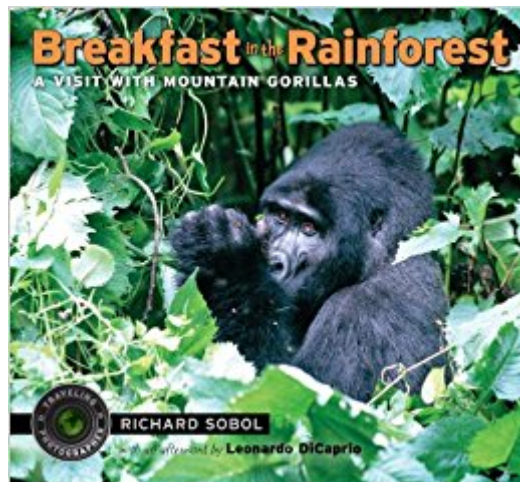




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Breakfast In The Rainforest: A Visit With Mountain Gorillas (Traveling Photographer)



Synopsis

"First in a planned Traveling Photographer series, this will delight armchair explorers and animal lovers." —KIRKUS REVIEW
A SMITHSONIAN Notable Book for Children
Powerful but shy, the African mountain gorilla struggles for survival in the rainforests of Uganda's national parks. Through extraordinary images and a compelling text, wildlife photographer Richard Sobol leads us on an arduous journey to the gorillas' hidden habitats and offers a hushed, close-up look at the gentle giants as they nibble on leaves for their morning meal. Striking photographs of the little-seen ritual remind readers of the wonders of this dwindling species, while a first-person narrative describes the photographer's journey and tells of efforts being made to preserve these magnificent creatures.

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 1180L (What's this?)

Series: Traveling Photographer

Paperback: 48 pages

Publisher: Candlewick; Reprint edition (August 24, 2010)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0763651346

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Shipping Weight: 7.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 stars 3 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #975,294 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #34 in Books > Travel > Africa > Rwanda & Uganda #409 in Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Explore the World > Africa #650 in Books > Children's Books > Animals > Apes & Monkeys

Age Range: 6 - 9 years

Grade Level: 1 - 4

Customer Reviews

Grade 3 — Sobol takes readers along on his journey to central Africa in search of mountain gorillas. As he prepares for his encounter, he shares what he has learned about this critically endangered species. He weaves facts about their daily lives and social structure into his account. His photos of the people and landscapes near Bwindi National Park reveal the close proximity of human fields and villages to the mountainous area where the 650 gorillas live. Guided

by park rangers who strictly limit visitor access to the gorilla area, Sobol slips on muddy paths, crawls over logs, and battles dense brush to find the huge creatures eating their leafy breakfast. His photos and commentary offer insightful observations of old and young gorillas on the ground and in the trees. He explains the photography techniques he used to capture various images. War, diseases, poaching, and habitat loss threaten the mountain gorillas, which cannot survive in captivity. The naturalist's admiration for the animals and the people working to protect them provides a personal perspective, which complements other titles that offer more straightforward, factual presentations. --Kathy Piehl, Minnesota State University, Mankato Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Wildlife photographer Richard Sobol begins this chronicle of his journey to Uganda to photograph the mountain gorilla by discussing the initial research he did to prepare for the trip and the making of travel arrangements. But the majority of the book centers on Sobol's first-person account of the actual expedition to the mountainous rain forest to observe this creature in its natural habitat, as well as what he learned regarding mountain-gorilla conservation efforts. Remarkable and well-captioned full-color photographs abound, often two or three per two-page spread. While it is likely young students will wish for more up-close photos of the gorillas themselves, Sobol has included enough shots of the land and people of this area to make readers feel a part of the trip. An afterword by actor Leonardo DiCaprio encourages students to be aware of the risks to mountain gorillas. Although there is no index, a brief list of mountain-gorilla facts, glossary, and useful Web sites conclude. Grades 2-4. --Shauna Yusko --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

If you are planning to go see the gorillas, as I am, this book has a wealth of practical information and pictures. It is listed as a children's book but it is much more than that, it will prepare you for the trip, how to take those pictures, and what to expect.

I work at the zoo with the Apes. I am always looking for something on DVD or in book form to donate for our silent auction every year.

Reason for Reading: I am reading the author's entire backlist with my son and discussing the life of a photographer/photojournalist as a career option while doing so. This is the first book in the author's

"Traveling Photographer" series and the one we least enjoyed. For a book about gorillas it takes until well past the middle of the book for a gorilla to be seen. This caused my son to lose interest in the narrative, which I found to be interesting but hardly that entertaining. Sobol certainly talks about the mountain gorillas a lot giving the reader plenty of information and we are led with him through his uncomfortable trip through the rainforest to find them; with lots of pictures of his guides in the rainforest and panoramic views of the scenery. The pictures near the end of the book when we finally meet the gorillas have been laid out in photo album/scrapbook style with brief captions so as not to take away from the photos themselves. This is a unique visual presentation, especially since by this time the reader is more than ready to see a gorilla. Overall, an interesting book, which I found more to my liking than did my son, who lost interest quite early, even though he does like gorillas. The other thing that perplexed me was the afterward by Leonardo DiCaprio. It's content is a repetition of the mountain gorilla's need for conserving its species (found in the book) and then reads like an advertisement for the book. There is no call for this afterward and that it is written by an actor hardly adds credibility.

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