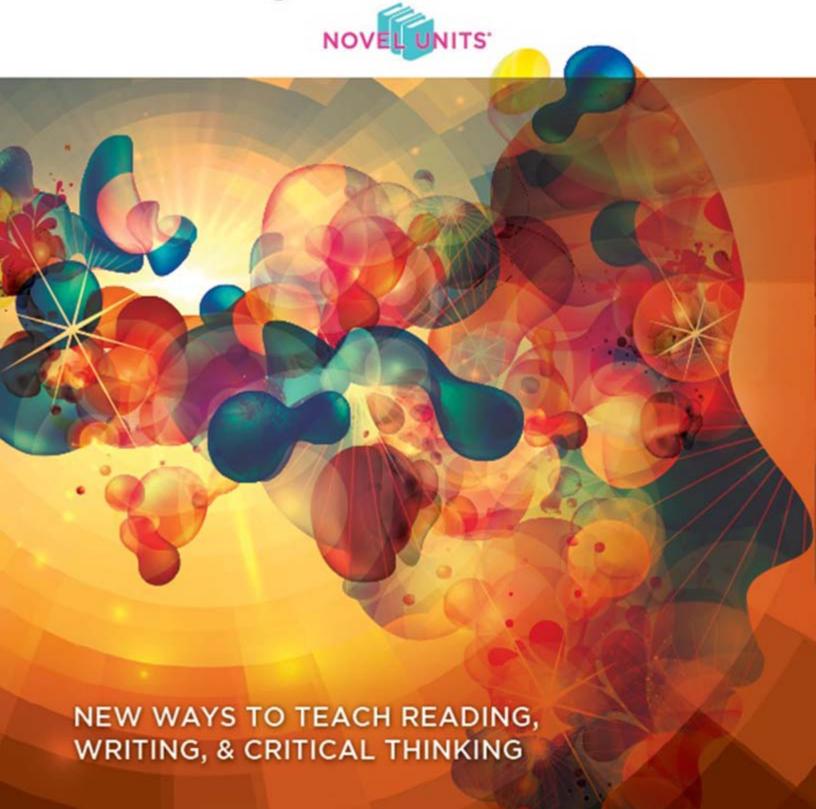
#### Don't You Dare Read This, Mrs. Dunphrey

**Margaret Peterson Haddix** 





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#### Don't You Dare Read This, Mrs. Dunphrey

by Margaret Peterson Haddix

#### **Teacher Guide**

Written by Monica L. Odle

#### Note

The 2004 Simon Pulse paperback edition of the book, ©1996 by Margaret Peterson Haddix, was used to prepare this guide. Page references may differ in other editions. Novel ISBN: 978-0-689-87102-3

**Please note:** Parts of this novel deal with sensitive, mature issues. Please assess the appropriateness of this book for the age level and maturity of your students prior to reading and discussing it with them.

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#### **Skills and Strategies**

#### **Thinking**

Brainstorming, research, critical thinking, decision-making, creative thinking

#### Comprehension

Predicting, evaluating decisions, sequencing, summarizing

#### Writing

Letter, essay, review, poem, short story, skit, brochure, journal

#### Listening/Speaking

Oral presentation, discussion, acting

#### Vocabulary

Definitions, parts of speech, context clues, antonyms

#### **Literary Elements**

Setting, conflict, characterization, point of view, theme, symbolism, figurative language, foreshadowing

#### **Across the Curriculum**

Art—caricature, sketch, painting; Social Studies—Child Protective Services, social work, abusive relationships; Health/Science battered-wife syndrome; Math budget, credit cards

#### August 28-October 1

Tish Bonner begins writing in a journal as part of a school assignment, labeling most entries "Do not read." She writes about strange, secret things in the first few entries and is assured of her privacy when her teacher seems ignorant of anything Tish has written. Slowly, Tish begins to write more about her life—her opinions on school, her friends, the way she feels about her younger brother Matt, her depressed mother, her absent father, her deceased grandmother, and her boss at Burger Boy who punishes her by reducing her you hours after she refuses his offer of a date.

## crochet brigade dissect aptitude stashed egocent ght being equivalent dignified feminist

#### Discussion Qu stir

- 1. What is the problem se of the novel? How is it written? Are you in terefact reading further? Why or why not? (The story is what they are of an acceptable length and frequency. Answers will arry, although many solden with the sylving someone's secretable in the sylving sylving sylving someone's secretable in the sylving sy
- 2. What are our first in pressions of Tish Bonner? What do you learn of the syou read her journal? (Answers will vary. Tish Boner's in anir," chews gum constart varys in think of the second of the s
- 3. Describe ish's friends. How is Tick iffective from them? Why do you wink in one ders these girls her best friends where he is so mike them? (Tish's best friends are See, y, Rochelle, and Chastity. Sandy has rone, but he conshipted to shoplift. Chastity is to be an 'er'; the group. Sandy and Chastity har but ien a Rochelle always likes a new to Tish 'oes not shoplift [though it may be more from fear get caught than from a concomment of the grow's to hking, and has no interest it in y. At vers will vary.)
- 4. What does Tish remember as a happy chi so non it? What is ironic about the start was cuddled up with Matt and their grave word. In wir warm home, with the lights in the Christmas tree. This is iron because Tish a shall were cuddling the wire and other to avoid being involved in a territory of their parents. There was so and go sound them, yet Tish remembers this as a hore we precause she was close to keep to the grandmother.)
- 5. How does Tish feel about Ma? How does Matt feel a put Tish. Do ou think they have a good relationship? (Tish tries to be a good sister and c re. \*\* Mills since their mother is rarely around and is sometimes oblivious to what Matt need. Tish ies to be patient with Matt even though she is not always successful. Tish vorr salue that witnessing the turmoil within their family and in their home. She is king the end of the range of the range of the salways willing to accept? The range of the range of the salways willing to accept? The range of the

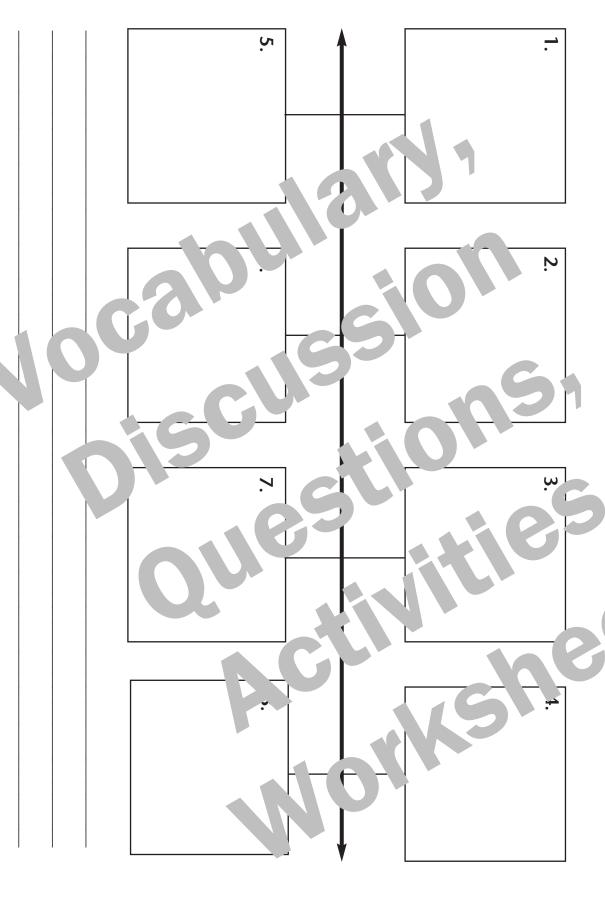
- 6. How does Tish feel about Mrs. Dunphrey? How do you know this? (Tish believes that Mrs. Dunphrey is a good teacher. She thinks Mrs. Dunphrey is smart [although keenly unaware of her students' personal lives], kind, trustworthy, and innovative. Although Tish believes that teachers in general are clueless and give meaningless assignments, she has a special respect for Mrs. Dunphrey. Answers will vary, but students should cite the numerous journal entries where Tish "speaks" directly to Mrs. Dunphrey.)
- 7. Describe Tish's conflict with Bud Turner. Why does a tempt to resolve the conflict peacefully? (Bud Turner is much older than Tish, a Tish. ds han repulsive. Bud wants to take Tish out on a date, but she refuses his offer. By office dead a lassigns Tish fewer work hours the next week. Tish wants to quit, but she wide to soon profesionally by talking to the manager, Mr. Seagrave. She needs to keep her jeb so he in son enough money to buy Matt a Nintendo for his birthday.)
- 8. After sharing a happy in it it are family, Tish feels that ...t the first time in years, everything might be all ghi in the Bonner house" (p. 27). If v at this feeling an example, and d yo ha sh's optimism? (This tolin is a example of foreshadowing. Answers w

#### Supl nei ary Activities

- Time Line: Using the Time Line  $n_1$ , read of this guide, record the value  $n_2$  events in Tish's ife as she relates them in  $n_2$  to  $n_3$ , this activity will continue  $n_3$  you read the novel.
- 2. Figurative Laguar ... seg. recording similes and metar's contrastive language chart. Continue add g han as you read the novel. E mp s: miles—"Mom and Dad yell' ,...n the wird" (p. 15); "I felt like I'a he m hi g awful like drowning a kitten" (p. 16 Met he —Susan Stanwick and Mix Hara s brains: computers (p. 9): Mom: ghost/, ad/ / (p. 14)

### Time Line

the lines below the graphic, make a prediction about how Tish's and Matt's lives with Directions: In the numbered boxes below, write eight major events in Tish's life as 5 . re ites them in her journal. On .ge after their mother returns.



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#### **Making Decisions**

**Directions:** Choose three to seven possible solutions to the problem below.

- (a) State each solution in a short sentence.
- (b) Design three to five "criteria" (questions you can ask to measure how good a particular choice may be).
- (c) Rate the criteria for each solution: 1 /es;  $\angle$  may be; 3 = no.

Problem: Tish and Matt's mother has a. nuo et hem to search for their father.

Solutions		riteria
2		
100	159	
2.		
3.	65	591
4.		
5.		
6.		
7.		