



# Wildlife Heroes: The Story of Joy and George Adamson

*Jack Roberts*

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On March 3, 1980, the world woke up to shocking news. Animal rights activist Joy Adamson was found dead near her camp in Kenya, a country in East Africa. The first reports of Joy's death were both shocking and frightening. Newspapers around the world said Joy had been attacked by a lion — by an animal she loved most in the world. But those reports later proved to be wrong! What doctors discovered was even more shocking. They determined Joy had not been killed by a lion, but by a human. She had been brutally murdered! She was 69 years old. *Wildlife Heroes* tells the story of Joy Adamson and her husband George. They are two of the most famous wildlife conservationists in the world. For more than 40 years of their adult lives, they lived and worked in the African bush in the Northern Province of Kenya. They raised orphaned lion cubs (and other wild animals) and helped return them to the wild once the animals had matured. None of the experts thought that was possible. But Joy and George proved them wrong. The couple went on to become wildlife superstars in 1960. That's when Joy published her first book *Born Free*. In that book, Joy tells about raising a lion cub named Elsa. She also tells about the difficulties of helping Elsa return to the wild. For Joy and George, life in the wild was never easy. They were attacked by wild animals, threatened by poachers, and infected with malaria. They suffered broken bones and broken hearts. But never broken spirits! Their story is one of thrilling adventure, devastating heartbreak, and ultimately enormous triumph. They brought awareness of the importance of wild animals to people everywhere. Once asked why he did what he did, George answered simply, "To give the lions a chance of a decent life." For helping to change the way people throughout the world think about wild animals and their place in the world, Joy and George Adamson will forever be remembered as wildlife heroes.

This easy-to-read biography is one of a series of Common Core Biographies for Young Readers, published by Curious Kids Press. It features Think About It questions at the end of each chapter that are aligned with Common Core objectives for reading informational texts. In addition, the text includes key vocabulary words linked to a back-of-the-book glossary and a timeline. For more information, contact [info@curiouskidspress.com](mailto:info@curiouskidspress.com)

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