

The World of ERIN HUNTER



Educator's Guide



Introduction to This Guide

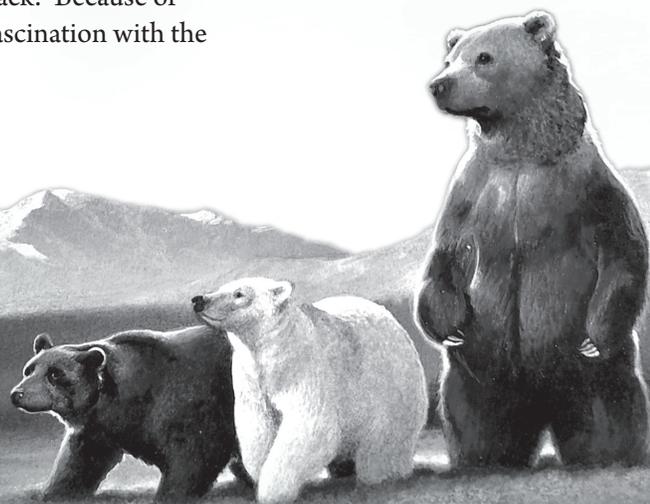


Erin Hunter's bestselling books have captured the imaginations of children and teens across the world. It all began with Warriors. For more than ten years, readers have been fascinated by the feline characters and the series' primary themes: behaving courageously, working hard, staying loyal, and finding one's inner strength. Seekers helped readers come to a strong awareness of earth conservation and the peril of the wilderness. The newest addition to the world of Erin Hunter is Survivors, where readers will see canine characters question the desire for independence versus reliance on others to form a "Pack." Because of the ever-growing delight and fascination with the

worlds and characters of Erin Hunter's series, 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 or post videos online that incorporate elements from the series.

Educators and librarians can capitalize on their students' enthusiasm for Warriors, Seekers, and Survivors by using the books 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. On the following page, 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 series and their story arcs, along with all of the books currently available.

Use this guide as a starting point for ideas on how to incorporate the Warriors, Seekers, and Survivors 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 for a collaboration of authors that work on creating the books. Victoria Holmes comes up with the Warriors story ideas, while Cherith Baldry and Kate Cary take turns writing the books. Tui Sutherland, Cherith, Kate, and Victoria work on the Seekers series.

The newest Erin Hunter is Gillian Philip, who writes Survivors. Working together, these incredibly creative individuals form “Erin Hunter.”

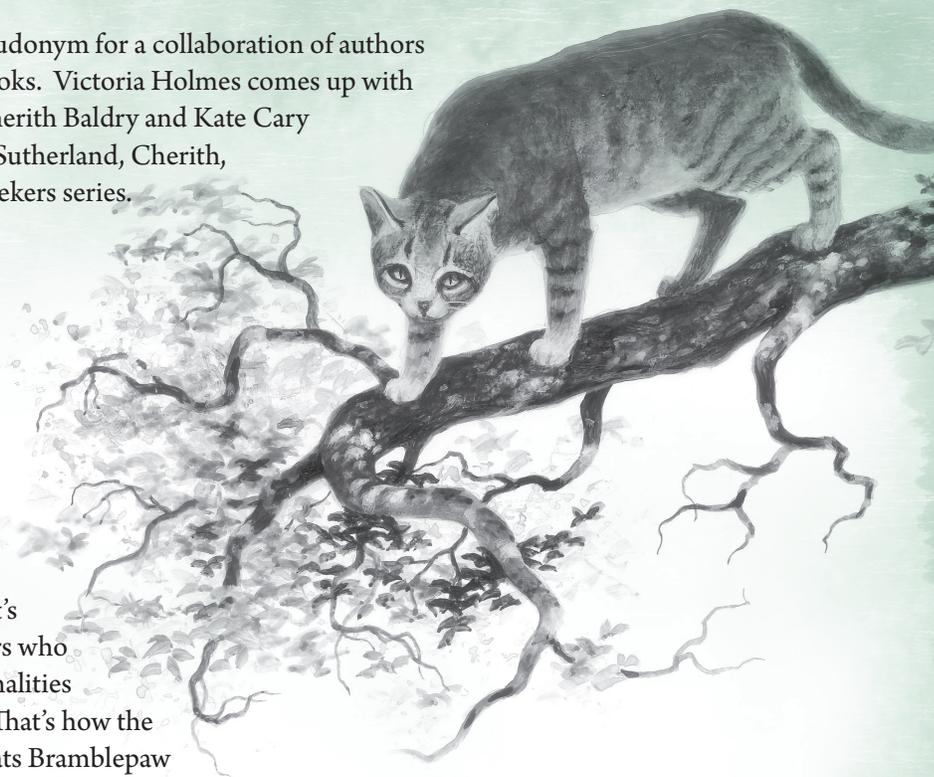
Cherith Baldry, a former teacher, lives in England. On the subject of writing, she has said, “It’s more interesting to have characters who have shades of gray in their personalities rather than being black or white. That’s how the real world is, after all.” Cherith’s cats Bramblepaw and Sorreltail are 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 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 manuscripts.

Victoria Holmes lives in England. She thinks that writing as part of a team works well. “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.

Gillian Philip lives in the highlands of Scotland with one husband, two children, three dogs, two cats, a hamster, three chickens, and a lot of nervous fish. While her own dogs have helped inspire the characters in Survivors, she doubts they would be as resourceful as Lucky and his friends. She thinks readers will appreciate the inner struggle that Lucky feels between being an independent Lone Dog versus belonging to a Pack because we all deal with issues of individuality, personhood (canine-hood?), and responsibility to one’s friends.

While **Tui Sutherland** now lives in the United States, she mostly grew up in South America. Tui actually worked as the editor for the Warriors books before she left editing to become a full-time writer and joined the Erin Hunter team to work on Seekers. She has a yorkie-poodle mix named Sunshine, who is a perfect little genius and is an excellent writer’s assistant, even if she does take naps during the workday.



What You Need

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 kits and elders. They heal with herbal remedies. They train warriors to protect the Clans. The warrior cats have a code of honor and value loyalty. Warriors also receive guidance from StarClan, the spirit-cat ancestors.

The original **Warriors** books introduce readers to Rusty, a kitten who leaves his comfortable human home for the warrior life. Despite Clan prejudice against kittypets, Rusty receives the name Firepaw and becomes an apprentice of ThunderClan. Clever and strong, Firepaw fights to protect ThunderClan from other Clans as well as from danger within the Clan. Firepaw eventually rises to become Firestar, the leader of ThunderClan.

In **Warriors: The New Prophecy**, the warrior cats’ forest home is threatened. Following the guidance of StarClan, young cats from each of the four Clans seek a new home for their Clanmates. These 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 prophecies 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.

In **Warriors: Omen of the Stars**, the growing threat of the Dark Forest and its war against StarClan force the Clans to band together for the sake of all cats. The fulfillment of a prophecy is at hand: “The end of the stars draws near. Three must become four to battle the darkness that lasts forever.”

The series also includes several companion books as well as a number of manga titles.



to Know About . . .

SEEKERS

Three young bears from different species—black, polar, and grizzly—are separated from their families when they're just cubs. They soon find themselves brought together on a perilous journey, guided by a shape-shifting grizzly cub whose destiny will affect them all. Fate is about to change these bears' lives forever, setting their paws on a path toward a future they cannot yet imagine. . . .

The original **Seekers** books introduce us to Toklo, Kallik, and Lusa, bears who are all struggling to survive in the wilderness. Eventually, all three come together and learn

to work as a team, knowing that's their only chance of surviving the harsh realities of the wild. But even then, there are untold obstacles and dangers in an ever-changing natural landscape.

The second story arc, **Seekers: Return to the Wild**, focuses on the bears finding their way back home again after the perilous mission that brought them together. Questions of trust arise as they try to navigate the treacherous journey, and hidden dangers threaten to break the group apart.



SURVIVORS

The time has come for dogs to rule the wild. Lucky, a Lone Dog, escapes the Trap House after the Big Growl decimates the city. As Lucky searches for food, he discovers all the longpaws have disappeared, leaving the animals on their own. When he comes upon his littermate Bella and her Leashed Dog friends, Lucky must decide if he will join their Pack or if he will continue to live life as a Lone Dog.

The Empty City is the first in the six-book **Survivors** series, where Lucky and his Packmates will fight to survive in the wild, despite threats from other Packs and animals.



So why do kids love Warriors, Seekers, and Survivors?

Kids are such huge fans of these books for many reasons. They embrace the universal flaws, doubts, and fears of the characters. They relate to the warrior cats' struggles to be brave and honorable; they have a strong understanding of the ecological danger that our planet is in as the Seekers bears explore the wild and discover new challenges; and they question their own feelings about life-changing events and how they might handle adapting to new situations like the dogs in Survivors. Fans also become caught up in the complex worlds depicted in the stories, with their 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.”

Where can I find out more about books by Erin Hunter?

For news, games, illustrations, and information on all three series, visit the official websites:

www.warriorcats.com • www.seekerbears.com • www.survivorsdogs.com



Have you read them all?

Use this checklist to see if you have every Erin Hunter title!

Warriors

- Into the Wild
- Fire and Ice
- Forest of Secrets
- Rising Storm
- A Dangerous Path
- The Darkest Hour

Warriors: The New Prophecy

- Midnight
- Moonrise
- Dawn
- Starlight
- Twilight
- Sunset

Warriors: Power of Three

- The Sight
- Dark River
- Outcast
- Eclipse
- Long Shadows
- Sunrise

Warriors: Omen of the Stars

- The Fourth Apprentice
- Fading Echoes
- Night Whispers
- Sign of the Moon
- The Forgotten Warrior
- The Last Hope
- Hollyleaf's Story

Warriors Manga

- The Rise of Scourge

Ebook
exclusive!

Warriors Manga: Graystripe's Adventure

- The Lost Warrior
- Warrior's Refuge
- Warrior's Return

Warriors Manga: Tigerstar and Sasha

- Into the Woods
- Escape from the Forest
- Return to the Clans

Warriors Manga: Ravenpaw's Path

- Shattered Peace
- A Clan in Need
- The Heart of a Warrior

Warriors Manga: SkyClan and the Stranger

- The Rescue
- Beyond the Code
- After the Flood

Warriors: Super Editions

- Firestar's Quest
- Bluestar's Prophecy
- SkyClan's Destiny
- Crookedstar's Promise
- Yellowfang's Secret

Warriors: Field Guides

- Secrets of the Clans
- Cats of the Clans
- Code of the Clans
- Battles of the Clans
- Enter the Clans

Warriors: App

- Warriors App
–Download for free

Seekers

- The Quest Begins
- Great Bear Lake
- Smoke Mountain
- The Last Wilderness
- Fire in the Sky
- Spirits in the Stars

Seekers: Return to the Wild

- Island of Shadows
- The Melting Sea

Seekers Manga

- Toklo's Story
- Kallik's Adventure

Survivors

- The Empty City

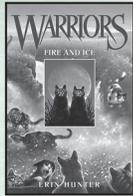


Warriors

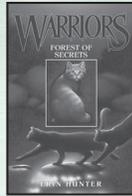
Sinister perils threaten the four warrior Clans. Into the midst of this turmoil comes Rusty, an ordinary house cat, who may just be the bravest of them all.



#1: Into the Wild



#2: Fire and Ice



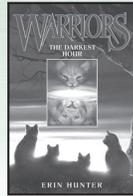
#3: Forest of Secrets



#4: Rising Storm



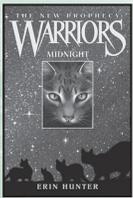
#5: A Dangerous Path



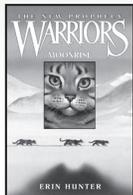
#6: The Darkest Hour

Warriors: The New Prophecy

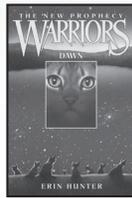
Follow the next generation of heroic cats as they set off on a quest to save the Clans from destruction.



#1: Midnight



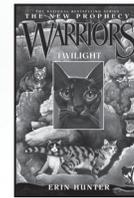
#2: Moonrise



#3: Dawn



#4: Starlight



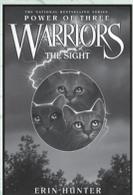
#5: Twilight



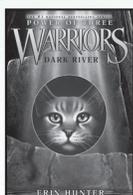
#6: Sunset

Warriors: Power of Three

Firestar's grandchildren begin their training as warrior cats. Prophecy foretells that they will hold more power than any cats before them.



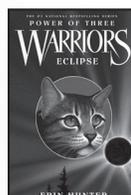
#1: The Sight



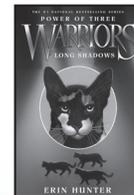
#2: Dark River



#3: Outcast



#4: Eclipse



#5: Long Shadows



#6: Sunrise

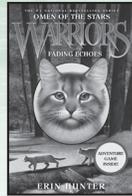
Warriors: Omen of the Stars

INCLUDES 

Which ThunderClan apprentice will complete the prophecy that foretells that three Clanmates hold the future of the Clans in their paws?



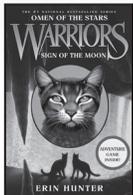
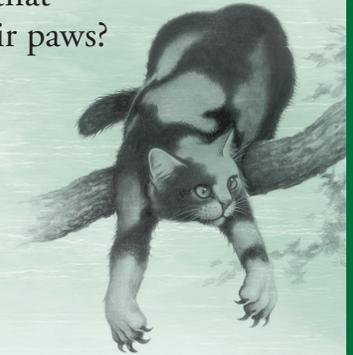
#1: The Fourth Apprentice



#2: Fading Echoes



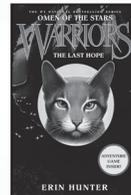
#3: Night Whispers



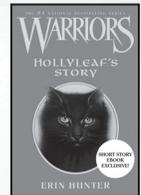
#4: Sign of the Moon



#5: The Forgotten Warrior



#6: The Last Hope

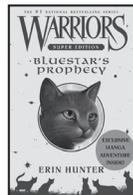


Warriors: Hollyleaf's Story

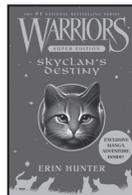
Warriors: Super Editions



Firestar's Quest



Bluestar's Prophecy
Includes exclusive manga!



SkyClan's Destiny
Includes exclusive manga!



Crookedstar's Promise
Includes exclusive manga!



Yellowfang's Secret
Includes exclusive manga!



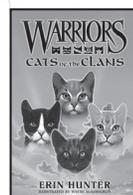
Warriors: Field Guides

INCLUDES 

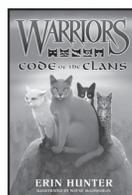
Exciting companion books to the bestselling series



Secrets of the Clans



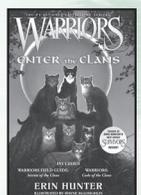
Cats of the Clans



Code of the Clans



Battles of the Clans



Enter the Clans

Warriors Box Sets



Warriors Box Set:
Volumes 1 to 3

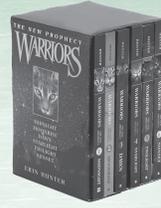
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**Warriors 3-book Collection
with Bonus Material:**
Volumes 1 to 3



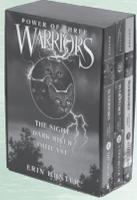
Warriors Box Set:
Volumes 1 to 6



The New Prophecy Box Set:
Volumes 1 to 6



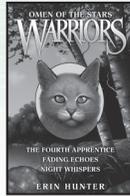
**Download the free
Warriors app!**



**Power of Three
Box Set:**
Volumes 1 to 3



**Power of Three
Box Set:**
Volumes 1 to 6



**Omen of the Stars
Box Set:**
Volumes 1 to 3

**Ebook
exclusive!**



**Omen of the Stars Collection
with Bonus Material:**
Volumes 1 to 3



Warriors Manga Box Set:
Graystripe's Adventure

Warriors Manga

The heroic warrior cats come to life in manga!



The Rise of Scourge

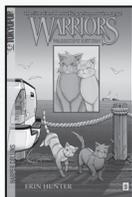
Graystripe's Adventure



The Lost Warrior



Warrior's Refuge



Warrior's Return

Tigerstar and Sasha



#1: Into the Woods



#2: Escape from the Forest



#3: Return to the Clans

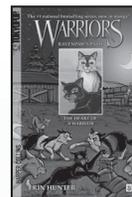
Ravenpaw's Path



#1: Shattered Peace

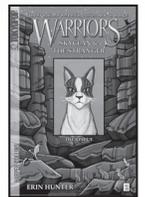


#2: A Clan in Need

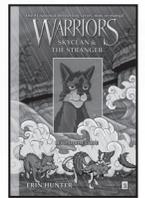


#3: The Heart of a Warrior

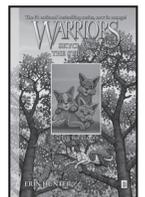
SkyClan and the Stranger



#1: The Rescue



#2: Beyond the Code



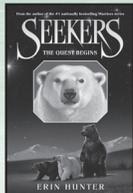
#3: After the Flood



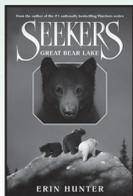
World of Erin Hunter

Seekers

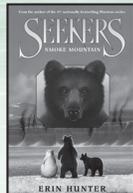
Three young bears...one destiny. Discover the fate that awaits them in this adventure from Erin Hunter, author of Warriors.



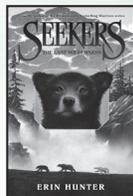
#1: The Quest Begins



#2: Great Bear Lake



#3: Smoke Mountain



#4: The Last Wilderness



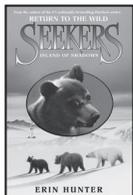
#5: Fire in the Sky



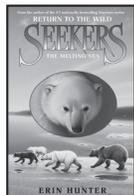
#6: Spirits in the Stars

Seekers: Return to the Wild

The journey home is long and full of peril.



#1: Island of Shadows



#2: The Melting Sea

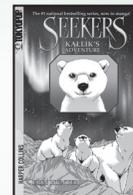


Seekers Manga

The adventurous bears come to life in manga!



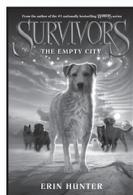
Toklo's Story



Kallik's Adventure

Survivors

The time has come for dogs to rule the wild.



#1: The Empty City

The World of
ERIN HUNTER

WARRIORS SEEKERS
SURVIVORS

CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES FOR 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 Twolegs? 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 Warriors cats 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/Firepaw/Fireheart/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?

In the first arc of *Warriors*, kittypet Rusty wanders into the forest and meets a wild cat—a kind of cat that he didn't even know existed. Rusty joins ThunderClan and though warrior blood doesn't run in his veins, he strives to become one of the Clans' greatest 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, school yard, 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 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, such as Excel. (Mathematics, Technology)



Get Creative

1. Encourage each student to brainstorm a list of adjectives that describes his or her favorite Warrior 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 WARRIORS: THE NEW PROPHECY

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. For what reasons might humans have chosen to change the cat Clans' forest? Are human needs for things such as homes, roads, and stores more important than the needs of animals? Why, or why not?



When StarClan prophecies terrible danger for the Clans, young cats from different Clans band together to seek help. These warriors face a treacherous journey and a crucial test: to become companions despite Clan rivalries.

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 WARRIORS: POWER OF THREE

Discussion Questions

1. How does Jaypaw “see” the world differently from 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 the Warriors: Power of Three characters? How might it affect people you know? Have you ever felt great responsibility along with great power? Explain.

Three powerful ThunderClan kits start training, following in the footsteps of their much-honored parents, Brambleclaw and Squirrelflight, and their revered grandfather, Firestar. These three kits—Hollypaw, Jaypaw, and Lionpaw—are prophesied to hold the power of the stars in their paws.



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 warrior 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

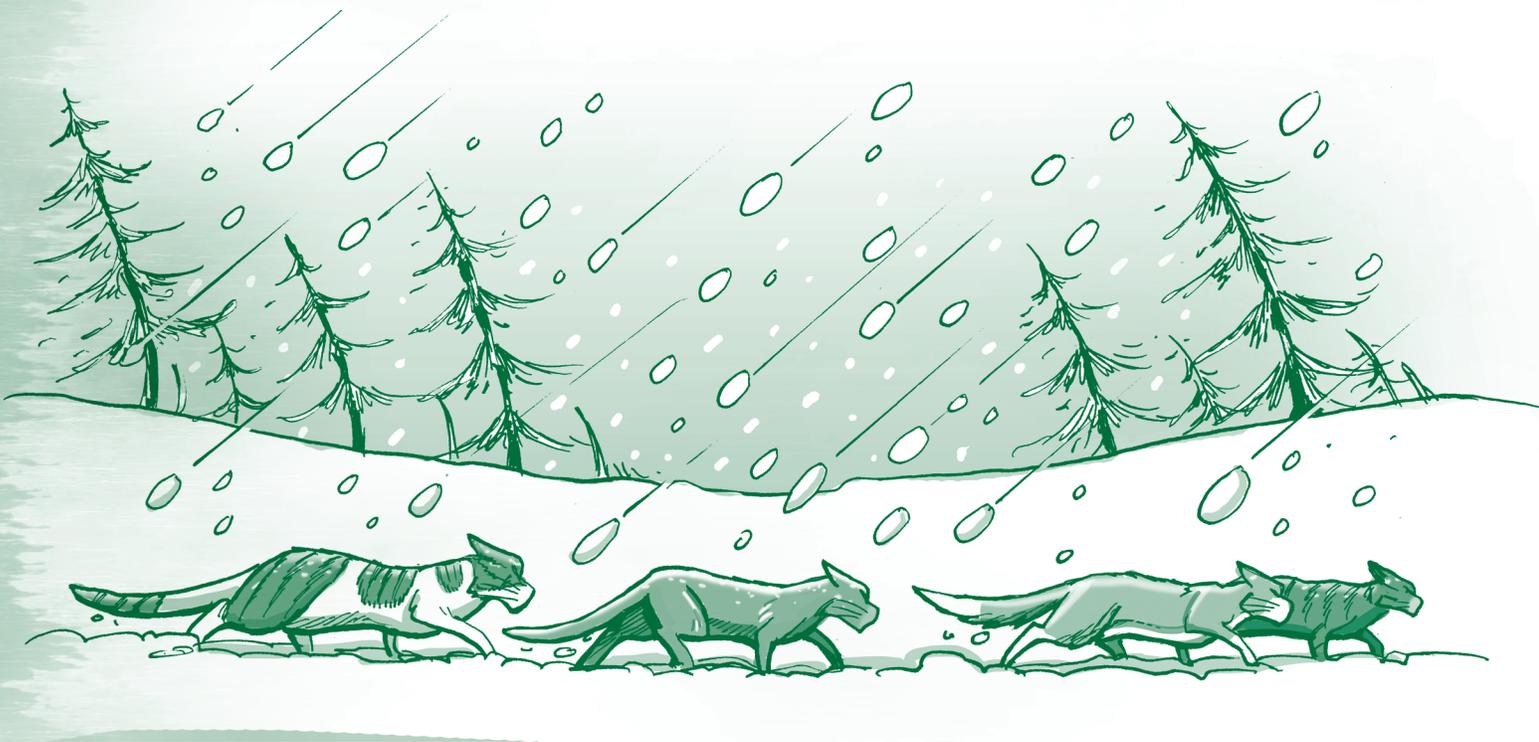
1. Since the Warriors: Power of Three story line ends on somewhat of a cliff-hanger, ask students to imagine what happens next by drawing a comic or manga adaptation of an episode that might appear in a future book. (Fine Arts)
2. Ask pairs of students to create and record a song about one of the books 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)



CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES FOR WARRIORS: OMEN OF THE STARS

Discussion Questions

1. Groups that once called themselves enemies (or at least rivals) can sometimes join forces and set aside differences to focus on a greater threat. Why do you think this particular theme recurs in literature as often as it does? Have you ever had to work with someone you did not like in order to accomplish something? How did it make you feel once you finished working on that project?
2. What is your opinion of the cats in the Dark Forest? Are characters ever entirely evil, or do you prefer when “villains” have more shades of gray to their natures?
3. In this series, we encounter instances of hidden motives and backstabbing. Why is it particularly upsetting when someone we trust betrays us?
4. Prophecies play a very strong role in the world of Warriors. How might characters behave differently if they did not know about particular prophecies? How would you act if you knew something you were going to do had been foretold?
5. Four series have gone by since Rusty left his kittypet life behind and rose to become Firestar, the leader of ThunderClan. What has it been like to watch a character age and grow over such a span of time? Have your opinions about Firestar or his actions changed over his life in different scenarios? How? Why?
6. Where do you see Warriors going in future series? When you started reading the Warriors books, what expectations did you have? What were you most surprised by?



Only six moons after the close of the last series, the Clans must come together to face ever-increasing threats. Eventually, sides must be chosen in a monumental battle that pits the Dark Forest against StarClan and the warrior Clans.



Curriculum Connections

1. The warrior code provides rules for the cats to live by if they are honorable. Discuss honor and correct behavior with your students. Ask them to consider what behavior is “honorable.” If your school has a student code of ethics, discuss these points in class. What would your students change? What would they add? Enlist your students’ help in drafting classroom rules and post them in your class. (Ethics)
2. The warriors who survive any battle are witnesses to a part of the Clan’s history. Kits are taught to respect their elders and encouraged to learn from them. Ask your students to interview one of their elders (such as a grandparent or a family friend) about a historical event or important moment in time that they have lived through. Students should prepare their questions before the interview and take notes. Before or after the interview, students should research the historical event or time period in question so they can write a report about the event that helps frame the eyewitness report. (Social Studies)

Get Creative

1. Have your students write a code of ethics for warrior cats to be used in battle. How would these rules differ for human warfare? Carefully consider what would be acceptable in battle versus everyday life, and discuss why. (Social Studies)

CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES FOR SEEKERS

Discussion Questions

1. What environmental issues does the Seekers series address? Were you aware of these issues before you started reading Seekers? What concerns you the most?
2. How does the species of the bear impact his or her character? How do the challenges the bears face differ, depending on what type of bear they are?
3. The Seekers bears undertake a long journey. Have you ever had to go on a long journey? How did you prepare? Did you know what would await you at the other end of your journey, or were you surprised?
4. There is a map in every Seekers book to chart the progress of the bears. Why would a book need to include a map? What do you think is important about a map in a book? What other books have you read where you appreciated being able to look at a map?
5. The Erin Hunter books deal with animals in the wild, but the wilderness seems like a particularly fragile and dangerous place for the bears in Seekers. Why do you think this is? What role does the wilderness play in shaping the characters and their journey?
6. Ralph Waldo Emerson once said, "Life is a journey, not a destination." What did he mean by this? Do you think the journey is just as important (or more important) than the destination?





Curriculum Connections

1. The main characters in *Seekers* are three different types of bears. Separate students into groups to prepare reports on each type of bear and its environment. Don't forget to discuss the history of human interaction with each species and whether or not each bear is endangered. Encourage students to put together a presentation to educate their classmates with visuals of real bears. (Science, Technology)
2. Lusa was born in captivity, and most of us will only see bears in zoos. Consider taking your class on a field trip to a zoo or inviting a professional who works at a zoo or nature reserve to come and speak to them. Research the many things that zoos do to help save endangered animals and raise social awareness of animals and their natural habitats. Have your students consider the pros and cons of having animals in zoos. (Science)
3. Research bears and animal food chains. Have each student pick a different animal that the bears hunt in the books and then create a food chain. What does this animal eat? What eats this animal? Do humans ever eat it? Draw out the food chain as much as you can for each animal on long sheets of paper, and have students draw each animal in its place on the food chain. (Science, Fine Arts)
4. Use the *Seekers* bears and their journey to discuss geography, biospheres, and even seasonal changes. Have students draw maps that identify different ecological regions. (Geography, Fine Arts)

Get Creative

1. Have students select a type of bear and create a diorama of its habitat. Suggest that they are creating a zoo enclosure for each bear. What do they want to be sure to include? (Science, Fine Arts)
2. In *Seekers: Return to the Wild*, the journey continues. New revelations and new dangers still await the bears. Ask your students to write a short story that predicts what they believe fate has in store for the bears. Be sure to ask them to consider where they think the bears are heading, what they need to learn along the way, and what will happen to them and their friendships before the journey is over.



CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES FOR SURVIVORS

Discussion Questions

1. In all Erin Hunter books, the animals use different words for things than we do as people. In *Survivors*, “longpaws” are humans, “loudcages” are cars, and “the Big Growl” refers to the earthquake. Why do you think Erin Hunter does this when she sets the scene for a story told from an animal’s perspective?
2. Lucky wrestles with the question of staying true to his Lone Dog nature versus sticking with his new friends in a Pack. What are the pros and cons of each? Why is this question of independence versus dependence on others so important to him? Do you ever wrestle with a version of this question in your life?
3. Why do the Leashed Dogs that Lucky befriends insist on taking something of their longpaws’ with them when they leave their homes? Why doesn’t Lucky understand their connection to their longpaws? Do you feel like you are more on the side of the Leashed Dogs or Lucky the Lone Dog on this issue? If you were a Leashed Dog, what would be the item you would hold on to for as long as you could?
4. The Leashed Dogs are all different breeds of dogs. Which do you think has the advantage of surviving in the wild? Small and quick or large and powerful? Which dog do you think will end up being the most important member of the Pack when it comes to their survival in the wild?
5. Why do you think longpaws haven’t returned to the city? Do you think the longpaws will ever return for their dogs? And do you think the dogs will want to return to living a Leashed Dog life?
6. Were you happy that Erin Hunter wrote a series about dogs? What other kinds of animals do you think deserve their own series? Think about what each series might be about based on that animal and share your ideas!
7. Lucky’s mother talked about the Storm of Dogs when Lucky and Bella were just pups, and Lucky believes it might happen soon. What do you think the Storm of Dogs will be?



The time has come for dogs to rule the wild. In the aftermath of the Big Growl, a Lone Dog named Lucky must figure out how to survive.



Get Creative

1. Warriors, Seekers, and Survivors were written by authors who collaborated on the stories. Arrange for your students to collaborate on writing a story by breaking them into small groups. Within each group, students should take turns adding a sentence to a story to see where it leads. At the end, each group should read its story aloud to the class. (Writing)
2. Before *Survivors: The Empty City* was published, the publisher asked Erin Hunter fans to vote on the cover. Ask your students to find an image of the published book cover for their favorite book and then have them draw a new book cover. Remind students to include all the important information, such as book title and author; and have them consider adding a short description, a tagline, or even a quote from a review. Display the new covers beside the existing covers in your classroom. (Fine Arts)

Curriculum Connections

1. The Big Growl is what the dogs call a large earthquake that strikes the area. Ask students to research earthquakes: what they are, what places in the world are particularly prone to them, and historically disastrous earthquakes. If any of your students have lived through an earthquake, ask him or her to give a first-person account of what it was like! If you are in an area that could experience an earthquake, use this as a chance to discuss earthquake drills, preparedness kits, and safety tips. (Science, Health and Safety)
2. Lucky teaches the Leashed Dogs a lot about finding food and clean water in the wild. Consider inviting a naturalist, forest ranger, or scout leader to your class to teach students about survival in the wild. (Science)



Praise for Erin Hunter's Books!

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

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"Exciting." — *School Library Journal*

"Wild and wonderful adventure." — *Kirkus Reviews* (starred review)

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