

Literature Trip for
Anything But Typical by Nora Raleigh Baskin



<http://www.norabaskin.com/>

Meet the author, Nora Raleigh Baskin. Take a look at her bio information. Then as you read the story she has written see if you can answer a few questions.

1. Would you read other books by this author? Why or why not?
2. Why do you think this particular author wrote this book?
3. What do you notice about the writing—the way the author wrote?

<http://www.wordcentral.com/>

Good readers ask questions of themselves as they read. Many of those questions are centered around the meaning of words from the story. Look up key words from *Anything But Typical* to find their meaning in the online dictionary. Or, jot down any unfamiliar words as you read and try to define them, taking clues from the text.

Vocabulary Words:

abstract
disorder
appreciation
confluence

<http://www.brainpop.com/english/writing/similesandmetaphors/preview.weml>

In chapter 4, Jason says, “I am like a leaf on a river, riding along the top of the water, not quite drowning. So I can’t stop and I can’t control the direction I am going. I can feel the water, but I never know which way I am heading.” Is this a simile or a metaphor? Follow the link above to learn more about how good writers use similes and metaphors to improve their writing.

Just for FUN! While on vacation the family plays Scrabble, so try this interactive Scrabble Game, Connect Four, and check out a few funny jokes.

Interactive Scrabble

http://www.hasbro.com/en_CA/play/details.cfm?guid=aa3cb3e3-19b9-f369-103c-71b6d2fc8c46

Connect Four

<http://www.worldofkitsch.com/interactive/games/connectfour2.html>

Yahoo! Kids Jokes and Humor

<http://kids.yahoo.com/jokes>

Storyboarding- Jason uses storyboards to create his stories online. These are graphic organizers that allow writers to use sketches or pictures and their written descriptions while planning how to organize their ideas in writing.

PowerPoint Template [\(Click Here\)](#)

<http://www.doink.com/create>

Start here creating your own storyboard sketches.

<http://www.toondoo.com/>

Sign up—Parent permission REQUIRED!

At this site you can.....Create your own comics, Make a Toon Book, Make a character, and More.

<http://pbskids.org/newsflashfive/scoop/index.html>

Write your own News Story

<http://www.wordle.net/create>

Use *Wordle* to create your own word clouds to share with others. In the story words jump out at Jason, from popping into his head first thing in the morning to words taking shape in the alphabet his father painted on his ceiling. Use this site to help your own story or character take shape.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/wordsandpictures/clusters/blender/game.shtml>

Just for FUN!

Help the Word Blender put the beginning and ending sounds together to make a word.

<http://teacher.scholastic.com/writewit/mff/mythmachine.htm>

Myths Brainstorming Machine—In the story Jason meets PhoenixBird online and begins writing a story for her to read with a character named Bennu. The name Bennu is the Egyptian name for the mythical bird that rose from its own ashes called the Phoenix.

To Kill a Mockingbird

In the story the main character Jason refers to the timeless classic, *To Kill a Mockingbird* several times. What connection to this story does the author have? [Click Here](#) to read the text for yourself to find out.