

Not Norman

by Kelly Bennett

A sweet simple story about finding the good in something you didn't know you wanted.



Read

Before:

Introduce the book and tell the children a little bit about it. Follow that with a comment or question that is related to the story such as, *What would be some really good things about having a fish for a pet?* Encourage a discussion so the children can comment, ask questions, and express their feelings. Set the stage for listening by asking an "I wonder" statement based on the cover illustration.

- I wonder why this little goldfish is sad?

During:

Encourage the children to comment on the illustrations, ask questions, and predict what will happen next in the story. Children gain confidence and a sense of achievement through being able to correctly predict how a story will end. Point out "rare words" (e.g., those words that are not commonly used in every day conversation) and help the children relate the meaning in a way that makes sense to them.

Rare Words in *Not Norman*

- different: something else
- fin: part of a fish used for motion
- twitches: jerk slightly
- gunky: greasy stuff
- tuba: a low-pitched brass musical instrument
- maestro: an expert musician
- proper: correct
- practice: repeat something to get better
- glugs: a gurgling sound

After:

Discuss the story. Ask questions...

- What kind of pet did the boy want?
- What did Norman do that made the boy laugh?
- Why didn't the boy let the puppies eat Norman?
- Which pet is more exciting – a goldfish or a snake? Why?
- Would your Mom let you have a snake for a pet?
- How does the boy get Norman from place to place?
- What sound did Norman make when the boy was at his music lesson?
- Do you think fish sleep?
- What are some things that the boy realized he liked about Norman?
- Is a fish a good pet to have? Why?

Goldfish Craft

Materials needed:

- Construction paper
- Orange tissue paper
- Large wiggly eye
- Glue

Cut large goldfish shapes out of construction paper (white, yellow or orange work best). Cut small squares out of the orange tissue paper. Glue the tissue paper on to the goldfish shaped paper to cover the entire shape. Let the fish dry and add the wiggly eye!