**Threatened**

**AUTHOR:** Eliot Schrafer  
**PUBLISHER:** Scholastic  
**COPYRIGHT:** 2014  
**GENRE:** Action Adventure  
**SETTING:** The setting is the Gabon jungle.

**SUMMARY:**  
As an orphan in Gabon, Luc has always called the chimpanzees in the jungle “Mock Men”. When he is rescued from his poverty by a professor coming to the jungle to study the chimps, Luc not only learns about chimps but also about his own survival.

**BOOK TALK:**  
Luc is a pretty tough orphan, living on the streets in Gabon and wiping glasses at a bar to make the meager coins needed to try to pay off the debts left by his dead mother. When he helps a professor carry his case for a few extra coins, a way out of his debt develops. The professor hires Luc to be his assistant and help with a study of chimpanzees in the jungle. Luc makes such a strong connection with the chimps that he almost becomes part of the troupe. He continues the study even after the professor mysteriously disappears.

**BOOK TRAILER/AUTHOR READS:**  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZpaTUux6GDU](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZpaTUux6GDU) from Detroit Public TV

**AUTHOR’S BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH:**  
**AUTHOR’S NAME:** Eliot Schrefer  
Author’s Website: [http://www.eliotschrefer.com](http://www.eliotschrefer.com)

**OTHER BOOKS WRITTEN BY THE AUTHOR:**

- *Endangered*
- *The Deadly Sister*
- *The School for Dangerous Girls*
- *Immortal Guardians*
- *Rise and Fall*
- *The Immortal Guardians*

**SIMILAR BOOKS/BOOKS WITH A SIMILAR THEME:**

- *Zoobreak* by Gordon Korman
- *Dream of Night* by Heather Henson
- *Jackie’s Wild Seattle* by Will Hobbs
DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:
1. Does saving wild animals justify the use of counterfeit money and cheating local people?
2. What can we do to help children such as Luc, who are orphaned by AIDS? (See organization references in the back of the book.)
3. Would you be able to survive in the jungle? Why or why not?
4. Do you think the professor was a real professor? Or was he “counterfeiting” his education? Why or why not? Can you cite evidence from the text?

ACTIVITIES WITH STANDARDS:
Language Arts and Science

- **Endangered Species Research**
  Students may research a variety of endangered species. Examine traits of individuals within a population of organisms that may give them an advantage in survival and reproduction in given environments or when the environments change. Present findings, citing ways that the endangered animals’ traits give them survival advantages and/or disadvantages.

  **Language Arts/Science**
  **The Research Process: Finding, Assessing, Synthesizing, and Reporting Information**
  **8.W.5** Conduct short research assignments and tasks to build knowledge about the research process and the topic under study.
  Formulate a research question.
  Gather relevant information from multiple sources, using search terms effectively, and annotate sources.
  Assess the credibility and accuracy of each source.
  Quote or paraphrase the information and conclusions of others.
  Avoid plagiarism and follow a standard format for citation.
  Present information, choosing from a variety of formats.

  **SCI.8.3.9 2010**
  Describe the effect of environmental changes on populations of organisms when their adaptive characteristics put them at a disadvantage for survival. Describe how extinction of a species can ultimately result from a disadvantage.
Compare and Contrast Scientists and Their Research
(Submitted by Cindy Newton, YHBA Middle Grades Chair)
Create three groups of students who will read about one of the main characters in the graphic novel *Primates: The Fearless Science of Jane Goodall, Dian Fossey, and Birute Galdikas*, written by Jim Ottavani.
http://us.macmillan.com/primates/jimottaviani

Students will compare and contrast these three female scientists, focusing on these topics:
* Primate studied
* Geographical location
* Research conducted
* Funding for the research
* Length of time spent in the field
* and living conditions in the field

Using these same topics, then compare and contrast these findings to the fictional account in *Threatened*. How realistic was *Threatened*? Cite evidence from the test to support your conclusions.

**Science**
6-8.LST.4.2: Distinguish among facts, reasoned judgment based on research findings, and speculation in a text.

6-8.LST.4.3: Compare and contrast the information gained from experiments, simulations, video, or multimedia sources with that gained from reading a text on the same topic.

6-8.LST.7.3: Draw evidence from informational texts to support analysis, reflection, and research.

**RELATED INTERNET SITES:**
Gabon:

Chimps:

http://wwf.panda.org/what_we_do/endangered_species/great_apes/chimpanzees/
Chimp research in Gabon:
http://www.eva.mpg.de/primat/research-groups/chimpanzees/field-sites/loango-ape-project.html

Challenging Words

Galabia (p. 31)
safari (Swahili meaning) (p.33)
corrugated (p. 34)
taqiyah (p. 38)
pirogue (p. 38)
tributary (p. 39)
camouflaged (p. 39)