

Emperor Norton

Review Key Words¹

- public events** Public events are activities for everyone.
- emperor** An emperor is the leader of a country or kingdom.
- royalty** Royalty means a person or persons belonging to the king's or queen's family.
- declare** Declare means to tell people what you think or decide.



Write a Prediction

Read the Story²⁻⁴

6 Have you ever **wondered** what it
 13 would be like to be **royalty**? Maybe
 20 you don't have to wonder. Maybe you
 26 could just **declare** yourself royalty. It
 30 worked for Joshua Norton.
 35 Joshua Norton lived in San
 42 Francisco in the 1800s. He was a
 47 **regular** person. One day Joshua
 55 declared that he was the **Emperor** of the
 61 United States of America. A San
 66 Francisco newspaper **printed** the story.
 72 Everyone knew he wasn't really the
 77 emperor, but many people **played**
 82 **along**. Restaurants around the city
 90 allowed him to eat for free. He didn't
 98 have to pay to ride on **streetcars**. He
 106 even had a special seat when visiting the
state legislature!

108 Emperor Norton set out to make the
 115 world a better place—at least as he saw
 124 it. If he wanted something done, he
 131 ordered it done. If he wanted something
 138 changed, he ordered it changed. For
 144 example, he ordered the streets cleaned,
 150 and he printed his own money. The
 157 newspapers printed his laws and other
 163 **declarations** because people loved to
 168 read about them. Emperor Norton spent
 174 a lot of time with the people of San
 183 Francisco, and he went to many **public**
 190 **events**.

191 In 1880, Emperor Norton died.
 196 Thousands of people went to his
 202 funeral.
 203

	day 1	day 2	day 3	day 4
words read in 1 minute				
– number of mistakes				
= total words read correctly				
adult initials				

Emperor Norton

Answer the Questions

1. What is the main idea of this story?
 - a. Norton was a regular man who declared himself emperor.
 - b. Norton made laws and printed his own money.
 - c. Norton made the world a better place.
2. Why did newspapers print stories about Joshua Norton?
 - a. Norton paid the newspapers to write the stories.
 - b. Emperor Norton ordered the newspapers to write about him.
 - c. People loved to read about Emperor Norton.
3. What does the word **wondered** mean in this story?
 - a. walked without knowing the way
 - b. thought about or imagined
 - c. gave an answer to a question
4. How do you know people liked Emperor Norton?
 - a. He ordered the streets to be cleaned.
 - b. He lived in San Francisco in the 1800s.
 - c. Thousands of people went to his funeral.
5. What good things happened to Joshua Norton after he declared himself emperor?

6. Match each word with its definition.

1. declarations	a. ___ pretended
2. played along	b. ___ vehicles that carry people
3. regular	c. ___ ordinary or normal
4. streetcars	d. ___ announcements

Parent Tips

Remind your student that fluent reading is not the same as speed reading. As an adult, I may read aloud 300 words per minute but if the meaning is incomprehensible it is not considered fluent reading. Reading aloud should have the same smoothness and rate as speaking. Help your student remember that his reading should sound as much like talking as possible.