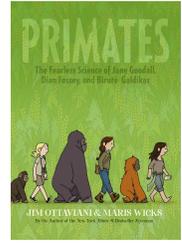


PRIMATES – READING GROUP GUIDE



About the Book:

Jim Ottaviani returns with an action-packed account of the three greatest primatologists of the last century: Jane Goodall, Dian Fossey, and Biruté Galdikas. These three groundbreaking researchers were all students of the great Louis Leakey, and each made profound contributions to primatology—and to our own understanding of ourselves.

Tackling Goodall, Fossey, and Galdikas in turn, and covering the highlights of their respective careers, *Primates* is an accessible, entertaining, and informative look at the field of primatology and at the lives of three of the most remarkable women scientists of the twentieth century.

For Discussion:

Primates is a graphic novel, a story told in words and pictures. How do you think this story would be told differently if it were just pictures or just words?

This graphic novel is a nonfiction biography. How do you think the addition of pictures changes a nonfiction story? Can a book truly be nonfiction – an accurate accounting of events occurring in the past – when it’s told with illustrations?

Maris Wicks’ art style is simple, cartoony, and representational. What effect do you think this has on the story? Would *Primates* be different if it was drawn in a more realistic style?

Jane Goodall, Dian Fossey, and Biruté Galdikas are all women, working in the primarily male-dominated field of science. How did that affect their careers and their lives?

Biographies can never be complete – both because authors can’t know everything that happened (they weren’t there) and because it’s impossible to include everything (what was the person dreaming, what did they have for breakfast?). What parts of the work and lives of these three primatologists that were not included in this graphic novel would you have liked to see in the book?

How do you feel about the accuracy of biographies knowing that they can’t include everything – and that they therefore always have a bias?

Though Jane, Dian, and Biruté are all primatologists, their lives and work habits are very different. Who do you feel you most resemble, and why?

Environmentalism is very important to Jane, Dian, and Birute. How do they each work to support the environment and the primates they work with? Do you think environmentalism is important?