

Dear Educator,

You and your students have the unique opportunity to preview, for FREE, *Warriors #1: Into the Wild*, the first book in bestselling author Erin Hunter's action-adventure series *Warriors*, which has become a perennial favorite of pre-teen boys and girls. *Into the Wild* chronicles the adventures of a group of wild cats as seen through the eyes of a domestic cat, Rusty, who ventures into the forest to join them.

You can receive 20 FREE copies of *Warriors #1: Into the Wild* by returning the enclosed reply card or ordering online at ymiclassroom.com/warriors. Supplies are limited, so please place your order today. The offer expires September 24, 2015.

Filled with action and adventure, *Warriors #1: Into the Wild* is sure to engage even the most reluctant readers in grades 3–5 with its courageous feline characters and suspenseful cliff-hangers. The activities in this teaching kit, developed by the award-winning curriculum specialists at Young Minds Inspired (YMI), align with Common Core State Standards in English Language Arts and are being provided to help you make *Warriors* part of your class plans. Both students who have read the book and those just being introduced to it will engage in these activities as they follow the *Warriors* cats on their many adventures while learning important lessons about teamwork, courage, diversity, and leadership.

We hope that you will share this FREE offer from HarperCollins with other teachers in your school. Although the materials are protected by copyright, you may make as many copies as needed for educational purposes.

Please return the enclosed reply card or go online to ymiclassroom.com/warriors to order your FREE set of books (while supplies last). The offer expires on September 24, 2015. You can also use the reply card or comment online at ymiclassroom.com/feedback-warriors to provide feedback. We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,



Dr. Dominic Kinsley
Editor in Chief
Young Minds Inspired

WARRIORS

INTO THE WILD

ABOUT THE SERIES

Warriors is the latest animal adventure series by Erin Hunter, author of the bestselling *Survivors* and *Seekers* series. In this first book, *Into the Wild*, we meet Rusty, a house cat who leaves his human owners and the comfort of his home to venture out into the wild and join a group of cats called ThunderClan. Rusty faces many challenges in the wild since he was raised as a "kittypet" but, renamed as the apprentice Firepaw, he proves himself through bravery and kindness and earns the warrior name of Fireheart. As a member of ThunderClan, he continues to face challenges in the other books in the series — *Book Two: Fire and Ice*, *Book Three: Forest of Secrets*, *Book Four: Rising Storm*, and *Book Five: A Dangerous Path*. In *Book Six: The Darkest Hour*, Fireheart has risen to become leader of ThunderClan. Students will enjoy experiencing the world through the cats' eyes while also considering the broad themes of the stories — what it means to be a part of a community and the importance of perseverance when facing adversity.

TARGET AUDIENCE

This program is designed for students in grades 3–5 as a supplement to the language arts curriculum.

PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

- To engage young students in reading adventures that foster an appreciation for the elements of fiction
- To entertain while encouraging students to think critically about issues of respect, rules, and identity

COMMON CORE STATE STANDARDS

The activities in this program align with Common Core State Standards in English Language Arts as listed for each activity. Visit ymiclassroom.com/warriors for further details.

HOW TO USE THIS PROGRAM

Review the activities in conjunction with this teacher's guide and **order your set of FREE books by September 24, 2015**. Act now; supplies are limited. To set the stage, have students visit the *Warriors* website and read the History of the Clans at warriorcats.com/meet-the-warriors/clan-history, or read it together in class as an introduction to the unit. You can photocopy and distribute the two activity sheets as an introduction to the book or use them once your free books arrive. Be sure to distribute copies of the third sheet to students so they can take it home to plan further *Warriors* reading adventures.

ORDER FREE
BOOKS FOR
YOUR CLASS
BEFORE
SEPTEMBER 24,
2015!

ACTIVITY 1 RISK AND RESPECT

Part 1 (RL.3.3, 4.3, 5.3). Briefly explain to students the story of Rusty, the main character in *Into the Wild*. Rusty was a house cat who ventured into the forest and, against all odds, became a hero. Point out the examples of Rusty's bravery from the activity sheet and ask students to imagine themselves in similar situations.

Would they do the same thing? Why or why not? After students complete this part of the activity, have them share their thoughts in a class discussion.

Part 2 (W.3.3, 4.3, 5.3). Rusty had to earn the respect of the cats in ThunderClan, because he was what they called a kittypet. Students can consider how a character they create might earn respect by outlining their own story that involves another warrior cat whom Rusty meets. Students can use the outline on the activity sheet to help them generate their own story, starting with a cat character of their choosing, adding a challenge to be overcome, and writing some sample dialogue. Guide students through the prompts on the sheet. When they have finished, students can write their story on a separate sheet of paper or use the building blocks as a starting point for a writing workshop.

ACTIVITY 2 WHAT'S IN A NAME? (L.3.5, 4.5, 5.5).

Ask students to think about their own names. Do they know why they were given that name? Does it have a special meaning? Have several volunteers share. Explain to students that each of the warrior cats' names has a specific meaning. Direct students' attention to the character names on the activity sheet as well as the explanation of the naming conventions and write why they think that cat was given that name.

Then have students use the warrior naming rules along with positive characteristics of a friend or family member to give that person a warrior cat name. What name would they have if they also had a warrior cat name? Students can also use names that rely on figurative meanings. For example, if the person is smart and knowledgeable, "owl" could be part of his or her name. Other examples include a person who is a fast runner ("cheetah"), always busy doing something ("bee" or "beaver"), good at singing ("canary"), or has good handwriting ("scribe"). Encourage students to be creative in their naming choices.



ACTIVITY 1 RISK AND RESPECT

In *Warriors #1: Into the Wild*, Rusty the house cat follows his heart and does what he thinks is right even though it is risky and breaks a ThunderClan rule — he shows mercy to an injured enemy. For his bravery, he earns the respect of the Clan, eventually earning the warrior name of Fireheart when he again takes a risk, reveals a traitor in the Clan, and saves a stolen group of kittens.

PART 1 Can you think of a situation in your life when you did something that seemed a bit scary but also seemed like the right thing to do? Describe it here, and write how you felt about the outcome.

PART 2 Rusty's adventure in *Into the Wild* is exciting because of what happens when he meets the cats in ThunderClan. Now it's your turn to create a new adventure for Rusty and the Clan. Start by imagining a new character that Rusty meets. Next, imagine what happens when Rusty and your new character work together. Use the outline below to help you, and the other side of the paper if you need more room. Then write your own story of a brave cat!

1. Your new character

- Name of character: _____
- Description: _____
- Characteristics (personality, past experiences, etc.): _____

2. Plot:

 List the sequence of events in your story.

- How does the story start? _____
- What happens next that creates a challenge? _____
- How does your character react? What does he or she do? _____

3. Dialogue:

 Write a few lines of conversation (dialogue) between Rusty and your character to show their personalities.

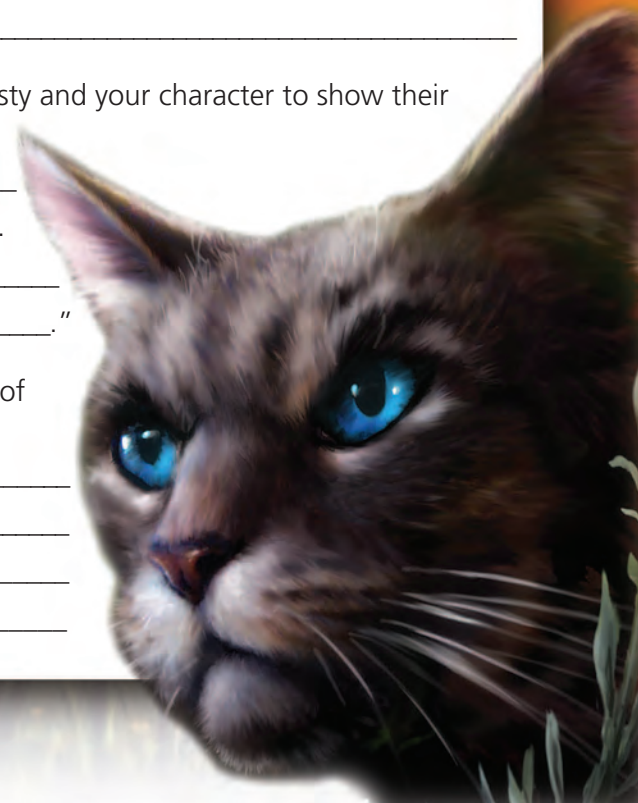
- " _____
_____, " Rusty said.
- _____ answered, " _____."

4. Climax:

 This is the big action that happens in your story as a result of the plot.

- What happens in the climax? _____

- How do things get resolved? _____

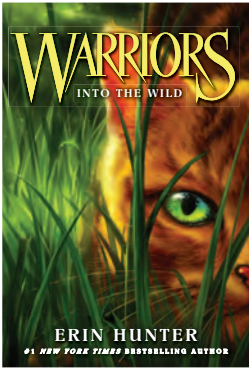


ACTIVITY 2 WHAT'S IN A NAME?

MEET THE WARRIOR CATS! When the hero of *Into the Wild* was just a house cat — or “kittypet” — he was called Rusty, but when he joined ThunderClan, he earned new names which told us more about him. First, he was known as Firepaw when he was accepted as an apprentice, because all Clan apprentices have “paw” as the second part of their name. Then he was known as Fireheart after displaying bravery and loyalty and being accepted as a warrior.

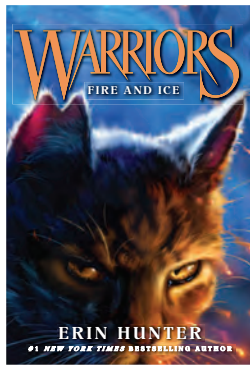
Notice how the cats’ names have two parts? The first part describes something about what the cat looks like. For example, the “Fire” part of Firepaw’s warrior name refers to his fiery color. The meaning of the second part of a warrior’s name is as individual as each cat. It can describe a physical feature, the cat’s role within the Clan, an experience that defines that cat, etc.

Can you think of why these cats were given their warrior names based on the pictures or what you learned in the book? Write your ideas below.



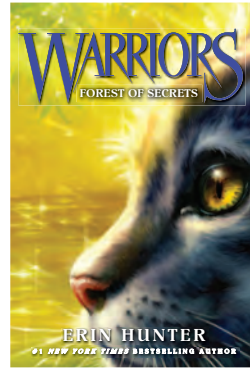
Fireheart

Meaning of name:



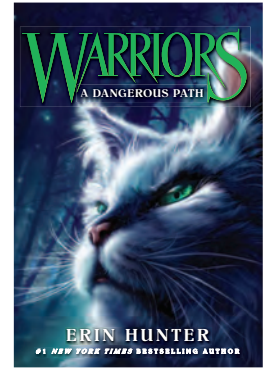
Tigerclaw

Meaning of name:



Graystripe

Meaning of name:



Bluestar

Meaning of name:

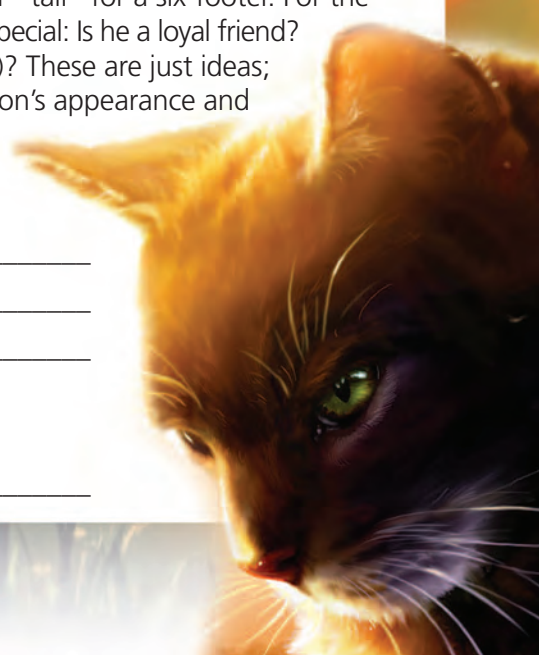
Now imagine giving warrior names to people you know that express their own individuality. On the lines below, write the name of a friend or family member. Next, for the first part of their warrior name, think of a word that describes that person’s appearance, perhaps “red” for someone with red hair or “tall” for a six-footer. For the second part of their name, choose a word that describes what makes that person special: Is he a loyal friend? (Use “friend.”) Is she smart (“brainy”), a good singer (“music”), funny (“smile”)? These are just ideas; use your imagination! Whatever it is, choose something positive about the person’s appearance and character for their warrior name. Then think of what *your* name could be!

Friend or Family Member’s Name

Warrior Name

Your Name

Warrior Name



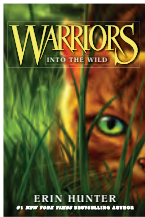
WARRIORS

BOOKS BY ERIN HUNTER

USE THIS CHECKLIST TO MAKE YOUR PLANS TO JOIN THE WARRIOR CATS ON THESE EXCITING ADVENTURES!

THE PROPHECIES BEGIN

Enter the wild with the original Warriors series by bestselling author Erin Hunter.



Warriors #1: Into the Wild



Warriors #2: Fire and Ice



Warriors #3: Forest of Secrets



Warriors #4: Rising Storm



Warriors #5: A Dangerous Path



Warriors #6: The Darkest Hour

THE NEW PROPHECY

Join the next generation of warrior cats as they face a dark prophecy that threatens not only the warrior Clans but the whole forest.



The New Prophecy #1: Midnight



The New Prophecy #2: Moonrise



The New Prophecy #3: Dawn



The New Prophecy #4: Starlight



The New Prophecy #5: Twilight



The New Prophecy #6: Sunset

POWER OF THREE

The time has come for three kits of ThunderClan to become apprentices. But there are dark secrets around the three, and a mysterious prophecy hints at trouble to come.



Power of Three #1: The Sight



Power of Three #2: Dark River



Power of Three #3: Outcast



Power of Three #4: Eclipse



Power of Three #5: Long Shadows



Power of Three #6: Sunrise

OMEN OF THE STARS

A cryptic prophecy from StarClan draws three young cats together and threatens the fragile balance between the four warrior Clans.



Omen of the Stars #1: The Fourth Apprentice



Omen of the Stars #2: Fading Echoes



Omen of the Stars #3: Night Whispers



Omen of the Stars #4: Sign of the Moon



Omen of the Stars #5: The Forgotten Warrior



Omen of the Stars #6: The Last Hope

