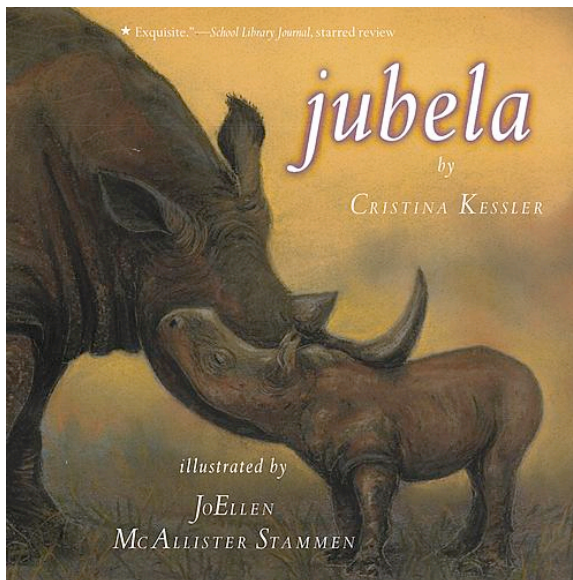
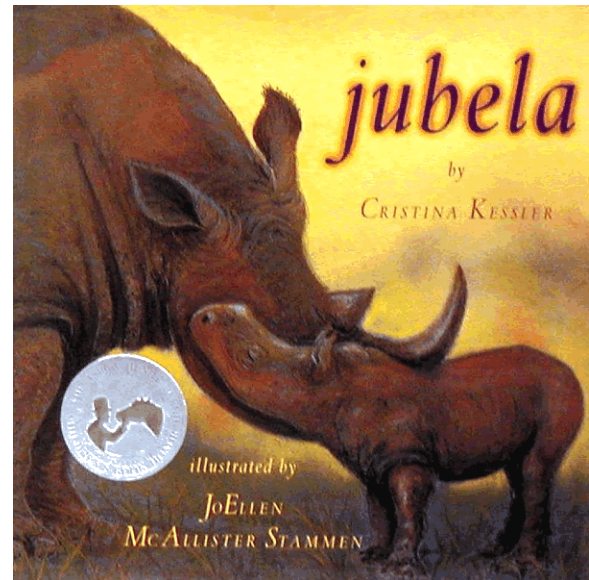
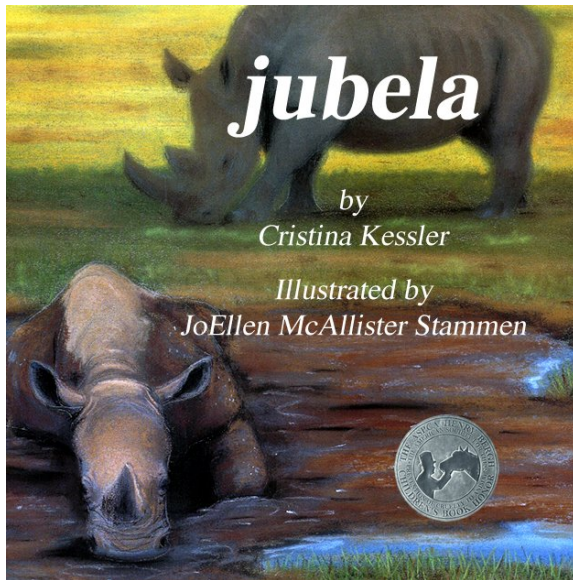




**Cristina Kessler**  
*Learning with the Books*  
Jubela



## **Parent-Teacher Guide**

### **JUBELA**

<https://www.cristinakessler.com/product/jubela/>



Jubela is a book very close to my heart. I met this beautiful white rhino as a baby, three days before his mother was killed by poachers, in what was called Swaziland in 1993. Today Swaziland is known as eSwatini, and the same king I have met three times is still in power, King Mswati III. The biggest threat rhinos face is extinction.

Their numbers are plummeting due to the age-old problem of poachers. At present it is estimated that there are approximately 30,000 rhinos left in the world. In Africa they estimate 5,500 black rhinos and 20,000 white rhinos still exist. But those numbers change daily.

### **1. Rhino Facts:**

1. There are five types of rhino: White, Greater-Horned, Black, Sumatran and Javan.
2. Four of the five are listed as endangered.
3. Rhinos are poached for their horns, which are made of keratin, just like our nails and hair.
4. Asia is the main market, mainly China and Viet Nam.
5. They believe they have medicinal powers for a variety of things, like curing cancer or longevity. They don't have any medicinal properties.
6. They are listed as Near Threatened, which is better than endangered. 98% of the remaining 20,000 white rhinos live in Kenya, Zimbabwe, Namibia and South Africa.



## **2. White Rhinos Facts:**

1. They are the largest of rhinos and are also called the square-lipped rhino with a heavy head. They are grazers.
2. Lifespan is 40-50 years.
3. They can run up to 50 miles per hour.
4. Males weigh up to 5,000 pounds. (@300 kilos)
5. Females weigh up to 3,700 pounds. (@1700 kilos)
6. They have two horns, with the long horn in front.
7. Males grow up to 5 feet tall at the shoulder, females grow to 4 and a half feet.
8. They gestate for 16 months and give birth every 2-3 years.
9. Rhinos biggest threat are humans.

## **3. Discussion Topics:**

- Why do rhinos love the mud?
- What does Jubela do all day after his mother is shot?
- What other animals live on the African plains?
- Who saves Jubela?
- Do you know what adoption is?
- Were you happy when the old matriarch came to Jubela's rescue?



- What did she teach him?
- What does Jubela mean in the language of Siswati?
- Why did the rangers name him that?
- Have you ever seen a rhino?

In 2019 I visited Eswatini and actually saw Jubela who is an adult now. To protect him from poachers he has 24-hour guards that travel with him day and night. Thanks to Ted Reilly, the father of conservation in Eswatini, anti-poaching squads keep the remaining rhinos safer.

On one of my many visiting author trips I once met a little girl in Niger who told me, “I don’t like Jubela because it’s too sad.” I told her, “Actually it’s a true survival story and shows how brave Jubela is.”

The next day she stayed after school to tell me, “I love Jubela! He’s a survivor!”

