does their mistrust have on the Clans? How are people similarly suspicious of outsiders? In what ways are these suspicions justified, and in what ways are they based on prejudices?

6. Many writers and politicians have observed that having great power also means having great responsibility. How might this connection between power and responsibility affect Warriors: Power of Three characters? How might it affect people you know? Have you ever felt great responsibility along with great power? Explain.

WARRIORS: Power of Three

Curriculum Connections

1. The Warriors cats' genealogies—their pedigrees or lines of descent—are very important to them. Encourage students to research their own genealogies: who their recent or more distant ancestors were, where these ancestors lived, what jobs they held in their communities, and how historical events might have affected them. Students can find out information by asking older family members and by researching online. Have each child draw a family tree that includes all of the information that he or she has collected. (Social Studies, Technology, Fine Arts)
2. Young Warriors cats study and train with mentors to learn skills that they will use as adults. Arrange mentoring opportunities for your students with community members who can teach useful skills and provide insights into subject areas that interest individual children. Have each child keep a journal to document his or her time as an apprentice. (Standards addressed will vary with each mentorship, Language Arts)
3. To stay healthy, cats in the Warriors books use basic first aid and common herbal remedies, while also consuming clean food and water. Challenge students to investigate first aid techniques, common medicinal herbs, and the best nearby places to get clean food and water. With the information they collect, have each child create a guide entitled "Easy Ways to Stay Healthy." (Health, Science, Language Arts)

Get Creative

1. Since the Warriors: Power of Three storyline is not yet complete, ask students to imagine what happens next by drawing a comic or manga adaptation of an episode that might appear in a future book. (Fine Arts)
2. Ask pairs of students to create and record a song about one of the books in the Warriors: Power of Three story arc. Students may either write new lyrics to go with the music of an already well-known song or compose an original song in any musical genre that they feel evokes the mood of the Warriors stories. (Fine Arts)

NEW!

Reading WARRIORS Summer Reading Challenge

Explore new lands.
Establish and defend territory.
Be a Reading Warrior.

The **Reading Warriors Summer Reading Challenge** is a summer reading program based on the legends and adventures of the feline characters in the bestselling Warriors series. The goal of the program is to motivate and encourage children ages 8 to 12 to become **Reading Warriors** by reading at least 10 books over the course of the summer. Help your students develop a love of reading through this exciting, fun, and challenging summer project.

Learn more about the program and how you can incorporate the Reading Warriors Summer Reading Challenge into your classroom by downloading the collectible booklet, mentor guide, and other materials from **www.readingwarriors.com.**

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