

Teacher Guide

Grades 3–4

Superfudge

Judy Blume

NOVEL UNITS[™]



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SUPERFUDGE

by
Judy Blume

Teacher Guide

Written by
Gloria Levine

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Note

The Dell Yearling paperback edition of the book was used to prepare this guide. The page references may differ in other editions.

Please note: Please assess the appropriateness of this book for the age level and maturity of your students prior to reading and discussing it with your class.

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Novel Units, Inc.
P.O. Box 97
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Skills and Strategies

Thinking

Classifying and categorizing,
evaluating, analyzing details

Literary Elements

Character, setting, plot,
conflict, point of view

Vocabulary

Synonyms/antonyms,
word maps, analogies

Comprehension

Predicting, sequencing,
cause/effect, comparison/
contrast

Writing

Narrative, lists, play scene

Listening/Speaking

Participation in discussion,
drama, report

Chapter 1

Vocabulary

tousle (2)

loon (2)

Vocabulary Activities

1. Have a student volunteer demonstrate what it means to "tousle" another student volunteer's hair.
2. Have a student volunteer "laugh like a loon" and explain what a loon is. (*Fish-eating bird with a cry that sounds like laughter.*)

Discussion Questions and Activities

1. What is the news that Mom has for Peter? How does he like the news? Why? (*Peter is not happy to learn that his mother is expecting a new baby because he's worried it will cause as much trouble as Fudge.*)
2. Why does Mom use the word "interesting" when Fudge asks if he was a good baby? (*Fudge was often quite naughty. Mom probably wanted him to feel good about himself, so she uses the word "interesting" to avoid saying "good" or "bad."*)
3. What is the "big question" Peter thinks Mom is going to ask? Why do you suppose he doesn't? (*Fudge probably doesn't ask about where babies come from because it doesn't occur to him...yet.*)
4. Imagine that you are Peter's friend. You want to show him you know how he feels about the idea of having another baby in the family. Write him a letter. Tell him about *your* baby brother or sister (if you have one.)
5. Prediction: How do you think Fudge will treat the new baby?

Chapter 2

Vocabulary

somersaults (11)

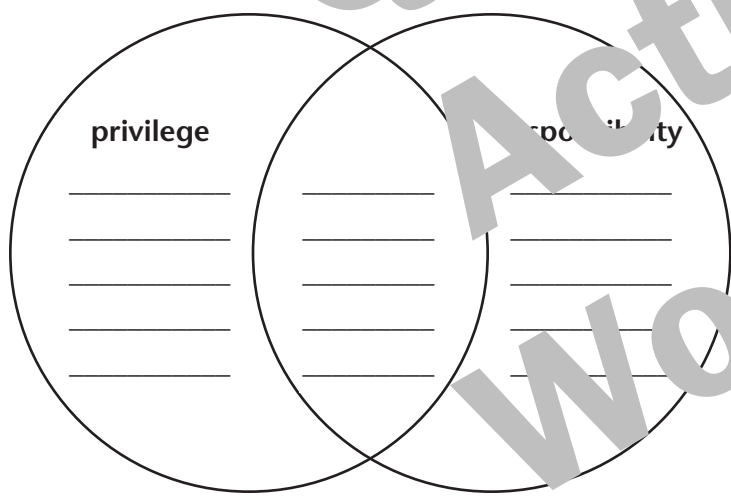
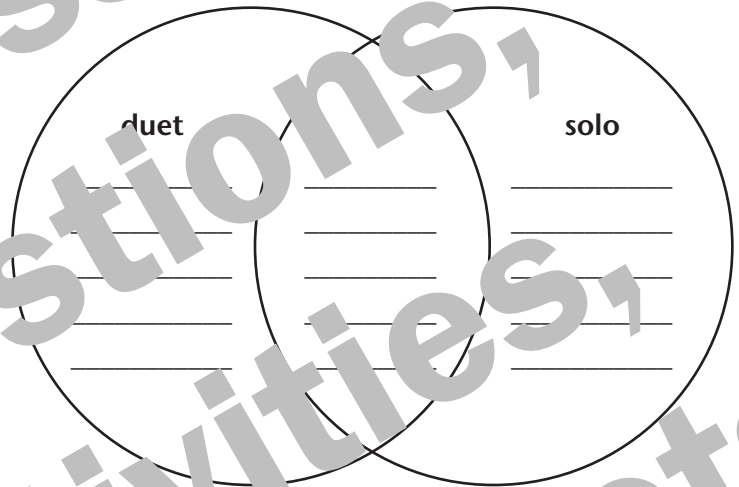
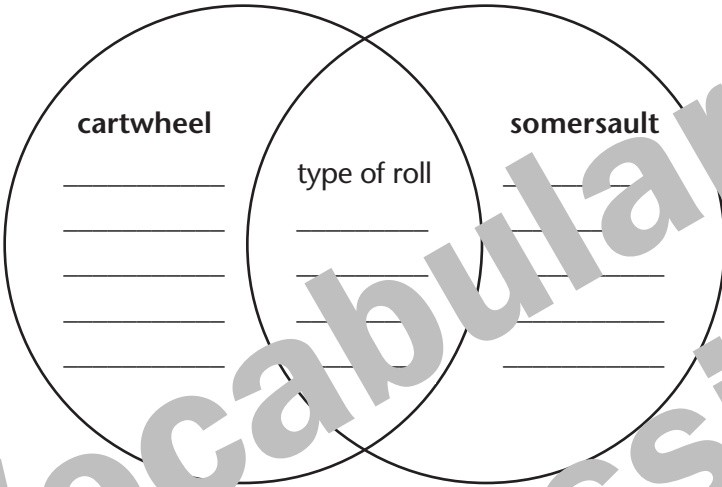
admit (1)

privileges (2)

Vocabulary Activity

Use the Venn diagrams on the following page to explain how two words are alike and how they are different.

Activity Sheet
Venn Diagrams



Discussion Questions and Activities

1. How does Fudge get his answer to the “big question”? (*Mom reads him a book, “How Babies Are Made.”*) Do you think this is a good way for Fudge’s mother to answer him? How did you get your answer?
2. Why does Peter think it is not a good idea to call the baby “Tootsie”? (*He thinks the kids at school will tease her about her nickname.*) Do you agree?
3. What are some of the things Fudge does to Tootsie that get him in trouble? Why do you think he does them? (*He hides her in a closet and tries to pull off her toes, probably out of both curiosity and jealousy.*)
4. How does Peter feel when Fudge insists that he is still Mom’s baby? (*For a moment, he wishes he could be Mom’s baby again, too.*) Have you ever felt as Fudge or Peter do?
5. How can you tell that Fudge means to get rid of Tootsie? (*He tells Mom that he wants her to get rid of the baby and that he’s still her baby.*) How does Peter try to help Fudge feel better? (*He reminds Fudge of all the privileges his kids have.*)
6. Think about the good things (pros) and bad things (cons) about being a baby instead of a big kid. List all the pros and cons that you can think of. Then decide whether you would choose to be a baby again, if you had a choice.

Being a baby versus being a big kid

Pros	Cons

7. Why does Peter think you’re growing his hair longer? (*He is worried his ears will stick out and wants to hide them.*) Does Peter call what Sheila Tubman thinks? (*He says that he doesn’t, but he seems to.*) Should he? Have you ever been self-conscious about one of your features?
8. **Prediction:** Now that the baby has arrived, what announcement do you think Peter’s parents will make?

Chapter 3

Vocabulary

chamber pots (25) suspense (27)

Vocabulary Activity

1. The chamber pot of times past is most like _____ of today.
 - a) frying pan
 - *b) toilet
 - c) teapot
 - d) trashcan
2. The type of story most likely to give you suspense is a _____.
 - *a) mystery
 - b) biography
 - c) love story
 - d) tall tale