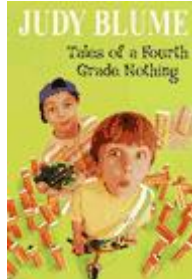


*Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing*: A 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Literacy Focus Unit  
created by  
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## FEATURED SELECTION

*Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing* by Judy Blume. New York: Scholastic, 1972.

Peter, the older brother of Fudge, learns to accept his younger brothers' abilities to be overly charming to the adult world. Peter, although reluctant to give into his brothers' charm is forced to help his parents control Fudge's toddler behavior. While Peter is angry about the incidents that Fudge causes he soon realizes that Fudge looks up to him and wants to behave in a similar fashion.

## RELATED MATERIALS

*Superfudge* by Judy Blume. New York: Penguin Group, 1980.

Everyone knows that Fudge storms through life creating chaos wherever he goes. Peter discusses the highs and lows of his younger brother Fudge. Is Peter's mother right in claiming the Fudge's behavior is just a "phase"?

*Fudge-a-mania* by Judy Blume. New York: Penguin Group, 1990.

Peter's family is going on vacation to Maine. The problem-Sheila and her family will be right next door. Even worse, Fudge creates havoc

with a little girl next door and Peter's grandma marries Sheila's grandfather.

*Otherwise Known as Sheila the Great* by Judy Blume. New York: Penguin Group, 1972.

When Sheila spends a summer in Tarrytown she is forced to face some of her fears. Sheila's new best friend is not scared of dogs and swimming and knows that Sheila is scared of both. Watch Sheila as she overcomes her fears.

*Double Fudge* by R. Judy Blume. New York: Penguin Group, 2002.

While visiting Washington D.C. the Hatchers run into long lost family-the Howies. Peter's family decides to travel with them to New York. The story only takes more twists as Peter's best friend Jimmy moves to SoHo. A new girl moves into Jimmy's old apartment and he certainly doesn't want to hang out with a girl! Is this a sign that the world is falling apart, or just Peter's life?

## GOALS

- Students will familiarize themselves with the author Judy Blume.
- Students will be able to identify the key responsibilities in having their own pets (what they need to stay alive).
- Students will be able to think through the situations Peter faced in order to write about what their response in the situation would be.
- Students will be able to compare the different behaviors of toddlers at the behavior.
- Students will examine the characters of Peter and Fudge in order to compare their sibling interactions.
- Students will be able to identify a variety of modes of transportation.
- Students will be able to compare transportation in the city and country.
- Students will be able to compare characters in the book to their own personal lives.

## STANDARDS

- English/Language Arts 4.2.1 Use the organization of informational text to strengthen comprehension.
- English/Language Arts 4.2.5 Compare and contrast information on the same topic after reading several passages or articles.
- Social Studies 4.3.10 Read and interpret thematic maps — such as transportation, population, and products — to acquire information about Indiana in the present and the past.
- Science 4.4.4 Observe and describe that some source of energy is needed for all organisms to stay alive and grow

## UNIT PLAN

### Pre-reading

- Activities to help familiarize students to the main characters. Page 2 from the following website.  
<http://artsedge.kennedy-center.org/cuesheet/pdf/4thgrade.pdf>
  - Individual Activity
- Discuss family. Have students talk with one another about their brothers and/or sisters. How do they make you feel? Do you feel like you are treated fairly? Allow them to create questions and share stories with one another. Then describe Peter and Fudge's relationship.
  - Group Activity

### Reading

- Talk about Judy Blume and what inspired her novels based on Peter and Fudge. Visit websites and learn all about her! Teacher Resource sheet can be found at the following website.  
<http://artsedge.kennedy-center.org/cuesheet/pdf/4thgrade.pdf>
  - Group Activity
- Have students document the characters that are introduced during the reading. Also have them pay special attention to the setting in which each character is met. Page 4 from the following website.  
<http://artsedge.kennedy-center.org/cuesheet/pdf/4thgrade.pdf>
  - Individual Activity

- Discuss pets (a variety of) and the roles in which they have in our lives. Talk about the responsibilities in which come along with owning a pet.
  - Group Activity
- Discuss what Peter did to benefit his mother and father when trying to get Fudge to cooperate.
  - Group Activity

### Responding

- Compare the four toddlers at Fudge's Birthday Party. Complete the worksheet found at the following website.  
[http://www.gigglepotz.com/feb\\_characters.pdf](http://www.gigglepotz.com/feb_characters.pdf)
  - Individual Activity
- Write a journal entry about the shopping trip with mom and Fudge. A journal page can be found at the following website.  
[http://www.gigglepotz.com/feb\\_diary.pdf](http://www.gigglepotz.com/feb_diary.pdf)
  - Individual Activity
- Brainstorm a list of acts of kindness. Encourage students to do nice acts for one another. Consider creating a service project.
  - Group Activity
- Discuss the importance of visiting the dentist. Also talk about loosing teeth whether it is natural or accidental.
  - Group Activity

### Exploring

- Define terms from Chapter 2. Worksheet can be found at the following website.  
[http://www.gigglepotz.com/feb\\_dict.pdf](http://www.gigglepotz.com/feb_dict.pdf)
  - Individual Activity
- Look at the accident in chapter 4 from another perspective. How would you have handled the situation if you were Peter's mother, Sheila, Jimmy, or Fudge?
  - Individual or Group Activity
- Have students create class presentations about the importance of transportation in small groups. Complete individual note cards about the differences between the transportation in the city and the country.
  - Individual and Group Activity

- Complete a Venn Diagram comparing Peter and Fudge's parents to your own. A Venn Diagram worksheet can be found at the following website:  
<http://www.eduplace.com/graphicorganizer/pdf/venn.pdf>
  - Individual Activity

### Applying

- Re-write the ending of chapter 4. Consider the following questions:
  - If you were Peter, how would you have handled Fudge jumping off of the playground equipment?
  - Do you think it was right for Peter's mother to blame him for the accident?
  - If you were Peter, how would you have responded to his mother blaming him?
  - Would you accept her apology?
    - Individual Activity
- Create a character sketch of either Peter or Fudge. This sketch must include:
  - Name
  - Drawing of what your character looks like
  - Characteristics about character (at least 5)
    - Individual Activity
- Create a timeline of Peter helping his parents and others by tricking Fudge into doing what he is asked. The timeline should include:
  - When the event occurred
  - Where the event occurred
  - How Peter helped to get Fudge's cooperation
  - An illustration of how the event may have looked
    - Individual Activity
- In small groups, have students prepare skits about their interactions with siblings, at the dentist, at the store, or any scenes they can act out from the book. Have them present to the entire class.
  - Group Activity

## TIME SCHEDULE

<p>Day 1</p> <p>Discuss and research Judy Blume. Chapter 1 Discuss pets and the responsibilities that come along with having your own pet.</p>	<p>Day 2</p> <p>Chapter 2 Talk about the manners that Fudge and Peter displayed when their father had company over. Define a list of words provided by the teacher. (Worksheet)</p>	<p>Day 3</p> <p>Chapter 3 Discuss how sometimes people do not want to perform certain acts (ie. stand on head to get Fudge to eat) but have to in order to help someone else. Brainstorm a list of acts of kindness and perform one.</p>	<p>Day 4</p> <p>Chapter 4 If you were Peter-how would you have handled the playground situation? How would you have reacted if your mother blamed you? Re-write the ending to the chapter.</p>	<p>Day 5</p> <p>Chapter 5 Characters There were three other toddlers who attended Fudge's birthday party. Fill out a worksheet comparing the four children.</p>
<p>Day 6</p> <p>Chapter 6 Discuss the importance of visiting the dentist. Talk about losing teeth either naturally or in accidents. Put yourself into Peter's shoes and write a journal entry about the shopping day with mom and Fudge.</p>	<p>Day 7</p> <p>Chapter 7 Discuss the importance of transportation. Split the class into groups to present different transportation methods and how they are beneficial both in the city and in the country. Create notecards.</p>	<p>Day 8</p> <p>Chapter 8 Peter has performed a variety of tricks in order to get Fudge to cooperate. Create a timeline of events and illustrate each event accordingly.</p>	<p>Day 9</p> <p>Chapter 9 Compare Peter and Fudge's parents with your own. (Venn diagram)</p>	<p>Day 10</p> <p>Chapter 10 Choose either Peter or Fudge and create a character sketch.</p>

## ASSIGNMENT CHECKLIST

\_\_\_ Definition Worksheet

\_\_\_ Different ending to Chapter 4

- \_\_\_ Comparison of toddlers at the Birthday Party
- \_\_\_ Journal Entry
- \_\_\_ Notecards – Transportation
- \_\_\_ Timeline – Peters' tricks
- \_\_\_ Venn Diagram – Mother and Father
- \_\_\_ Character Sketch

Ideas for Focus Unit taken from:

<http://artsedge.kennedy-center.org/cuesheet/pdf/4thgrade.pdf>

[http://www.gigglepotz.com/feb\\_characters.pdf](http://www.gigglepotz.com/feb_characters.pdf)

[http://www.gigglepotz.com/feb\\_diary.pdf](http://www.gigglepotz.com/feb_diary.pdf)

[http://www.gigglepotz.com/feb\\_dict.pdf](http://www.gigglepotz.com/feb_dict.pdf)

<http://www.eduplace.com/graphicorganizer/pdf/venn.pdf>

Useful website found when finished (come back to when there is more time):

<http://www.jjwest.net/fourthgrade.html>

<http://www.literatureplace.com/bookfolios/bookfolio.asp?BookfolioID=10#Read-aloud%20Recommendation:>