Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing

Teacher Guide

Grade Level & Content Areas

Access Reading Trek Map

Ages: 8–12
Grades: 3–5 (read-aloud or independent)
Reading Level: 4th Grade
Lexile Measure: 470L
Guided Reading Level: Q
Developmental Reading Assessment (DRA): 40

Content Areas: English/language arts, social studies, and social development.

Synopsis of Book

Judy Blume offers a glimpse into the life of fourth grader Peter Hatcher. Ten hilarious tales introduce readers to his family, friends, pets, and two of his father's clients. Trouble-causing little brother, Fudge, brings humor to Peter's tales on multiple levels. The tales are set in the 1950s near New York's Central Park.

Standards

Common Core State Standards for K–5

Reading: Literature
- Key Ideas and Details
- Craft and Structure

Writing
- Text Types and Purposes
- Research to Build and Present Knowledge

National Curriculum Standards for Social Studies

- Theme 1: CULTURE
- Theme 3: PEOPLE, PLACES, AND ENVIRONMENTS

National Core Arts Standards for Visual Arts

- CREATING
- RESPONDING

Using a TeachersFirst® Reading Trek to Explore This Book

TeachersFirst Reading Treks create a virtual field trip of resources about a piece of literature or a text using the My Maps feature of Google Maps. To motivate and enrich student reading, teachers and students can reference this visual collection of web resources and images as they relate to the contents of a book.

TeachersFirst has done the hard work for you! Use the activities in this teacher guide and the accompanying Reading Trek map as you and your students explore this book. And, if you feel inspired, you (or your students) can create your own Reading Trek about this or another book!

Using This Reading Trek in Class

Below is a list of ideas for how to use this Reading Trek in your educational setting.

Working with the Map:

1. Introduce the book to the whole class on an interactive whiteboard using the Reading Trek map. Highlight Judy Blume's website, her layer, and the Peter Hatcher's Important Places layer, noting that many places named in the text exist today. Some places, such as Peter's school, are not identified by name.

2. Take a virtual field trip of New York City using OldNYC: Mapping Historical Photos from NYPL to see older photos of the eastern side of Central Park.

3. Calculate the distance that Peter may have walked when visiting the Central Park Zoo, walking around his block, or traveling to other locations of your choice.

4. Take a virtual tour of Central Park. As the tour progresses, count the different types of bridges, statues, bodies of water, and other features identified, then plot them on a graph or pictogram using Pictogram Graph (TeachersFirst review).

5. Read about the author's life and her other works using the links on the Author's Information layer of the map. You could also have students choose an additional text to read from the list of her books.

![TeachersFirst logo]

Extension Activities:

1. Use the Reading Trek to stimulate discussion, ask questions, or inspire writing prompts aboutliving in a large city.

2. Draw a floor plan of how you imagine the Hatchers' apartment might have looked. Older or more advanced students may take a photo of their floor plan and upload it to Math-Kitecture (TeachersFirst review) to insert comments and hotspots.

3. Create a My Map depicting your home, school, and other places that you visit regularly.

4. Create a booktrailer for the story using Sway (TeachersFirst review).

5. Create a set of directions to guide someone from your classroom to the playground.

6. Organize into groups to write and act out a commercial for Juicy-O. Record it to share with the class.

Helpful Resources

From TeachersFirst:
- TeachersFirst CurriConnects Book List - Maps
- TeachersFirst Review of Google My Maps
- OK2Ask: Google My Maps Basics
- OK2Ask: Engage & Inspire with Reading Treks

Other Resources:
- Judy Blume on the Web
- Schmoop Study Guide: *Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing*
- Book trailer examples found at Kid Lit TV's Book Trailer Archives or Slime Kids