



Second Grade

ELA

GRADE 2 ELA ACTIVITY 2 – RESPONSIBILITY

A video lesson of a Knox County 2nd grade teacher that accompanies this text is available on KCS YouTube Channel and KCS TV.



In this text, your child will be looking for specific clues about:

TOPIC: Responsibility

ESSENTIAL QUESTION: What does it mean to be responsible?

DECODING: ph and gh



ph

phone



gh

laugh

trophy

dolphin

gopher

photo

telephone

laugh

enough

tough

rough

I Can Read!

Zack likes to sing funny songs. His pals pick songs that make him laugh. They phone him with laughter in their voices. They bring him stacks of songs with funny phrases.

Mom asks, "Is this a phase? Zack has a nice voice. Pretty songs are not tough to sing. Are funny songs the only thing Zack will sing?"

Zack says, "No, Mom. All kinds of songs bring me joy!" Mom now has a photograph of Zack singing pretty songs.

BUILDING BACKGROUND KNOWLEDGE:

- Ask your child what responsibility means. If they completed activity one, ask them what they learned about being responsible for doing a good job.
- Tell them as they read, they'll be looking closely to figure out how we can be responsible when we make a mistake. Students will learn that it's important to take responsibility for our mistakes.

READING THE TEXT: *The Signmaker's Assistant*

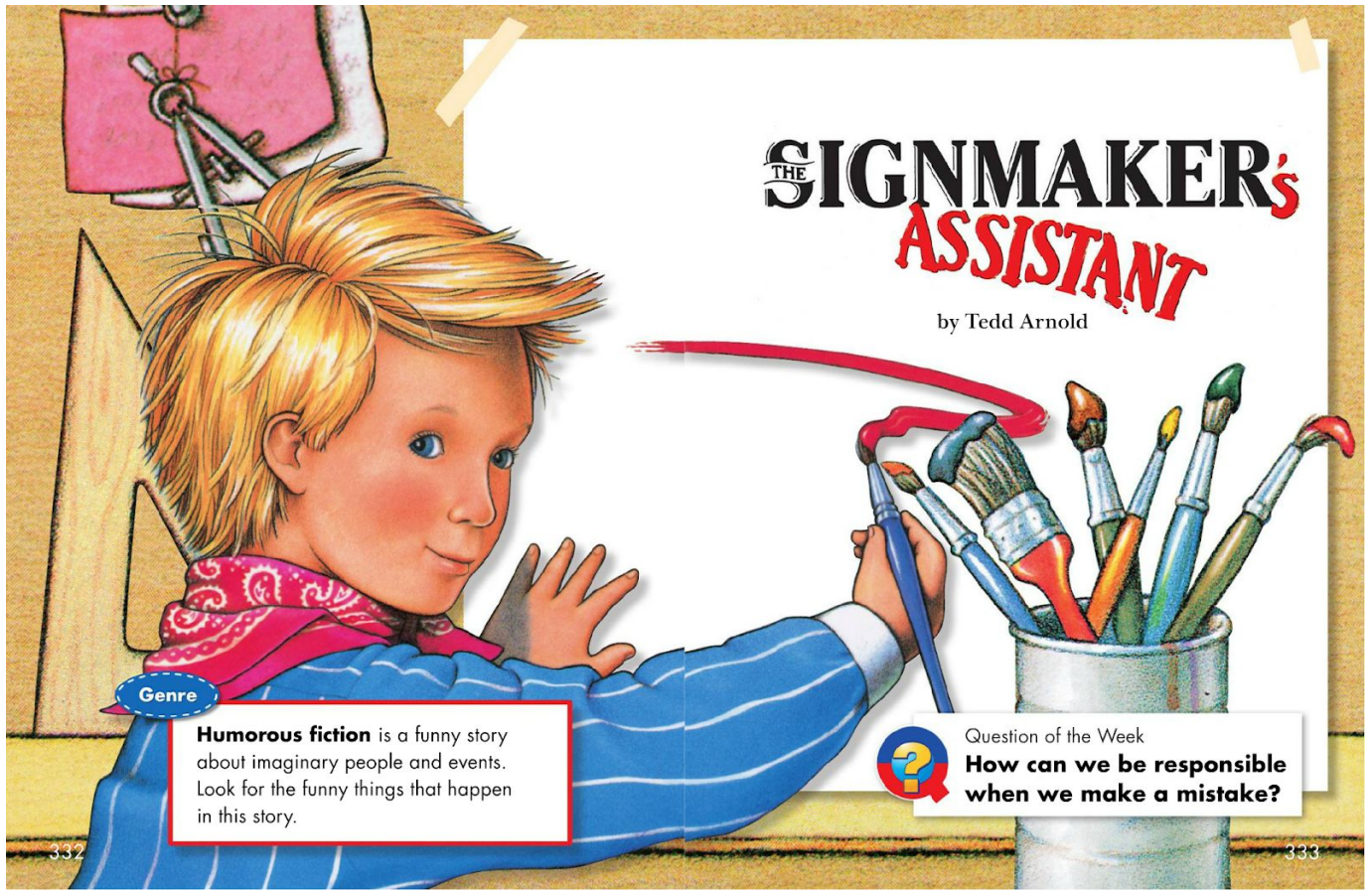
- You may choose to take turns reading the text with your child, read the text at the same time, or have your child read independently.

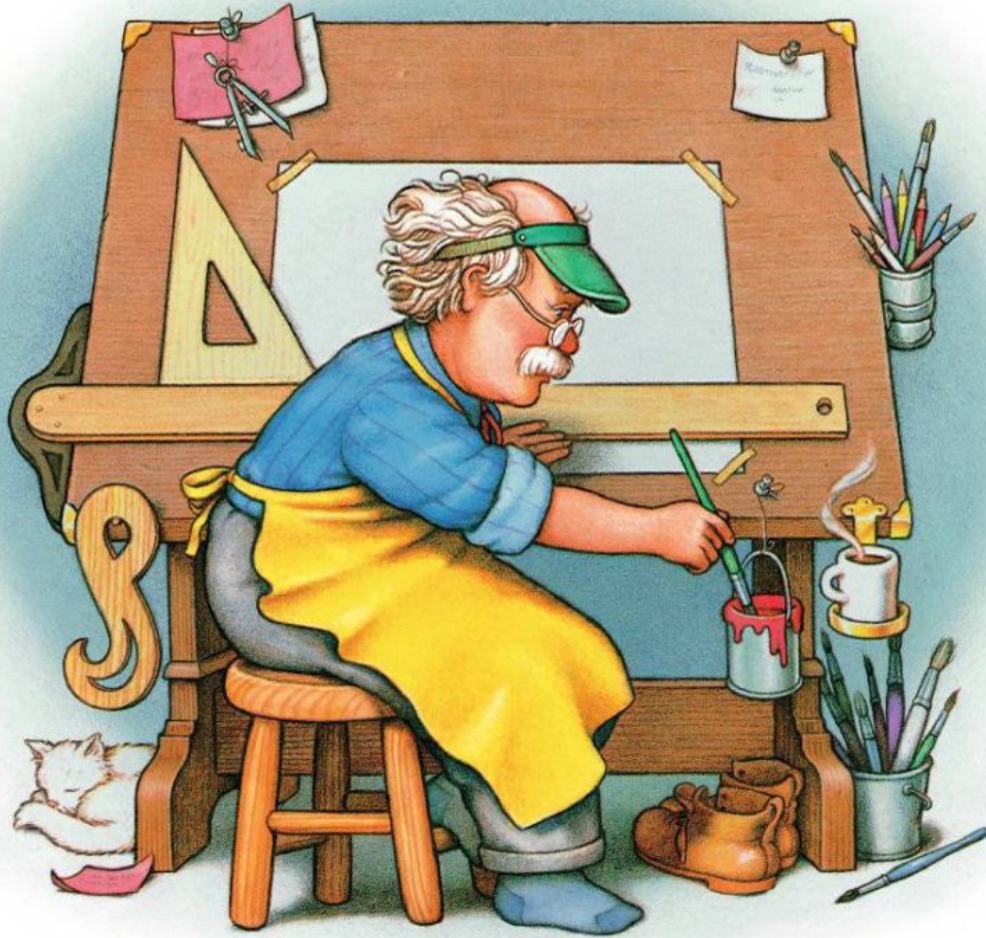
WRITE IN RESPONSE TO TEXT:

- TASK: How did Norman respond to the challenge of taking care of the signmaker's shop? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

EXTENSION:

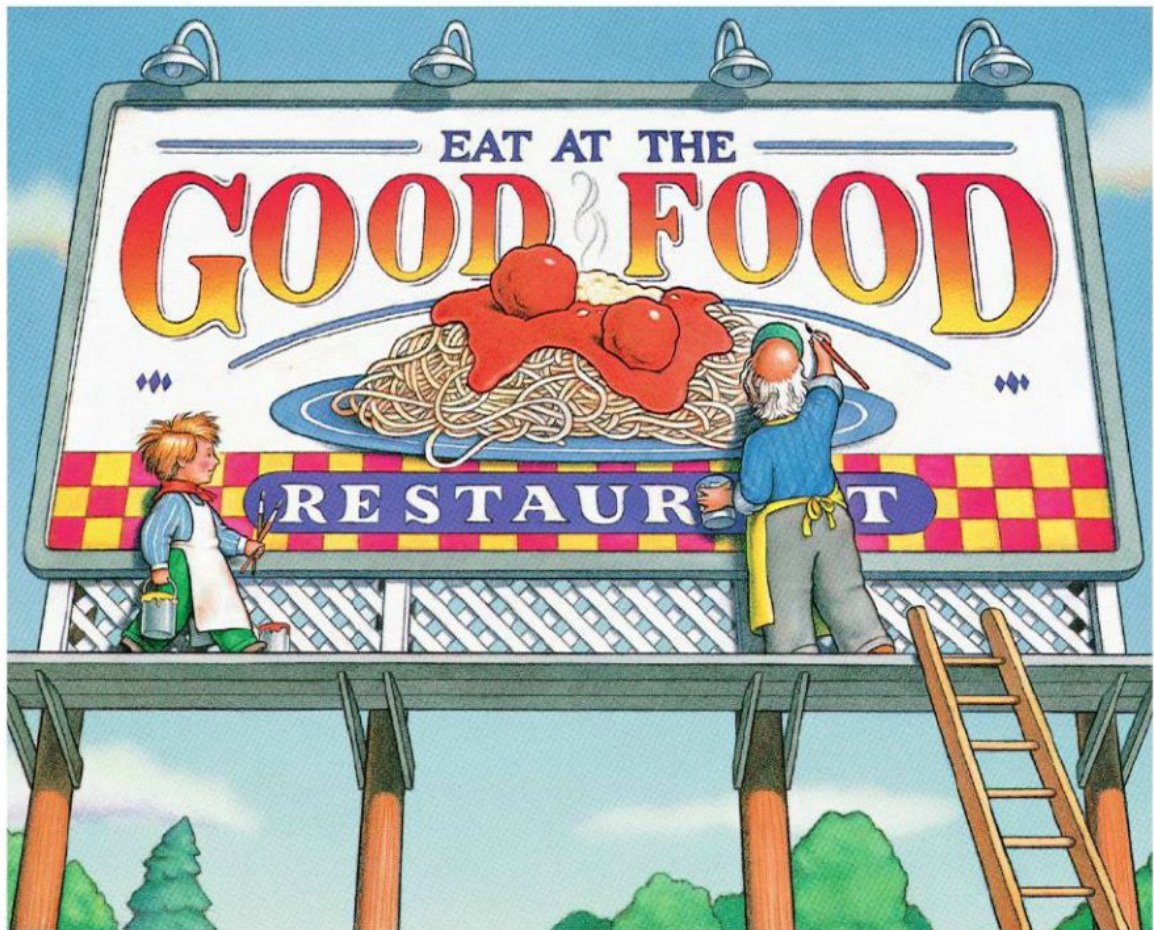
- Write an ending to the story. Make sure to include how Norman takes responsibility for his mistake.





Everyone in town agreed. The old **signmaker** did the finest work for miles around. Under his brush, ordinary letters became beautiful words—words of wisdom, words of warning, or words that simply said which door to use.

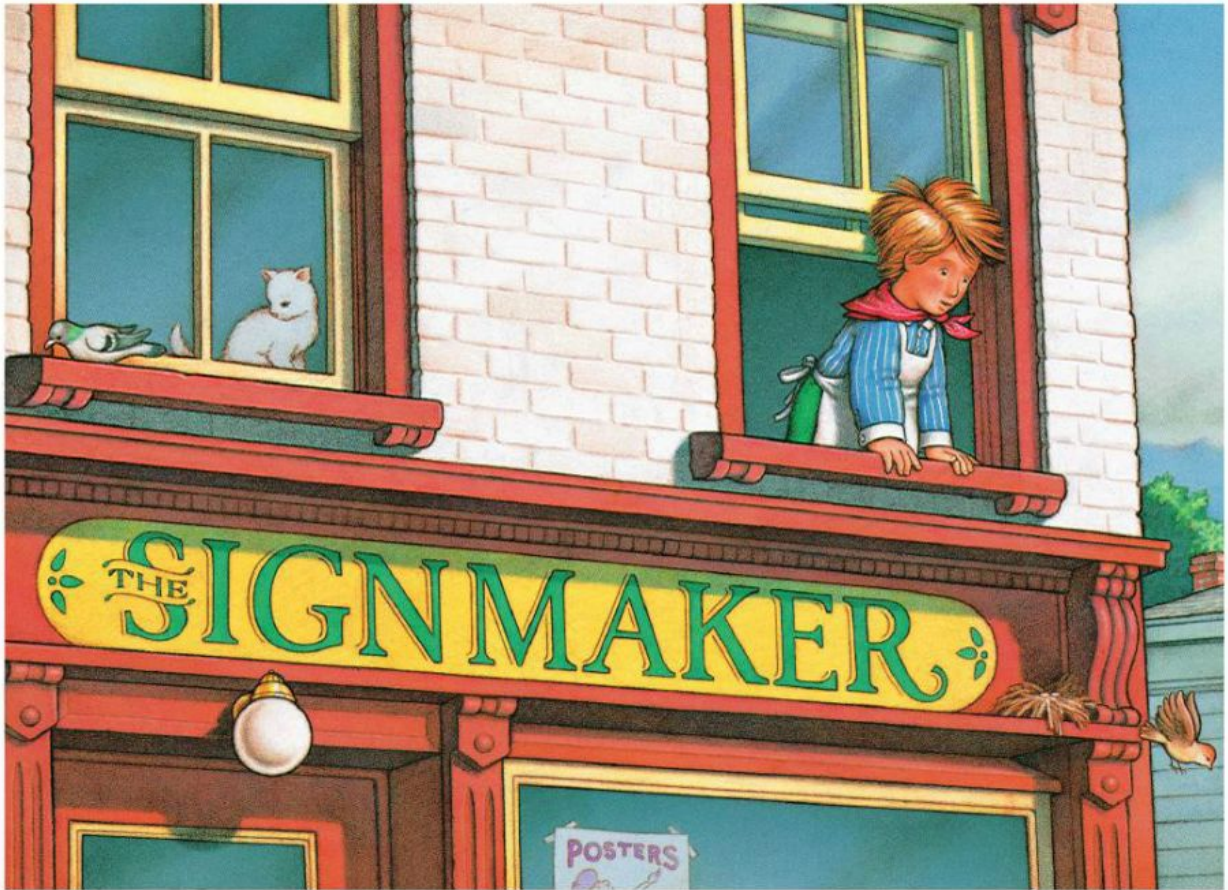
When he painted STOP, people stopped because the sign looked so **important**. When he painted PLEASE KEEP OFF THE GRASS, they kept off because the sign was polite and sensible. When he painted



GOOD FOOD, they just naturally became hungry.

People thanked the signmaker and paid him well. But the kind old man never failed to say, "I couldn't have done it without Norman's help."



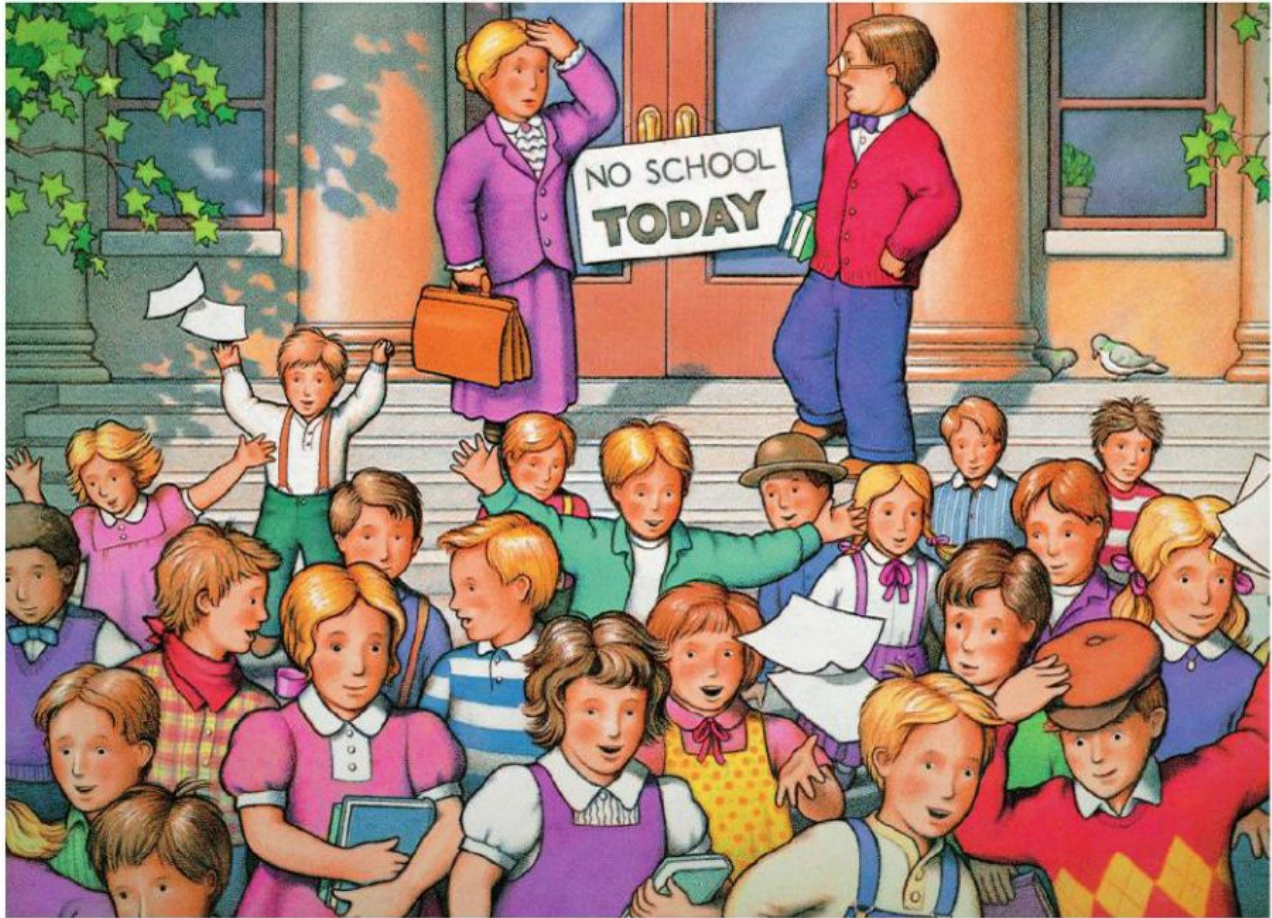


Norman was the signmaker's assistant. Each day after school he cut wood, mixed colors, and painted simple signs.

"Soon I will have a shop of my own," said Norman.

"Perhaps," answered the signmaker, "but not before you clean these brushes."

One day, after his work was done, Norman stood at a window over the sign shop and watched people. They stopped at the STOP sign. They entered at the ENTER sign. They ate under the GOOD FOOD sign.



“They do whatever the signs say!” said Norman to himself. “I wonder. . . .” He crept into the shop while the signmaker napped. With brush and board he painted a sign of his own.

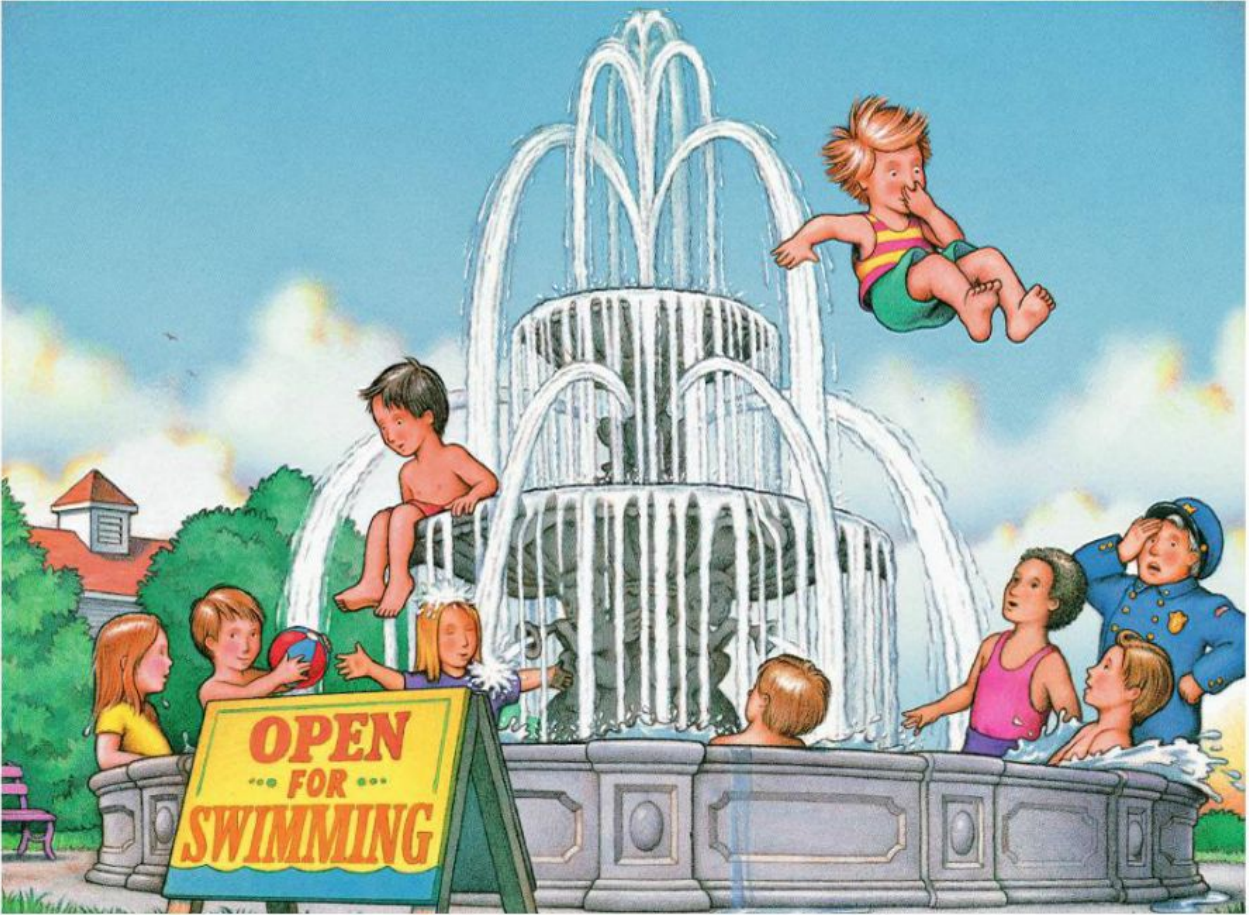
Early the next morning he put up the sign, then ran back to his window to watch.

“No school?” muttered the principal. “How could I forget such a thing?”

“No one informed me,” said the teacher.

“Hooray!” cheered the children, and everyone went home.

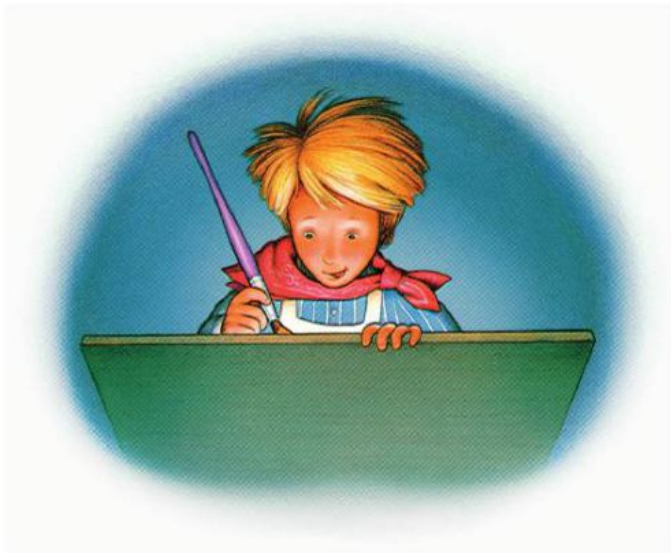




“This is great!” cried Norman. He looked around town for another **idea**. “Oh,” he said at last, “there is something I have always wanted to do.”

The following day Norman jumped from the top of the fountain in the park. As he swam, he thought to himself, *I can do lots of things with signs*. Ideas filled his head.

That **afternoon** when Norman went to work, the signmaker said, “I must drive to the next town and paint a large sign on a storefront. I’ll return tomorrow evening, so please lock up the shop tonight.”



As soon as the signmaker was gone, Norman started making signs. He painted for hours and hours and hours.

In the morning people discovered new signs all around town.

