LET’S READ TOGETHER

In this story, a boy receives a pet goldfish as a present. Norman the goldfish isn’t what the boy has in mind. He wants a different kind of pet — one that can run and catch, or chase string and climb trees, a soft furry pet to sleep on his bed at night. Definitely not Norman. But, when he tries to trade Norman for a "good pet," things don’t go as he plans. As you read or listen to the story with your child, pay attention to why the boy changes his mind about having Norman as a pet.

LET’S TALK ABOUT NEW WORDS

Here are some words to talk about as you read or listen to Not Norman:

- maestro, conductor or leader of a band
- rescue, to save from danger
- tuba, a large brass instrument
- twitch, a quick movement
- goofy, silly
- disappointed, feeling sad because something you hoped for didn’t happen

LET’S PLAY

Care for Pets

In the story, the boy feeds Norman and cleans out his fishbowl. Explain that it takes a lot of work to take care of animals. Gather some props for pretend play, such as stuffed animals, small bowls, blankets, string for leashes, and cardboard boxes. Show your child the materials that are available for taking care of pets, and encourage them to take on a role as pet owner. Participate in the pretend play and follow your child’s lead. As the play continues, model language and engage your child in conversation related to taking care of pets. For example, you might say, “My dog is very hungry. I am so glad you are able to help me feed him. We can feed him together and then take him for a walk.”