NORMAN
THE
NARWHAL
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This is Norman.

He's a 7 year old narwhal who just started second grade at Iceberg Elementary.
Norman loves to play finball

and go to the arctic movies with his family on the weekends.
ON NORMAN'S first day of school he met Sammy

and they quickly became the best of friends.
As the days went on, Norman was getting in more and more trouble with his teacher Ms. Penelope.

But Norman didn’t understand why, he was trying to act like all the other kids.
After Ms. Penelope had started to correct him in class, the other kids started to make fun of him for his behavior, which he couldn't seem to stop.
His classmates called him a "freak" and "Needy Norman" because Ms. Penelope spent so much time with him.

Narwhal:

NEEDY NORMAL

FREAK

WEIRDO

Norman didn't like the name calling, it made him sad.
After a while, Sammy stopped playing with Norman because he was starting to get called names as well.
Sammy suggested that Norman should try to act more normal and fit in...

Norman didn't understand the meaning of the word "normal." He didn't know why he wasn't like everyone else.
After school that day, Norman went with his mom to see Dr. Walter for his annual checkup.

"How do I be normal?", Norman asked.
Dr. Walter had been talking to Norman’s mom about something in the corner.

“you are normal”, they both replied.

After a few more minutes Norman and his mom went back home.
The next day, Norman’s mom sat down to explain what autism was.

She tried to explain why Norman felt a little different than the other kids in his class.

Again, Norman asked, “What is normal?” “Why don’t I fit in?”
His mom told him,

"you are normal Norman, some mammals just have a different definition of that word."
So the next day, Norman gathered all of the courage he had and swam up to Sammy at school.

Sammy was playing with shell trucks with the other kids in his class.
NORMAN, WHO WAS GETTING MORE AND MORE NERVOUS, WHISPERED TO SAMMY,

"... I AM NORMAL."

"WHAT?" SAMMY ASKED, "DONT ACT SO WEIRD" HE SAID WHILE LOOKING AT THE OTHER KIDS AROUND HIM.
"I AM NORMAL"
NORMAN said loud enough for his whole class to hear.

"Then how come you act so odd and different all the time?" asked one of the girls sitting next to Sammy.
NORMAN thought about this for a bit.

Ms. Penelope was about to speak up when NORMAN let out a shaky breath.
"I am normal" Norman said. "Why do I have to fit in perfectly with the rest of you to be "normal"?

"We all have flaws.

"Maybe the definition of normal is having flaws and differences from those around you."
Norman took another shaky breath and continued:

"I'm proud of the way I am, and if you can't accept me as normal then fine, that's okay."

I'm me

"But I'm a great friend and I'm no less of a mammal than all of you, no less normal."
Norman was breathing heavily by the end of his speech.

He was happy that he finally got to tell his classmates how he was feeling.
Everyone in his class was just staring at him, including Ms. Penelope.

They were all taken aback by what Norman had said.
Then Sarah broke the silence, causing the whole class to look at her.

"I have an extra flipper and I'm normal," Sarah said.
This confession then gave Patrick the courage to share,

"I can’t sit still for a whole movie or lesson in class, I get distracted, but I’m still normal."

I’m normal too!
All of the kids then came to the realization that Norman was right.

I'm normal
I'm normal too!
We're all normal
Me too!

They were all normal and should be treated equally.
They all had different characteristics that make them into the mammals they are.

They are all unique.
After the class had started to swim away and play, Sammy swam up to Norman and apologized.

"I'm sorry for saying you weren't normal, Norman. I guess I just never thought about what normal really meant, but you are normal and so is everyone here. No one should be excluded for differences they can't control."
NORMAN forgave Sammy and they did their secret fin shake.

They then swam off to play finball with the other kids where everyone was welcome to join.
Fin.