

Norman's Gift by Michelle Olson
Teacher Guide

Written by Certified Teachers using National Standards

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Note: If your copy of Norman's Gift does not have page numbers, use *Post-it* notes on each page with the page numbers and your questions or comments as you read the book. This can be a study guide for older children or more efficient readers or use as a guide for you as you read the book to younger readers (or struggling readers).

For vocabulary development with older children or more efficient readers use context clues and other strategies to elicit meaning. If the student needs more assistance simply explain the meaning of the unfamiliar word.

Before reading the book ask the *overarching question*, "What do you notice about the cover? What do you think this book is about? As we read about Norman, I want you to notice how he is changing throughout the story.

Title page: Read the title of the book and author. Reinforce that this page tells who wrote the book, illustrated (drew the pictures) or in this case, used a camera to take a picture of the background and placed Norman in the picture.

The next page is called the *dedication page*. This is where the author thanks people for their encouragement while she was writing the book. This page also contains information about the company that published (or put the book together and printed it).

Read pages 3-5:

Vocabulary: What does "inseparable" mean? (cannot be taken apart)

What does the author mean when she writes "Norman was in stitches" or "Freddy was stuffed"?

How do Freddy and Norman feel about each other? What makes you think that?

Read pages 6-7

How do you think Freddy might feel about keeping his friend awake because of his snoring problem?

Vocabulary: What does "unbearable" mean? (cannot take it any longer)

Read pages 8-9

Why was Norman so worried about not having a gift for Freddy? Have you ever worried that a friend might not like a gift you have given them?

Read pages 10-13

Why do you think Norman thought a car would be a good gift?

Read pages 14-21

As you read these different gift ideas, stop and ask (*Prediction*) Do you think this will work? Why or why not?

Foreshadowing or brainstorming: "What clues did the author give you to determine Norman's next gift idea"?

Page 16: Have you ever purchased something and then regretted it later? Maybe the item wasn't what you thought it would be? How did that make you feel?

Page 18: Why did Norman decide to make Freddy a gift?

Page 21: What did the illustrator do to make the cake look disgusting?

Read pages 22-25

Page 25: Why was Norman trying so hard to get Freddy a Christmas present? What does that tell you about their friendship?

Why does Norman think that a scarf wouldn't be as good a gift as a car or phone?

Read pages 26-32

Page 27: What does the author mean when she writes "Norman was on pins and needles"? (on edge, anxiously awaiting)

After reading: Have you ever given someone special a Christmas or other gift? How did you decide what to get them?

How did the author teach you about friendship?