

Novel·Ties

FUDGE-A-MANIA

JUDY BLUME



A Study Guide

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LEARNING LINKS

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For the Teacher

This reproducible study guide to use in conjunction with the novel *Fudge-A-Mania* consists of lessons for guided reading. Written in chapter-by-chapter format, the guide contains a synopsis, pre-reading activities, vocabulary and comprehension exercises, as well as extension activities to be used as follow-up to the novel.

In a homogeneous classroom, whole class instruction with one title is appropriate. In a heterogeneous classroom, reading groups should be formed: each group works on a different novel at its own reading level. Depending upon the length of time devoted to reading in the classroom, each novel, with its guide and accompanying lessons, may be completed in three to six weeks.

Begin using NOVEL-TIES for reading development by distributing the novel and a folder to each child. Distribute duplicated pages of the study guide for students to place in their folders. After examining the cover and glancing through the book, students can participate in several pre-reading activities. Vocabulary questions should be considered prior to reading a chapter; all other work should be done after the chapter has been read. Comprehension questions can be answered orally or in writing. The classroom teacher should determine the amount of work to be assigned, always keeping in mind that readers must be nurtured and that the ultimate goal is encouraging students' love of reading.

The benefits of using NOVEL-TIES are numerous. Students read good literature in the original, rather than in abridged or edited form. The good reading habits, formed by practice in focusing on interpretive comprehension and literary techniques, will be transferred to the books students read independently. Passive readers become active, avid readers.

PRE-READING ACTIVITIES AND DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Preview the book by reading the title and the author's name and by looking at the illustration on the cover. What do you think this book will be about? Do you think it will be funny or serious? Have you read any other books by the same author?
2. Read the chapter titles for *Fudge-a-Mania*. Predict what you think you will find in each chapter. What do you think the worst and best news of the century might be? Make a guess about the meaning of Fudge-a-Mania and I.S.A.F. What kind of prediction could you make about the book based on the title of the first chapter?
3. Young children often express a fear of “monsters” lurking in the dark when they go to bed at night. Try to remember how you felt about your darkened room as a young child. Did you share your room? Did you think there were monsters in your room? How did you overcome your fears? Choose one of the following books, or another book you liked, to read aloud and discuss with your class. How does the book address a child's fear of monsters?
 - *Where the Wild Things Are*, by Maurice Sendak
 - *There's a Nightmare in My Closet*, by Mercer Meyer
 - *There's a Monster Under My Bed*, by James Howe
 - *Clyde Monster*, by Robert Crowe
4. What do you think would be the perfect summer vacation? Where would you go? How would you travel? What would you do? Who would be with you?
5. **Social Studies Connection:** Maine is the northernmost state on the East Coast of the United States. It has a long Atlantic Ocean shoreline, clean lakes, and mountains. Write to the Board of Tourism for the state of Maine to obtain information about things to do in the state. Make a class display with a map of Maine, a chart of summer weather conditions in the state, and other materials you gather.
6. Use library resources to find out about the kinds of food that are produced in Maine. What fruits are commonly grown? What is Maine's best known vegetable? What kinds of seafood are caught in Maine?
7. Who are your favorite sports heroes from the past? Is there one baseball player, ice skater, gymnast, hockey player, or other sports figure that you especially admire? Discuss with others how you would feel if you could meet that person. Create a classroom display of FAVORITE SPORTS FIGURES. Bring into school any information or memorabilia—cards, pictures, magazine articles—you may be able to find.
8. **Pair/Share:** Baby-sitting for a five-year-old child requires creativity and attention. Work with a partner to plan an afternoon with two five-year-olds. Where could you take them? What kinds of games would you play? What books could you read to them? What snacks would you give them? What safety measures would you take to be sure they were not injured? As you read the book, notice whether you find any of these activities.

Chapters 1 – 3 (cont.)

Questions for Discussion:

1. Why do you think Peter dislikes Sheila? Do you think his feelings are justified?
2. Do you think Peter's summer will be better or worse than he expects?

Literary Devices:

- I. *Humor—Fudge-A-Mania* is humorous from the beginning to the end. Find examples of each of the following kinds of humor in Chapters One to Three.

- slapstick—physical comedy

- surprise

- humiliation—embarrassment

- put-downs—insults

- exaggeration

- II. *Point of View*—Point of view in literature refers to the voice telling the story. It could be narrated by the author or it could be told by one of the characters in the story. From whose point of view is this story told?

Why do you think the author chose this point of view?
