



2018

Norman, Speak!

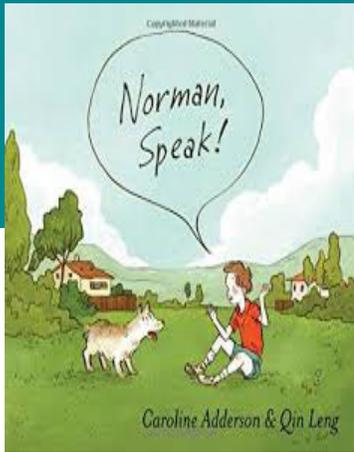
Katherine Martin

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/cbmr>

BYU ScholarsArchive Citation

Martin, Katherine (2018) "Norman, Speak!," *Children's Book and Media Review*: Vol. 39 : Iss. 6 , Article 66.
Available at: <https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/cbmr/vol39/iss6/66>

This Book Review is brought to you for free and open access by the All Journals at BYU ScholarsArchive. It has been accepted for inclusion in Children's Book and Media Review by an authorized editor of BYU ScholarsArchive. For more information, please contact scholarsarchive@byu.edu, ellen_amatangelo@byu.edu.



Book Review

Norman, Speak!

Author

Caroline Adderson

Illustrator

Qin Leng

Reviewer

Katherine Martin

Rating

Outstanding

Level

Preschool, Primary,
Intermediate

Pages

28

Year

2014

Publisher

Groundwood Books

ISBN

9781554983223

Life for Tabitha Crum has been difficult because of neglectful parents and a harsh school bully. The two things that help Tabitha survive are taking care of her pet mouse Pemberley and reading the Inspector Pensive mysteries. Just when her parents are about to abandon her, Tabitha receives an invitation from the Countess of Windermere to stay for the weekend. The Crums postpone their trip hoping they can cash in Tabitha for the Countess's fortune. However, they learn five other children have been invited as well. When all the guests arrive at the Windermere estate, they are greeted by an unstable countess. She has invited the six children because all of them were dropped off at the same orphanage where her rumored grandchild was left behind. With no other records, the Countess is left with these six children as her possible heir. As the weekend gets underway, a sickly Windermere tenant dies mysteriously and the children start disappearing. Using her detective skills, Tabitha learns that the woman claiming to be the countess is a fake and that the real countess is hiding within the secret rooms of the estate.

Nooks & Crannies is a delicious read from start to finish. Lawson takes several classic story elements from some of literature's giants—like Charles Dickens, Arthur Conan Doyle, and Roald Dahl—to create a delectable middle-grade mystery any age group would enjoy. Readers will fall in love with young Tabitha as she rises above her sad circumstances using her intellect, positive thinking, and keen observations to help those around her. When Tabitha hears the Countess's story of her abandoned grandchild, Tabitha immediately believes she is not the lost heir. By disconnecting herself from the Countess's off-putting affections, Tabitha is gifted with an objective view of the house and its occupants that help her connect clues in solving a mysterious death, locating the kidnapped children, and revealing the true identity of the Countess. In the end, her detective skills and positive thinking bless her life in ways she couldn't even imagine. A must-read for any mystery lover young or old.