

Norton and the Bear

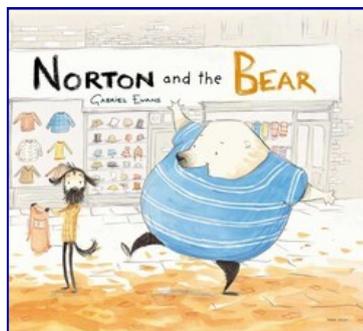
By Gabriel Evans

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Is imitation the sincerest form of flattery? Or is it just annoying? This irresistible read-aloud helps children deal with the sensitive topics of conformity, individuality and belonging in an accessible, kid-friendly way. Whether you're more like Norton or the bear, this story will show you that there's room for all kinds of creative expression.



Teacher Notes have been based on those supplied by the publisher. A full version is available on our website.

Themes:

- Conformity
- Individuality
- Clothing/personal style
- Personal boundaries
- Belonging
- Friendship
- Humour

Discussion Questions and Activities:

- Why does Norton like to dress differently? What does it make you think is important to him?
- Why does the bear like to copy Norton? Is copying okay or annoying or both? How do you feel when someone copies you?
- Do you think this story has a good ending? How else could this story have ended?
- Does it matter if Norton and the bear are dressed alike? Why or why not?
- Why do you think Norton feels bad after he shares his feelings with the bear? Do you think he should feel bad?
- Does this story remind you of situations in your own life? How so?
- What are personal boundaries? Is Norton good at setting boundaries? What personal boundary does Norton set with the bear? What happens when Norton tells the bear not to copy him, and to find his own style?
- How else could Norton have handled this situation, and how do you think the bear would have responded?
- What are some clever ways of setting personal boundaries?
- What do you do when someone crosses one of your boundaries?
- What do you do when someone gets upset with you for doing something they don't like? How does it make you feel?
- Younger siblings and pets often have trouble respecting others' personal boundaries. Can you think of some examples? Is this endearing or annoying? Or both?
- Even after Norton yells at the bear, the bear does something kind for him. Why do you think that is?
- Draw your own endpapers for Norton and the Bear, creating different tops Norton might enjoy wearing.
- Draw a unique-looking outfit for yourself. Something that represents your own personal style. Then swap your drawing with a partner and copy their drawing.
- Find a partner to role play Norton and the bear but instead of responding the way Norton did, find your own way to respond. Then switch roles.