**NORMAN THE DOORMAN**

**Norman the Doorman**
by Don Freeman (Viking)
Themes: Humor/Ingenuity
Grade Level: K-2
Running Time: 15 minutes, iconographic

**Summary**

Norman The Doorman is the tale of a mouse who works as a doorman in the basement of an art museum. Norman provides tours of the artwork stored in the museum's basement for visiting mice.

In addition to being a doorman and tour guide, Norman also has a hobby. He loves to create artwork and spends his evenings working on paintings and sculptures. Norman also collects mouse traps and uses them for various art projects.

One day, Norman hears about a sculpture contest to be held in the museum. Norman has a wonderful idea! He decides to enter a sculpture he has created out of a mouse trap and wire---a mouse on a flying trapeze!

Much to his amazement, Norman wins the contest and is brought to meet the judges on the main floor of the museum by a museum guard. When the judges ask Norman what he would like as a prize, Norman asks for a tour of the museum, without fear of being caught, something he has always dreamed of. The story ends with Norman, a very satisfied mouse, returning to his job and his museum basement home.

**Objectives**

- Children will learn about art museums
- Children will explore creativity and ingenuity
- Children will investigate problem-solving techniques

**Before Viewing Activities**

Share the book Norman The Doorman with children. Talk with children about visits they have made to art museums. Ask: What kinds of things did you see there? What did you like most? Why? How did you feel inside the museum? What did you think about the people who created the artwork?

Tour the school's basement with children. As children look at the materials used to make the basement and objects stored there, and listen to the sounds they hear, talk about the differences between this space and the upper floors of the school. Also, have children describe the basements of their own homes, and the things their families store there.

**After Viewing Activities**

Tour an art museum with children. Encourage children to look closely at the art objects displayed and to pay particular attention to: the details of paintings and sculptures, the various mediums used to create the artwork, the ways the pieces of artwork are displayed, the ways the art pieces make them feel. When you return to the classroom, have children discuss their favorite pieces of artwork.

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