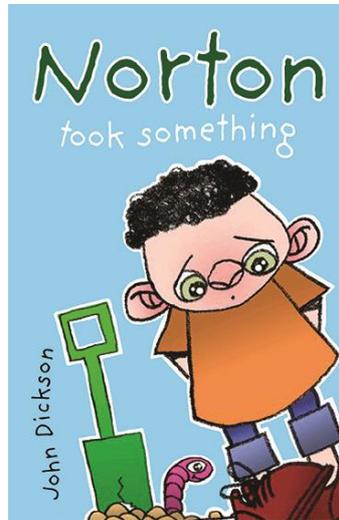


Teacher notes for *Norton Took Something*



SYNOPSIS

Norton Took Something written and illustrated by John Dickson

Norton covets a ‘thing’ owned by his sister. His desire for this [mysterious] object overwhelms him and he takes it. But the pleasure of having it is quickly dampened when he sees the results of what he has done. Norton goes through a period of anguished self-examination. He doesn’t know what to do, but knows he should do something. The solution comes from an unexpected source and is the right one.

THEMES

- Envy
- Embarrassment
- Self-reflection
- Courage
- Honesty
- Understanding
- Acceptance

AUTHOR MOTIVATION

This is a book aimed at early-readers. It provides the reader with a moral dilemma, then offers a way of solving it. The solution comes from an unlikely source [a mute toy] – a metaphor for Norton arriving there himself after some self-reflection. The language is not

always straightforward, and some concepts are unlikely, alerting the reader to different ways of expression.

AUTHOR/ILLUSTRATOR

John Dickson

John Dickson is a writer and illustrator by trade, a poet and painter by inclination and the lead singer of the Rolling Stones in his own mind.

STUDY NOTES

Why did Norton take the thing?

Why didn't the thing make him as happy as he expected it would?

When he saw April's reaction, why didn't he return it?

Why did Norton still feel bad even when April seemed to have forgotten about the thing?

Did Norton really think Nip or Whistle would be able to help him?

Did Lying Down Eddie really have the answer?

Why was it such a relief when dad knew what was going on?

Would April really be able to see around corners? Why did the author write it this way?

Why did the author say that Norton's voice left his face and climbed the apple tree?

Do hugs really work?