



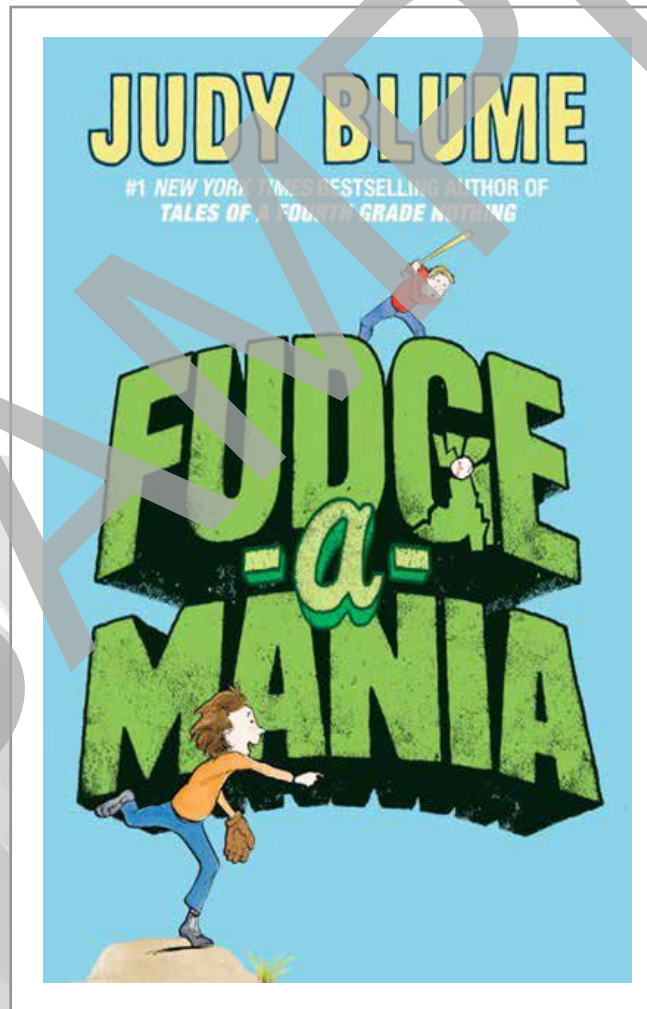
**TEACHER GUIDE**

**GRADES 3-5**

COMPREHENSIVE CURRICULUM BASED LESSON PLANS

# Fudge-A-Mania

Judy Blume



**READ, WRITE, THINK, DISCUSS AND CONNECT**

# Fudge-A- Mania

Judy Blume

## TEACHER GUIDE

**NOTE:**

The trade book edition of the novel used to prepare this guide is found in the Novel Units catalog and on the Novel Units website. Using other editions may have varied page references.

Please note: We have assigned Interest Levels based on our knowledge of the themes and ideas of the books included in the Novel Units sets, however, please assess the appropriateness of this novel or trade book for the age level and maturity of your students prior to reading with them. You know your students best!

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**ISBN 978-1-50203-810-4**

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## Skills and Strategies

### Thinking

Research, predicting,  
creative thinking,  
critical thinking,  
brainstorming,  
author research

### Comprehension

Sequencing, foreshadowing,  
inference, point of view,  
visualizing

### Writing

Creative writing, poetry,  
advertisement, journalism,  
thank-you note, critique,  
autobiography, persuasive  
writing, making brochures

### Listening/Speaking

Oral presentation, discussion,  
interviewing

### Vocabulary

Bingo, photos, vocabulary  
cube game, vocabulary bee

### Literary Elements

Characterization, literary  
analysis, story mapping,  
figurative language

### Across the Curriculum

Geography—Maine;  
Science—wildlife research,  
environmental issues, animal  
health; Art—drawing, design,  
illustration; Business—  
improving skills; Music—  
analysis of lyrics; Sports  
History—athlete research;  
Cooking—mud pie

**Genre:** fiction

**Setting:** present day; New York City and Southwest Harbor, Maine

**Point of View:** first person

**Themes:** friendship, family relationships

**Conflict:** person vs. person, person vs. self

**Tone:** humorous, conversational

**Date of First Publication:** 1990

## Summary

After Fudge announces his plans to marry Sheila Tubman, Peter learns that his family will spend their three-week vacation in Maine next door to the Tubman family. Peter's outlook for the vacation is grim as he imagines spending three weeks with Sheila. Things only get worse when Peter discovers that the two families will live in the same house and share a living room and kitchen. Peter's attitude improves when he learns that Big Apfel, a former professional baseball player, lives in Southwest Harbor. Big coordinates a weekly baseball game in the town, and Peter can't wait to show off his baseball skills and meet Big. In the meantime, life with Fudge and Sheila is never dull, and Peter's vacation turns out better than he expected.

## About the Author

Judy Blume grew up in Elizabeth, New Jersey. She always had a big imagination, but she didn't always dream of becoming a writer. She received a bachelor's degree in education from New York University in 1961. Blume began writing when her children started preschool and hasn't stopped since. Some of her books include *Freckle Juice*, *Blubber*, *Just as Long as We're Together*, and *Are You There God? It's Me, Margaret*. Other Fudge books by Blume include *Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing*, *Otherwise Known as Sheila the Great*, *Superfudge*, and *Double Fudge*.

Blume currently lives on the East Coast with her husband, George Cooper, a former law professor. She has three grown children and one grandson.

## Chapters 5–6

Sheila opens all the windows in the house because she doesn't like the way it smells and later discovers that Uncle Feather is not in his cage. Uncle Feather is Fudge's pet myna bird. Fudge has taken Uncle Feather "someplace nice," but when Fudge goes to get him, he is no longer there. Fudge and Peter rush outside to look for Uncle Feather. During the search, they meet Mrs. A, a kind, older woman who invites them in for cocoa and tea. When the boys return to the house, they find Libby running through the house screaming that a bat is chasing her. The "bat" is actually Uncle Feather.

Sheila offers to baby-sit Fudge during the vacation, and Mrs. Hatcher agrees. This leaves Peter feeling slightly lost, and he spends much of his time with Sheila and Fudge even though Sheila refuses to share her baby-sitting money with him.

### Vocabulary

foghorns  
logical  
slicker  
fascinated  
somersaults  
guarantee  
salary  
breeder  
hammock  
panicked

### Discussion Questions

1. What does Fudge do before he eats his morning cereal? Why do you think he does this? *(He counts out exactly 200 Cheerios before he begins eating. Answers will vary but could include that this is just another of his quirky behaviors. He also may do it for attention.)*
2. Why do the boys think Uncle Feather has escaped? How do they plan to find him? *(Fudge let him out of his cage because "he was bored." Then Sheila opened all the windows in the house, not realizing that Uncle Feather was loose. Peter and Fudge head outside into the fog to find Uncle Feather.)*
3. Describe Mrs. A. Why is she confused by some of Fudge's comments? *(She is an older woman about Grandma's age who invites the boys in and gives them cocoa, tea, and cinnamon buns. She thinks the boys are looking for their actual uncle, because Fudge does not clearly explain Uncle Feather's identity. She thinks Peter has a sore throat because Fudge tells her he is not supposed to talk.)*
4. Why do you think Mrs. A accepts that Fudge is getting married? *(Answers will vary but could include that she has a five-year-old granddaughter, so she may be used to make-believe stories such as this. She also seems amused by Fudge, so she probably thinks his story is cute. She also may be somewhat distracted by the way he is picking at the cinnamon bun.)*
5. Why does Mrs. A ask Peter if their uncle is all right upstairs? *(Fudge's description of his uncle is very confusing to her because he never explains that Uncle Feather is a bird, not a human.)*
6. How do the boys finally find Uncle Feather? *(When they arrive back at the house, they hear Libby screaming loudly. Libby is running through the house yelling that a bat is chasing her. After much commotion, they realize that the "bat" is actually Uncle Feather. Uncle Feather hops back into his cage, and Buzzy Senior closes the door.)*
7. How does Sheila convince Mrs. Hatcher to let her baby-sit Fudge? *(Sheila tells Mrs. Hatcher that this is supposed to be her vacation and that she deserves to relax. Sheila took a baby-sitting course recently, and she guarantees satisfaction.)*
8. Why do you think Peter joins Sheila and Fudge on the beach? *(Answers will vary but could include that Peter is bored or that he likes Sheila more than he admits. Peter is used to looking out for Fudge, so he may feel slightly "lost" on his own. He also may be interested to see what kind of trouble Fudge gives Sheila.)*

9. **Prediction:** What will Mrs. A's granddaughter, Mitzi, be like?

### Supplementary Activities

1. Creative Writing: Write a one- to two-page short story that ends with the sentence found on page 40 of the novel, "All's well that ends well."
2. Literature: Research books written by Gary Paulsen:  
[http://www.randomhouse.com/features/garypaulsen/library/\(active at time of publication\)](http://www.randomhouse.com/features/garypaulsen/library/(active%20at%20time%20of%20publication))  
Find one you think Peter might read, and design an advertisement for the book, including a picture. Display your advertisements on a bulletin board.
3. Business: Sheila offers to baby-sit Fudge during the vacation and says she has improved her baby-sitting skills by taking a baby-sitting course. Make a list of three jobs you feel qualified to perform and, beside each, list ways you could improve your skills in that area. Think about ways you could convince an employer to hire you.
4. Music: On page 47 of the novel, Peter sings a line from the song "Some Enchanted Evening" and says he learned it from Buzzy Senior and Grandma. Using the Internet, find the lyrics to "Some Enchanted Evening" from the musical *South Pacific*. After reading the lyrics, write a paragraph explaining what you think this song may indicate about the relationship between Buzzy Senior and Grandma.

SAMPLE

## T-Shirt Design

**Directions:** Design your own T-shirt below by completing the sentence, "I'd rather be..." Then write about why you enjoy your chosen activity.



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