Norman Bethune

• Reading Comprehension •

Activity 1

Stop and Think

Read the paragraphs.
Stop and think as you read.

Norman attracts women like a magnet. He falls in love with a young woman from Scotland. Her name is Frances. On their wedding day, Norman says: “Now I can make your life a misery. But I will never bore you.”

Stop and think: Imagine you are Frances. How do you feel when you hear Norman’s words?

Norman sets up his own health clinic. Norman works long hours. He charges a fee for his services. But he does not charge people who are poor. Some people give him food for his services.

Stop and think: How do you think other doctors feel about Norman?
Check the details that support each main idea. The first one is an example.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Main idea</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Norman wants to be a doctor.</td>
<td>Norman spends six months in the hospital.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>✓ Norman studies to be a doctor.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>✓ Norman takes special medical training.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Norman works so hard.</td>
<td>(a) ___ Norman shares his food and clothes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(b) ___ Norman works day and night.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(c) ___ Norman gets very sick. Yet he keeps working.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Norman believes doctors must go to the wounded.</td>
<td>(a) ___ Norman takes blood to the battlefields.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(b) ___ Norman sails to the USSR in 1935.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(c) ___ Norman walks more than 600 km to reach people.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Writers do not always explain everything. Sometimes, writers expect readers to read between the lines. Writers expect readers to figure out the invisible messages.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The writer’s words</th>
<th>The invisible message</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Norman removes his own blood. He transfers his blood to the soldier.</td>
<td>Norman has passion for his work.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Norman will risk his life to save a life.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Norman does not want to follow in his father’s footsteps.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Norman attracts women like a magnet.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Activity 4** Fact and Opinion

Read the sentences. Write (F) for fact or (O) for opinion.

1. Norman dies a young man. _____
   Norman dies at age 49. _____

2. Norman lives forever in the hearts of the Chinese people. _____
   In China, buildings are named after Norman. _____

3. Norman dies to help China. _____
   Norman gets a blood infection. _____

**Activity 5** The Table of Contents

Read each question. Look at the Contents page in your book. Which chapter has the answer to the question? Write the name of the chapter. Find the answer to the question. Write the answer.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Chapter</th>
<th>Answer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>When is Norman born?</td>
<td>Early Years</td>
<td>1890</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Where is Norman born?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. What is Norman’s job in World War I?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Why does Norman become famous?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Activity 6 Make a Connection

Read the idea from the story.
Make a connection to your life.

Idea

Norman becomes weak and tired. He loses weight. But Norman is happy. He feels needed.

Your Life

Everyone likes to feel needed.

Think about the last time someone needed you.
  What did they need?
  How did you fill this need?
  How did you feel about helping this person? Why?

Think about the last time you needed someone.
  What did you need?
  Who did you turn to?
  How were they able to fill your need?
  How do you think they felt about helping you? Why?
Activity 1 Write Your Ideas

Complete these paragraphs about feeling needed. Use your ideas from Activity 6. Your teacher will help you with spelling.

Paragraph 1
I was able to help ______________________. I helped them by __________________________________________________________. I felt ______________________ when I helped them because ________________________________________________________________.

Paragraph 2
_____________________________________ helped me. They helped me ______________________________. I think they felt __________________________ when they helped me because ________________________________________________________________.

Read each paragraph out loud. Which paragraph do you like better? Copy the paragraph on the lines.

Check for capital letters and end punctuation.
Activity 2: Organize Ideas

Look at the time line.

1. What is the topic of the time line?
2. How many events are on the time line?
3. Why does the time line go up and down?

Norman Bethune's Time Line

1890 born in Ontario
1911 works as logger / learns about working class
1914 joins the Army / sees many suffer
1916 gets medical degree
1924 sets up a health care clinic in U.S.
1936 creates a mobile blood bank in Spain
1937 goes to China
1939 dies in China

Use Norman Bethune's time line to complete the paragraphs.

Paragraph 1: Learning and Work
Norman is born in Ontario in 1890. In 1911, Norman works as a logger and learns about ________________________________________________________________.
Three years later, he ___________________________________________ and sees many suffer.

Paragraph 2: Norman Works in Health Care
In 1916, Norman ______________________________________________. In 1924, he moves to the U.S. and ________________________________________________________. In 1936, he goes to Spain and ____________________________________________________________.

Paragraph 3: China
Norman ________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________. Two years later, he dies in China.

Think of your life
or the life of somebody you know.
Draw a time line.
Activity 3 Use Capital Letters and Punctuation

Look at these sentences.
Circle the capital letters and end punctuation.

1. Norman Bethune is born in Ontario.
2. He marries Frances.
3. She is from Scotland.
4. How does Norman help the Chinese people?

Read these sentences.
Add capital letters and end punctuation.

5. Norman moves to Montreal in 1928
6. Norman wants better health care for Canadians
7. Norman goes to Japan and China
8. When does Norman meet Mao Zedong

In this activity...
use capital letters
at the beginning of a sentence,
with names of people,
with names of places, and
with names of groups of people.

use punctuation
at the end of a sentence.

Read these paragraphs.
Add capital letters and end punctuation.

Paragraph 1
norman goes to spain he creates a mobile blood bank people donate their blood norman takes the blood to the battlefields

Paragraph 2
mao hears of norman’s death mao writes a speech people across china listen to the speech norman gets many honours in china and canada
Activity 1

Predict the Word

Complete each paragraph.
Use the pictures to predict the word.

Paragraph 1

This is a ________________ . The people are waiting to see the ________________ . Most of the women have __________________ in their arms.

Paragraph 2

Canada Post makes a ________________ . It has a ________________ of Norman Bethune. Norman looks like a ________________ man.

Complete each sentence.
Use meaning clues to predict the word.

1. The soldier is ________________ . He has lost a lot of blood.
2. Norman teaches men to ________________ and write.
3. Norman wants everyone to get health care at a ________________ price.
Activity 2 Find Common Patterns

Look at each word in the box.
Each word has a common pattern.
Group the words under the correct pattern.

Good readers look for common patterns in words.
This is another way to decode words.

Find the Common Patterns

1. Norman works day and night.
2. He fights to save many people.
4. He learns from life, not just school.
5. The Chinese people say, “Attack, Bethune is with us!”
6. Norman never goes back to Canada.
Activity 3: Divide and Conquer

Read these words. Look for common endings. Write the base word on the line.

- teaches ______ teach ______
- working ______ work ______

1. learning ___________
2. months ___________
3. filled ___________
4. invents ___________
5. training ___________
6. ways ___________
7. attracts ___________

8. loses ___________
9. called ___________
10. leader ___________
11. courses ___________
12. wounded ___________
13. needed ___________
14. takes ___________

Read each sentence out loud. Circle the words with common endings.

15. Norman attracts women.
16. Norman teaches the men to read and write.
17. Norman will not stop learning.
18. He is in the hospital for six months.
19. The hospital is filled with the wounded.
20. Norman takes classes and special training.
22. The leader of China is called Mao Zedong.
23. Norman loses weight.
24. He will not stop working.
25. Norman is needed.
Crossword Clues

All the answers to the clues are from Norman Bethune’s biography.

ACROSS
6. not rich
7. we have five of these on our hands
11. we eat this
13. opposite of right
14. these people fight in the Army
15. we go here to see a doctor
16. another word for ill
17. the number between five and seven

DOWN
1. another word for begin
2. a thing that attracts metal objects
3. China, Japan, Spain
4. we feel like this when we do not sleep enough
5. this usually has 365 days in it
8. another word for rescue
9. driving a taxi, cooking in a restaurant, logging
10. the hearts pumps this through our bodies
12. not interesting
13. having good luck
Norman Bethune

1. Main Idea and Details: (1) b, c  (2) a, c

2. Invisible Messages*: (1) Norman does not want to be a minister. Norman does not want the same life his father has. Norman thinks for himself.  (2) Women like Norman. Norman has a good personality. Norman is good looking. Norman is charming.

3. Fact and Opinion: (1) O/F (2) O/F (3) O/F

4. Table of Contents: (1) Early Years / Ontario  (2) World War I / He carries stretchers across the battlefield.  (3) Norman Becomes Famous / He finds new ways to treat people. He invents tools for surgery.

5. Organize Ideas: (1) Norman Bethune’s life  (2) 8 (3) positive events go up and negative events go down Paragraph 1: the working class / joins the Army  Paragraph 2: gets his medical degree / sets up a health clinic / creates a mobile blood bank  Paragraph 3: goes to China in 1937


7. Predict the Word*: Paragraph 1: clinic; room / doctor / children; babies; kids  Paragraph 2: stamp / picture; photo; image; drawing / serious; young; handsome  (1) sick; ill; weak; dying; scared  (2) read  (3) good; fair; low; affordable; cheap

8. Find a Common Pattern: (1) night (2) fights (3) tools (4) school (5) attack (6) back

9. Divide and Conquer: (1) learn (2) month (3) fill (4) invent (5) train (6) way (7) attract (8) lose (9) call (10) lead (11) course (12) wound (13) need (14) take (15) attracts (16) teaches (17) learning (18) months (19) filled / wounded (20) classes / training (21) invents / ways (22) leader / called (23) loses (24) working (25) needed

* Accept any answer that makes sense.

Crossword Solution

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S T A Y A
C A T Y A
P O O R F I N G E R S G
U T R A N N
J E R V E
B T O O D L E F T
L B O U
S O L D I E R S R C L I N I C
D N Y
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ANSWER KEY