

PICK A PERFECT PET

LEARN ABOUT

Children develop vocabulary as they describe their work and talk about owning a pet.

Not Norman: A Goldfish Story is a humorous tale about a child who finds a new friend in an unexpected place.

WHAT YOU'LL NEED

A copy of *Not Norman: A Goldfish Story*, by Kelly Bennett | Animal picture cards | Construction paper | Markers and/or crayons

In this activity, children select their perfect pet from a variety of illustrated picture cards, name the pet, and finish the sentence: *(pet's name), one amazing (type of pet)!*

WHAT YOU'LL DO



Preparation: Download and print one set of illustrated picture cards. | Mount cards on construction paper, if desired. | Set up writing materials as necessary to ensure they are accessible to children.

Introduction: In the beginning of the book, the little boy in *Not Norman* wanted the perfect pet. He wanted any pet but Norman. By the end of the story, he realizes Norman is one amazing fish. Show children the last page of the book, where the little boy is playing the tuba to Norman. Above Norman's aquarium is a sign that says, "*Norman, one amazing fish!*" Explain that today, children will have the opportunity to select a pet from the illustrated picture cards and draw their pet on construction paper. They will be able to name their pet and write at the top of the paper, *(pet's name), one amazing (type of pet)!* Invite the children to begin by selecting the piece of construction paper they will use and choosing a picture card for their pet.

HOW IT'S DONE

1

Introduce the illustrated picture cards to the children and allow children to select one picture card as their pet.



2

Encourage children to draw a version of the pet on their construction paper.



3

Invite children to complete the writing prompt at the top of the paper, (*pet's name*), *one amazing (type of pet)*! Provide help writing if requested. Accept scribble marks, if these are used.

4

Encourage children to write their name on the paper with a crayon and give children the option to display their work or take it home.



VOCABULARY LIST

Use these words and explanations in your conversations with children:

aquarium | a container in which fish and other water animals and plants can live

hamster | a small animal that is often kept as a pet

lizard | a very small animal that has four legs, a long body, and a tail

mouse | a very small animal that has a pointed nose and a long, thin tail

snail | a small animal that lives in a shell that it carries on its back, moves very slowly and can live in water or on land

snake | an animal that has a long, thin body and no arms or legs

turtle | an animal that lives mostly in water and has a hard shell which covers its body

TALKING TIPS

Talk with children about the animal they chose as their pet. Encourage children to tell you about their pet, and the details they include in their drawing. Ask questions to learn more about children's ideas, such as the pet's name, its favorite food, and what the child and pet would do together for fun.





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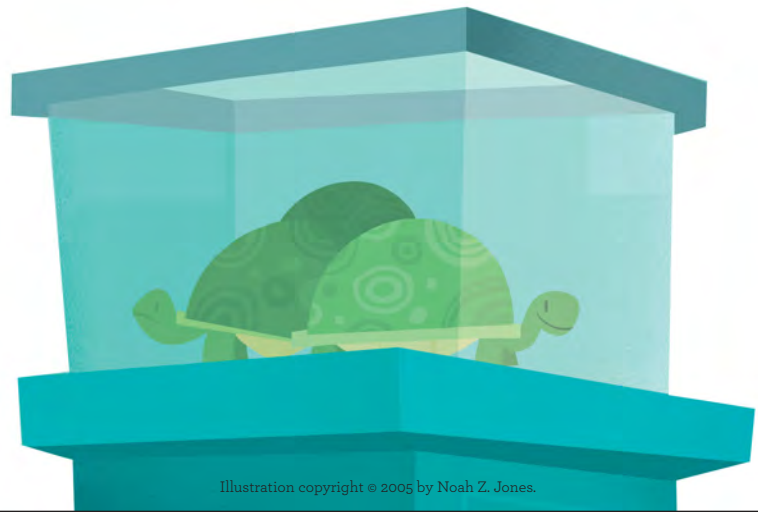


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