

Grades 3-5

Book 2: September 24th – October 7th

***A Bear Named Trouble* by Marion Dane Bauer**

Clarion Books, © 2005.

In Marion Dane Bauer's book, *A Bear Named Trouble*, ten-year-old Jonathan and his father move to Anchorage, where his father is the new zookeeper. Jonathan loves animals and befriends a young, injured bear named Trouble who had broken into the zoo. After killing Mother Goose, the zoo's favorite attraction for children, Jonathan struggles with his grief for the goose and his anger with Trouble. Eventually, Jonathan understands Trouble's actions and plans a way to save the bear's life.

A Bear Named Trouble is based on a true story. Look through the St. Petersburg Times for a story about an animal in trouble (or a photograph). Write your own story idea with a similar theme to *Bear Named Trouble* and enter it in our Headlines Book Battle Contest. Go to <http://blogs.tampabay.com/bookbattle> and click on CONTESTS for more information.

Author on the Internet

<http://www.mariondanebauer.com>

Discussion questions

- Discuss how Jonathan and Trouble are both separated from their mothers and the consequences of those events.
- Should Jonathan be angry with Trouble for killing Mama Goose?
- Jonathan feels sorry for Trouble and he feeds him, just like you might feed a dog or a cat. Do you think this is a good idea? Do you think that Trouble is grateful for Jonathan's handout?
- Discuss why Jonathan changes his mind about Trouble being shot by the rangers. Why did he risk his life for the bear?

For more about spina bifida

Rhonda, Jonathan's little sister, has spina bifida. For more information about spina bifida, here is a fact sheet from the National Dissemination Center for Children with Disabilities: <http://www.nichcy.org/pubs/factshe/fs12txt.htm>

Visit the Alaska Zoo at <http://www.alaskazoo.org/>

Trouble now lives at the Lake Superior Zoo, Duluth, Minnesota
<http://www.lszoo.org/>

St. Petersburg Times story

Pulitzer prize winning reporter Tome French has written a powerful story about two of the most loved animals who ever lived at the Lowry Park Zoo. Like Marion Dane Bauer's *A Bear Named Trouble*, this story goes behind the scenes at a zoo and studies the circle of life that can be as painful and it is beautiful.

ELEGY FOR THE KING AND QUEEN

Author: THOMAS FRENCH

Date: Oct 1, 2006

Read online at <http://tinyurl.com/272js4/>.

Summary

The queen's name was Enshalla. She was a Sumatran tiger, among the last to walk this planet.

The king's name was Herman. He was the alpha male of the zoo's chimpanzee group.

Now both are gone, killed in the summer of 2006 in two violent incidents that have shocked the community and left the staff at Lowry Park reeling.

Inside any zoo, death is part of the daily fabric. Rabbits disappear down the digestive tracts of reticulated pythons. Seahorses give birth to dozens of offspring, most of whom perish when they're still just specks in the water.

The losses of Herman and Enshalla hit much harder. They had names and undeniable personalities. In the vernacular of zookeeping, they were charismatic mammals - easily among the most beloved in the zoo's five-decade history.

Their deaths have been followed by a chorus of accusations and investigations and another round of the endless debate about the ethics of placing animals on display, even in the name of conservation.

Lost in the clamor are Herman and Enshalla themselves. Their surprising histories. Their habits and quirks. The complexity of their relationships with others of their species, and with the humans who watched over them.

How they lived and how they died.