

Name _____

Date _____ Class _____

8 *Through a Window:* My Thirty Years with the Chimpanzees of Gombe —Jane Goodall

Synopsis

In 1960, Jane Goodall was sent to Tanzania to study chimpanzees. It was hoped that her observations would provide humans with a better understanding of their closest relatives. What evolved from that mission was a 30-year study of a chimpanzee community in Gombe.

In an effort to share her experiences with the layperson, Jane Goodall wrote two nonfiction texts about the years she spent with the chimpanzees at Gombe. The first text, *In the Shadow of Man*, tells the story of the author's first 10 years at Gombe. Its sequel, *Through a Window: My Thirty Years with the Chimpanzees of Gombe*, explores Goodall's last 20 years of research. The text chronicles the life of a community of chimpanzees. It describes the social interactions of its members, their search for power and love, and the relationships between parents and offspring. The text provides the reader with a firsthand glimpse of animal behavior. It is the author's hope that this insight will facilitate a deeper understanding of human behavior among her readers.

Student Focus

You should pay close attention to the methods of scientific inquiry employed by the author and her researchers. It should be noted that Jane Goodall took great care in preserving the authenticity of the natural domain of the chimpanzees' habitat. She continually tried to make sure that the chimpanzee community was unaffected by the presence of humans. Goodall wanted to observe the animals' behavior as they would behave if they were completely alone, without human influence. You should think about this idea by considering both sides of the issue. Is it possible to conduct field research and leave the observed natural domain unaltered? Under what conditions might it be possible to be present in an animal's environment and not alter its behavior?

Correlation to Subject Matter

Evolution, Genetics, Animal Behavior, Endangered Species, and Environmental Education