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What is "normal?" That's the question an eager young scientist, narrating her very first book, hopes to answer. Unfortunately, her *exceedingly* "normal" subject—an orangutan named Norman—turns out to be exceptionally strange. He speaks English, sleeps in a bed, loves his stuffed toy, goes bananas over pizza, and even deep-sea dives! Oh, no: what's a "normal" scientist to do?

Normal Norman Details

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Author : Tara Lazar (Illustrations) , S. Britt (illustrator)

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From Reader Review Normal Norman for online ebook

Fredrick Danysh says

In this colorful children's book a young girl attempts to define normal using an ape named Norman. All her expectations are trashed as Norman does many unusual things and believes that so-called normal is weird. This delightful review copy was provided through Goodreads.com. The only drawback of my copy was that it was unbound.

Cory Shaw says

“Normal Norman” is a Beehive Book Award Nominee at my friendly neighborhood library, and rightfully so! “Normal Norman” is a fun, well written PB about what it means to be normal. I especially love the end, but I won’t give it away...

Michelle Eastman says

I thoroughly enjoyed this not-so-normal book! The illustrations complimented the story, and I love the retro feel. My ten year-old son especially liked that Norman has his own stuffed animal. The mix of text and dialog made it an entertaining book to read aloud. I have a feeling we'll be seeing more from Norman!

Heidi-Marie says

A little cheesy in its execution, with some bumps along the way that make storytime crowd a bit less appealing. But a lap-read would be OK, and a read-alone pretty good. There may have been some strong attempts at a lesson near the end that didn't work as well for me, yet I let it all go because the whole book (and that ending) are based on one of my all-time favorite quotes: "What is normal in this human world?" - Mr. DeLong, 8th grade science teacher. Some humor for me in Norman's reactions and comments.

Vera Godley says

Of course Norman is the main character and he is aptly brought to delicious life by the illustrator who has used the un-normal coloration of blueish-purple and golds to help Norman in his un-normal way to stand out.

I love the little girl scientist who is a first-time book narrator and "scientist" who is trying to define normal in her book. She is unidentified and is only, "I." (But let's get a shout-out and an encouraging nod to all the little girl would-be scientists and encourage the little girls to pursue the fields of STEM: Science, Technology, Education, and Mathematics.)

"I" our narrator is being graded by the head scientist who is an adult male with a beard . And in the end he gives "I" a passing grade because she recognizes that normal cannot be defined. Our little girl scientist goes about observing, recording, and drawing conclusions as she tries to define Normal Norman. (All a part of the

scientific process.)

Using this book, a teacher or parent can encourage children to recognize that which is normal to one individual or community might not be normal to another and that we are each valued individuals.

This is a charmingly engaging book with the illustrator using bold black lines and strong pastels for the art work. (Well, using pastels and strong in the same sentence seems to be un-normal, doesn't it?) I love the little girl. I love the big, lumbering gorilla in his purplish colors hugging his favorite stuffed critter. And I love the way the author encourages us to embrace the ordinary, the regular, the common everyday people and critters around us.

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Kim Norman says

Hilarious and so clever!

Matthew says

This was a cute story, one that addresses the idea that being normal is only a state of mind, and that it is anyone's guess what normal will be. Norman is supposed to be an example of what it means to be normal, but at every chance he demonstrates just how unique he is. Great for younger readers. Fun and easily understood.

Katya Szewczuk says

Okay parents and teachers, this is one book you do not, I mean, DO NOT want to miss. Jam-packed with science, fun facts and a friendship that is more "normal" than you would think it would be, Normal Norman has it all! But what is the definition of normal? Is there really one?

Author Tara Lazar, who I am more than honored to call my friend and a guest on KidLit TV's StoryMakers, has done it again with her marvelous picture book voice that is real, to the point and tells the reader a story that is not only relatable, but fun, mischievous and filled with love. The definition of normal is up to the reader to define, and this book embraces all the possibilities of what normal can truly be. Kids will love it. Parents will want to read it over and over again. It's the perfect gift for all ages, because we all have a bit of Normal Norman in all of us!

Carrie Charley Brown says

Definitely not normal. Extraordinary!

Brittany says

I won this book via a goodreads giveaway. I thought it was great and my kids loved it as well.

Sue Hodara says

Lazar's dedication at the beginning of the book sums it up perfectly: "To everyone who feels like they don't fit in. Stay different. You're unique and special."

In this day and age of shaming and bullying, "Norman" is an important book for parents, caretakers, and educators to share with young readers.

And though the lessons she imparts are valuable, Lazar eschews being didactic and delivers her message with ease. Her silly and whimsical text is complemented perfectly by Britt's colorful and zany illustrations.

A great read for kids and adults alike.

Margie says

We go about our days expecting certain things to stay true to a pattern. When they deviate, depending on the size of the difference, our reactions will vary accordingly. As an educator standing in the hallway each morning as the buses unload and students walk down the halls to lockers and classrooms, most of the gals and guys will be carrying a backpack and wearing clothing in keeping with the current weather, particular season, the latest fad and the dress code.

There is nothing quite so fine as seeing one student who stands out in the crowd looking like they are ready for spirit week when it's months away or has already passed. Their courage in expressing their individuality is a cause for cheering. That I smile at them in admiration is a given. Inside I am dancing with glee.

In *Normal Norman* (Sterling Children's Books, March 1, 2016) written by Tara Lazar with illustrations by S. Britt an orangutan is the object of intense scrutiny by a junior scientist, who also happens to be the narrator of the story. She is in pursuit of a theory. Step by meticulous step she is determined to complete her task.

My full recommendation: <http://librariansquest.blogspot.com/2...>

Deb (Readerbuzz) Nance says

Cybils nominee for best fiction picture book. More later.

Kid Lit Reviews says

Young children will quickly understand that most anything is normal; it all depends on the individual's likes and dislikes. While that is simplistic, for young children this definition of normal works. The bigger message for young children would be self-acceptance. In short: Be yourself, like yourself, and accept the same for others. Our individuality—our normal—is what makes each of us shine.

To Read the Full Review and View Interior Spreads, Go To: <http://bit.ly/NormalNorman>

Julie says

I LOVE THIS BOOK.

I've always felt like a weirdo, and been pretty fine with that. It's a hard thing to embrace, though. For so many of us, we just want to fit in. We just want to be normal. I remember, though, a few years ago, when we got a dog, and my son said, "We got a dog! Now we're normal!" and I burst out laughing. Like, it's going to take more than a dog to make us normal.

And also who wants to be "normal"? That sounds boring.

It's in the swirl of all these thoughts that I read and loved this book, with its examination of what exactly "normal" is, and it's lovable lab-coat-wearing narrator girl and super-huggable giant purple ape Norman. Lots of fun stuff to think about and talk about in this one, and, honestly, it's worth it just for the 5-minute break. Nothing gets kids quite as stirred up as telling them you're taking a break from reading **IN THE MIDDLE OF THE BOOK**, and shutting the book. Is a five-minute break in the middle of a book normal? No, it is not. Is this book normal? No, sir. It's **EXTRAnormal**. That's a word I just made up that means extraordinarily good.
