



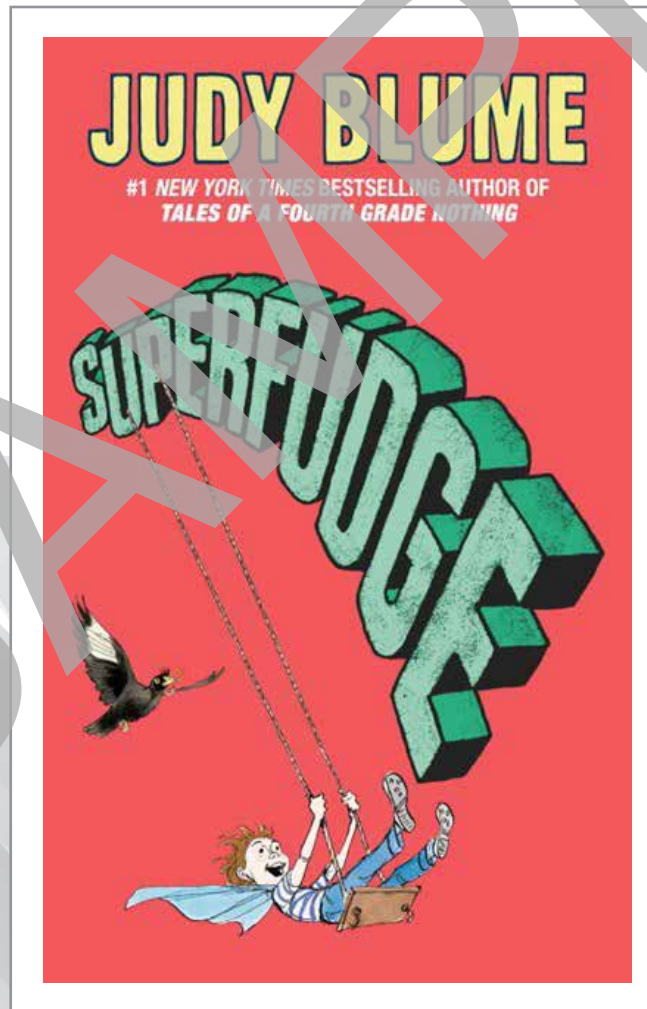
TEACHER GUIDE

GRADES 3-5

COMPREHENSIVE CURRICULUM BASED LESSON PLANS

Superfudge

Judy Blume



READ, WRITE, THINK, DISCUSS AND CONNECT

Superfudge

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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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

Summary of *Superfudge*

In *Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing*, Peter Hatcher kept us laughing with stories about his impish little brother, Fudge. Now Peter is in fifth grade, and Fudge—more of a terror than ever—is about to enter kindergarten. When Peter learns his mother is expecting another baby, he is ready to run away from home.

Tamara Roxanne is born in February and, despite Peter's objections, everyone calls her "Tootsie." Like Peter, Fudge is less than thrilled to have a baby in the house: He hides her in a closet; tells his mother to get rid of her; even tries to sell her—to no avail.

Change is in the air. Peter's mom, formerly a dental hygienist, plans to return to school to study art history. Worse, from Peter's point of view, the family will be moving to Princeton, New Jersey, for a year; Peter's father, an ad writer, will be staying at home to write a book.

Peter says good-bye to his best friend, Jimmy Fargo, and the two exchange promises: Peter won't use his Kreskin crystal to get to sleep and Jimmy won't use Peter's rock in the park until Peter returns. Sheila Tubman comes by while Peter is walking his dog, Turtle, and tells him that she's glad he is moving. On the morning of the move, Fudge contributes to the general chaos by plastering Tootsie with trading stamps.

Peter's parents find the house they are renting from friends charming, but Peter thinks it is too old and too big. After a couple of weeks, Peter makes a new friend—Alex Santos—and together, they dig up worms to sell to Mrs. Muldour.

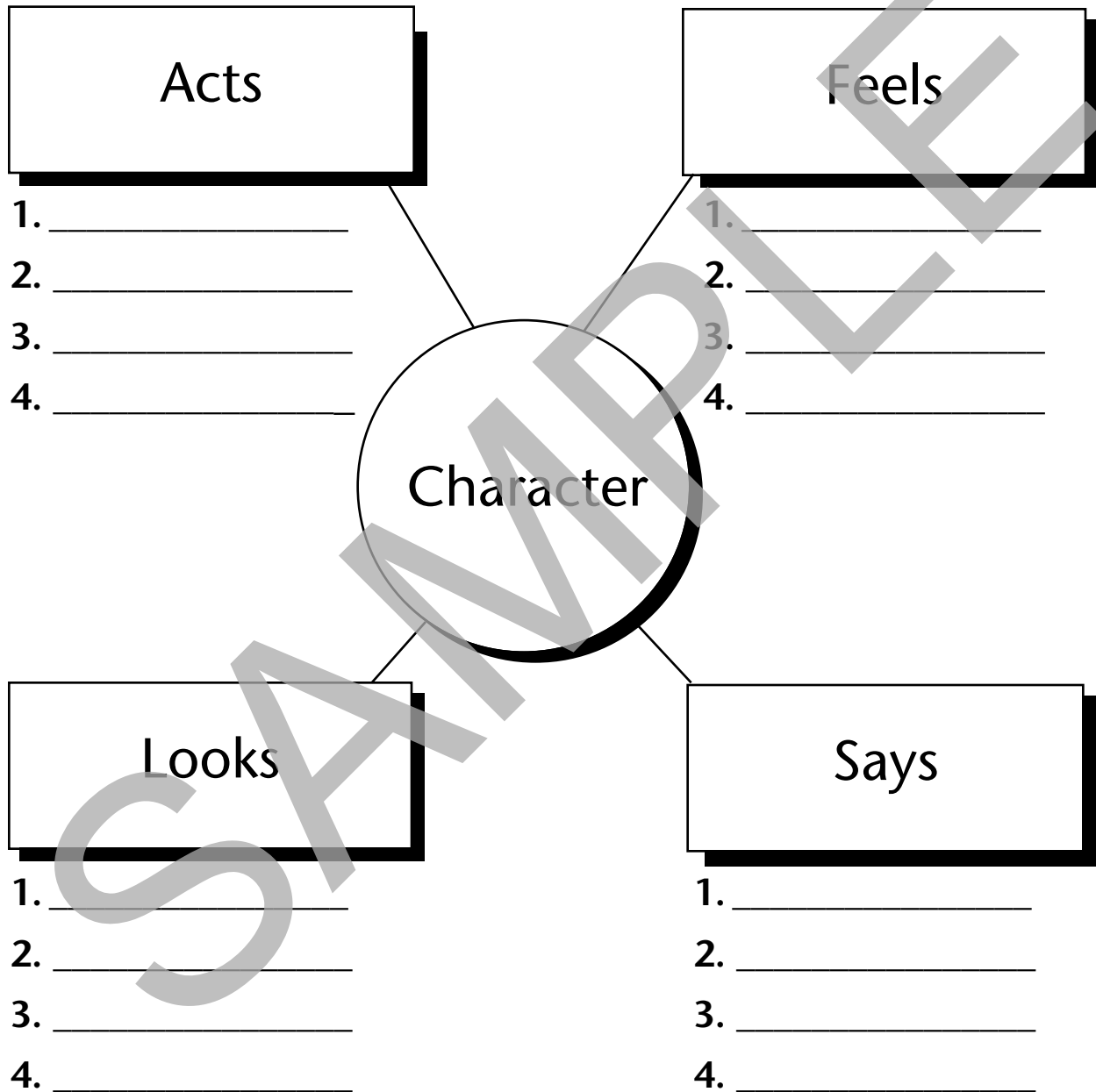
Fudge develops a fear of monsters in his bedroom, and begins sleeping in a sleeping bag near his parents' door. On the first day of school, Alex grudgingly escorts Fudge to Mrs. Hildebrandt's kindergarten classroom. Later that day he is called down from his classroom to help with Fudge, who has climbed on top of some cabinets and is refusing to come down because Mrs. Hildebrandt refuses to call him "Fudge," and is insisting on his given name, Farley Drexel. After being kicked and called "Ratface," she is all too happy to give Fudge to Ms. Ziff.

Fudge's parents get him a myna bird which he names "Uncle Feather" and he teaches it to give insults. Peter sees an abstract painting by his friend Jimmy's father hanging in a gallery; when Peter mentions the high price of the painting during a phone conversation with Jimmy, his friend explodes and hangs up. Halloween night, Alex shows up with a costume he has fashioned in imitation of the painting. Peter agrees to take Fudge (a ghost) trick-or-treating if he can borrow Fudge's glasses and rubber nose disguise. They arrive at Mrs. Muldour's door and Peter sees that Mrs. Muldour's daughter, Beverly, is the woman who works at the gallery.

Jimmy Fargo comes for a visit from New York, and when Peter introduces him to Alex, there is some mutual antagonism at first. All three take Fudge and his friend, Daniel to the movies to see Superman. Peter stops on the way to introduce Jimmy to Beverly, and considers, in passing, that Mr. Fargo—a divorcé—and Beverly would probably get along. At the movies, Peter sits next to Joanne and afterwards, Alex and Jimmy—friends now—both tease him about being in love.

Attribute Web

The attribute web below will help you gather clues the author provides about a character in the novel. Fill in the blanks with words and phrases which tell how the character acts and looks, as well as what the character says and what others say about him or her.



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 that news? Why? (*Peter is not happy to learn that his mother is expecting a new baby because he is 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 wants 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 Fudge 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 a new 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)

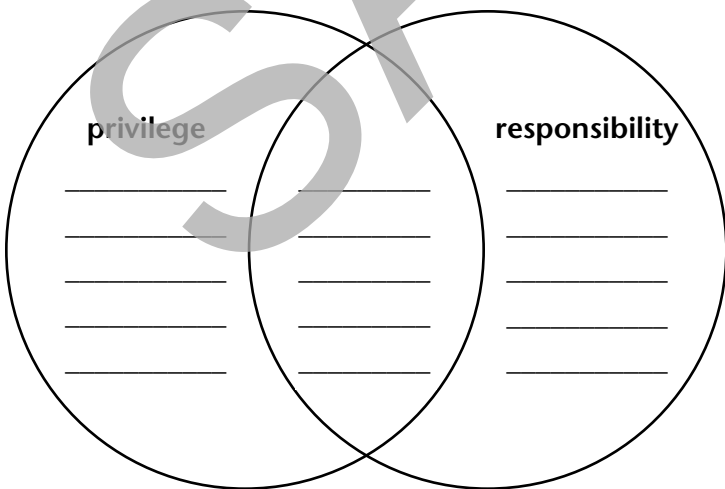
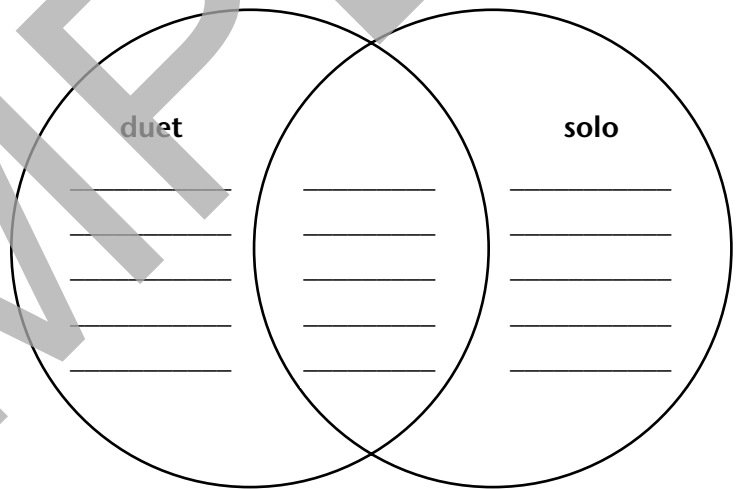
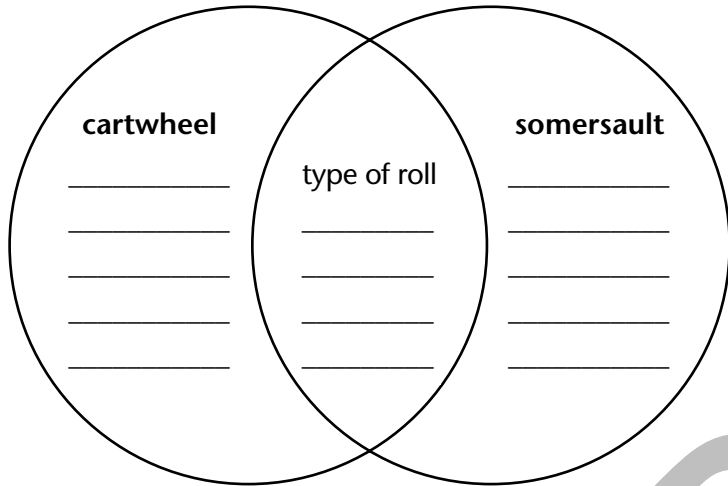
duet (13)

privileges (20)

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 is jealous of Tootsie? (*He tells Mom that he wants her to get rid of the baby and that he is still her baby.*) How does Peter try to help Fudge feel better? (*He reminds Fudge of all the privileges big 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 instead of a big kid

Pros	Cons

7. Why does Peter think about growing his hair longer? (*He is worried his ears stick out and wants to hide them.*) Does Peter care 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 new 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 the _____ of today.
a) frying pan *b) toilet c) teapot d) trashcan
2. The type of story most likely to keep you in suspense is a _____.
*a) mystery b) biography c) love story d) tall tale