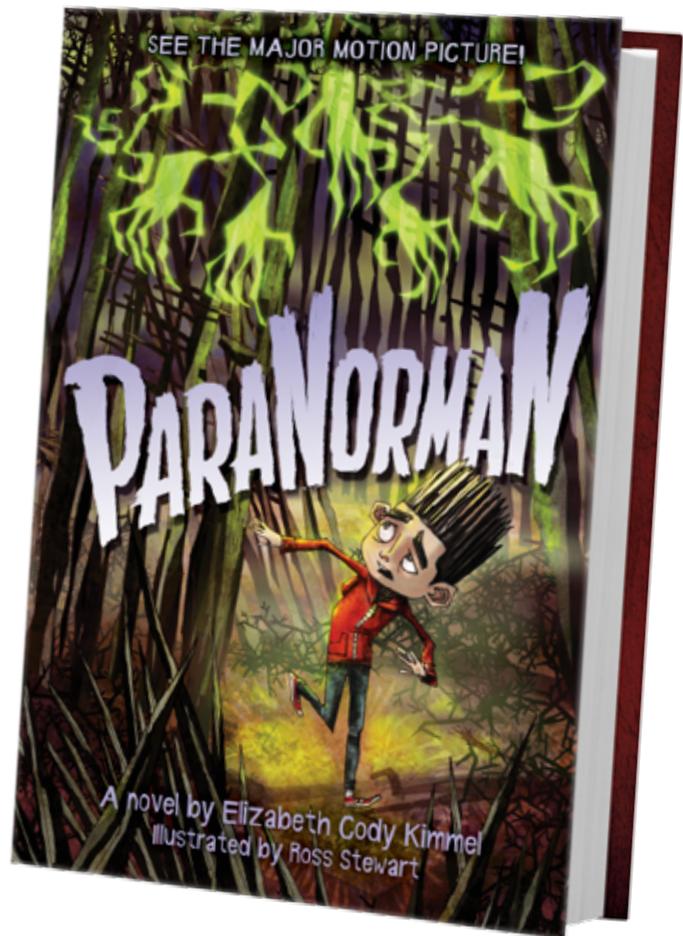


# PARANORMAN

## ABOUT THE BOOK:

In a quaint New England town with a history of witches and pilgrims, misunderstood 11 year-old Norman Babcock can see and talk to ghosts. No one believes him, of course. Everyone just thinks he's weird (including his parents). But when a folktale of a witch who cursed her accusers turns out to be true, it's up to Norman to save the town from pilgrim zombies! In addition to the zombies, he'll have to take on a very angry witch, an annoying sidekick, his boy-crazy teenage sister, and worst of all, the town's grown ups! Norman finds his paranormal talents pushed to their otherworldly limits in this hilarious and spooky adventure!



## ABOUT THE AUTHOR:



**ELIZABETH CODY KIMMEL** grew up on a steady diet of ghost stories and science fiction, which she credits for getting her through seventh grade. The author of the Suddenly Supernatural series, Elizabeth lives in Cold Spring, New York, with her daughter, Emma, and their possibly telepathic beagle, Henry. She would like everyone to know that no zombies were harmed in the writing of this book. You can visit her online at [www.codykimmel.com](http://www.codykimmel.com).

# PARANORMAN

## DISCUSSION GUIDE for *ParaNorman: A Novel* by Elizabeth Cody Kimmel, based on the screenplay written by Chris Butler; illustrated by Ross Stewart

1. Norman can see and talk to ghosts and animals. Do you believe people have the ability to communicate with ghosts? How does Norman's unique ability affect him and his family? Do you believe in ghosts? When was a time when you thought ghosts were present?
2. Why do you think Norman likes zombie movies so much? What kind of movies do you love? What makes these movies so special to you?
3. Norman uses his ability to help deceased people and animals. If you had Norman's ability, whose ghost would you like to talk to and why?
4. Norman has a hard time fitting in, dealing with bullies, and getting along with his family. Do you have any of these same challenges? How do you deal with them?
5. Neil and Salma are good friends to Norman. Who is your best friend? What makes this person your best friend? Why do you think Neil and Salma want to be friends with Norman?
6. How did Norman get his ability to see and talk to ghosts? Why are Norman's father and sister bothered by Norman's ability?
7. Several times, Norman has visions of the past. What does he learn from these visions? What do you think is happening when he has these flashback experiences? What one moment in the past would you want to go back to visit and why would you want to go to that specific moment?
8. Who is Mr. Prenderghast? What is the witch's curse? What does Mr. Prenderghast want Norman to do?
9. How do Norman's relationships with Mr. Babcock, Courtney, Alvin, Neil, and Salma change by the end of the book? How do you think life will get better for Norman? What happens to the witch and what does it mean for Blithe Hollow?
10. Why do you think Grandma Babcock's ghost sticks around?
11. Why do the people of Blithe Hollow react the way they do when the zombies appear? Have you ever been with a group of people that suddenly gets really excited, or angry, or frightened all at once? What did that feel like and how did you react? How would you have reacted if you had been in Blithe Hollow when the zombies arrived?
12. Mrs. Henscher calls Norman a necromancer (p.122). What does necromancer mean? Do you think necromancer is an accurate word to describe Norman? What word would you use to describe him?
13. When Norman tells Neil that he can see ghosts, how does Neil react and how does his reaction affect Norman? What does Neil's reaction tell you about the kind of person Neil is? Would you want to have Neil as a friend?
14. Norman is brave. Would you be able to do the things Norman does? What makes a person brave? What do you do in your own life that you consider brave?
15. On page 129, Norman finds out why the judge and other townspeople were afraid of the witch. Why does his reason make Norman not want to help him? Why does Norman decide to help him anyway? Who have you been afraid of, or been mean to, because they were different? How would you treat them after reading Norman's story?
16. Norman says, "The more things change, the more they stay the same." (p.159) What does this mean? How does this pertain to the story? How does this apply to your life?
17. What will be the "new normal" in Norman's life?