

## Seree's Story

By Irma Gold & Illustrated by Wayne Harris

Publisher: Walker Books

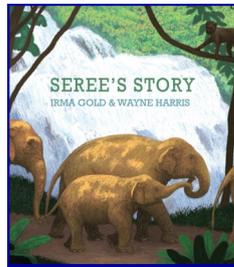
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An uplifting and thought-provoking tale about elephant conservation.

When they came, the herd scattered in fright, their trumpeting calls shattering the morning. Seree and her mother were cornered.

Life in the jungle was good for young Seree and her mother until the day poachers come. Separated from her mother and the life she knows, Seree is taken to work in a circus. Forced to perform every day and spend each night in chains, Seree longs to be with the herd and reunited with her mother. Will she ever be free?



Teacher Notes have been based on those supplied by the publisher. A full version is available on our website.

### Themes:

- Conservation
- Animal welfare
- Resilience
- Hope

### Discussion Questions & Activities:

- What did you feel while reading the book? Which parts of the story made you feel most emotional?
- The attitude and actions towards animals in captivity can be confronting or upsetting to see and read about. Do you think it's important for us to know and understand how animals are being treated like this? Why or why not?
- Asian elephants are an endangered species. What does this mean? As a class, discuss the concepts of extinction and what is being done to try and stop Asian elephants becoming extinct.
- Where do you think the kind people who save Seree were from? Investigate more ways humans can help and protect Asian elephants and compile a list of organisations that support them. Choose one of these organisations, and write letter of encouragement to them. What things can you do to help?
- Were you surprised to learn how elephants form such close family connections? Why or why not?
- Discuss the words "hope" and "resilience". What do they mean? How are they demonstrated in *Seree's Story*?
- How does Seree keep the memories of her mother and her herd close to her? Why is this so important?
- Choose one of the spreads and have a class discussion about the following:
  - ◇ How do you think Seree is feeling? What clues might there be in the pictures?
  - ◇ Is there a main colour in this spread? How does it make you feel?
  - ◇ Do the colours change from spread to spread? Why might that be?
  - ◇ Do the pictures take up the whole page, or are they framed?
  - ◇ How do things close up look different to things in the picture that are far away?
  - ◇ How do the illustrations add to the story? How would the story be different if there were no illustrations?
- Look at the colours the illustrator, Wayne Harris, has used in *Seree's Story*. Why do you think he chose to use these colours? Do they accurately represent the environment that Asian elephants live in?
- Create a soundscape for the book using either recorded sounds found online, or sounds that you create yourself. Choose sounds that capture the mood of the story.
- Some stories have a moral, which means the story is trying to teach the reader a lesson. What is the moral of this story? Is there more than one? Do you know any other stories that have a moral?