

Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing



Novel Study

Name: _____

Before Reading:

Predict: Look at the cover and read through the chapter titles. Make a prediction of what you believe this book is about.

After Chapter 1: The Big Winner

Point of View: From which point of view is the story written?

- a) First person
- b) Third person

Which word(s) or phrase(s) assisted you in determining the point of view?

Narrative Elements: Complete the narrative elements.

Characters:

Setting:

Read for Details: How old is Peter?

- a) 7 years old
- b) 9 years old
- c) 11 years old



Infer: "*Just look at what I won at Jimmy Fargo's birthday party.*" How does Peter's mother feel about Dribble? Cite evidence to support your answer.

Reread to Clarify: What is Peter's *biggest problem*?

Read for Details: How old is Fudge?

- a) two and a half years old
- b) four and a half years old
- c) six and a half years old

After Chapter 2: Mr. and Mrs. Juicy-O

Reflect: What are two reasons Peter does not like to sleep in the same room as Fudge?

- 1) _____
- 2) _____

Cause and Effect: Fill in the cause.

Cause: _____

Effect: Mrs. Hatcher called the doctor and then gave Fudge a spoonful of medicine.

Read for Details: Mrs. Yarby brought gifts for Peter and Fudge. What did she give each boy?

Peter: _____

Fudge: _____

Reread to Clarify: *"I'm a firm believer in old-fashioned good manners!"* What are two things Fudge did during dinner that bothered the Yarbys?

1) _____

2) _____

Cause and Effect: Fill in the cause.

Cause: _____

Effect: Peter was furious. He jumped up out of bed and smacked Fudge on his backside.

After Chapter 3: The Family Dog

Reflect: Fudge stopped eating. What did Peter's mother want Peter to do so Fudge would open his mouth to be fed?

- a) Tickle Fudge's toes.
- b) Sit on Fudge and pry open his mouth.
- c) Stand on his head.

Reflect: What advice did Peter offer his mother about Fudge not eating?

- a) *"Let him starve."*
- b) *"He will eat when he gets hungry. Leave him alone."*
- c) *"Ground him if he won't eat."*

Reflect: Why did Mrs. Hatcher put Fudge's plate under the table?

- a) Fudge was pretending to be a dog.
- b) Fudge was not allowed to sit at the table.
- c) Fudge was too messy to sit at the table.

Reread to Clarify: *"He ate everything my mother put in front of him."* How did Mr. Hatcher get Fudge to start eating again?

**After Chapter 4: My Brother the
Bird**

Reread to Clarify: According to Peter's father, what should Peter do if he gets mugged?

Infer: How does Peter feel about Sheila? Cite evidence from the chapter to support your answer.

Compare and Contrast: Compare and contrast how Sheila felt about watching Fudge and how Peter felt about watching Fudge.

Cause and Effect: Fill in the cause.

Cause: _____

Effect: Fudge was screaming and crying. His face was covered in blood and he lost his two front teeth.

Reflect: *"I just can't find them, Mrs. Hatcher. I've looked everywhere but Fudge's teeth are gone!"* Where did Mrs. Hatcher believe Fudge's teeth disappeared to?

- a) Mrs. Hatcher believes Fudge's teeth are lost in the woodchips.
- b) Mrs. Hatcher believes Fudge's teeth broke apart.
- c) Mrs. Hatcher believes Fudge swallowed his teeth.

Reflect: *"I'm disgusted with you!"* Who did Mrs. Hatcher blame for Fudge's accident?

- a) Jimmy
- b) Peter
- c) Sheila



Infer: How did Peter feel about his mother blaming him for Fudge's accident at the playground? Cite evidence to support your answer.

Predict: Do you think Peter's mother will let Shelia watch Fudge again?

- a) Sure. It was simply an accident.
- b) No way. Mrs. Hatcher learned her lesson.

After Chapter 5: The Birthday Bash

Reflect: Why did Peter start calling his brother *Fang*?

Cause and Effect: Fill in the cause.

Cause: _____

Effect: Grandma went to the bathroom to put medicine on her hand.

Reflect: Why did Mrs. Rudder come knocking on the Hatchers' door?

Read for Details: *"Next thing I knew there was a puddle on the rug."* Which one of Fudge's friends tinkled on the floor?

- a) Jennie
- b) Ralph
- c) Sam



After Chapter 6: Fang Hits Town

Analyze: *"He's always saying he takes special good care of me and Fudge because we're chips off the old block."*

What does it mean to be a chip off the old block?

Infer: Which best describes how Peter felt about spending Saturday with his mother and Fudge on the town?

- a) Peter was excited, he thought it would be fun.
- b) Peter was not excited, he does not think Fudge will behave himself.
- c) Peter did not care to go but he thought it would be good to get out of the house for a bit.

Reflect: Why doesn't Dr. Brown let mothers in the examining room with kids?

Reflect: Why was Mrs. Hatcher embarrassed when Peter took off his shoe?

- a) Peter's feet really stink.
- b) Peter has a hole in his sock.
- c) Peter was not wearing socks.

Reflect: *"I guess the kid really looks up to me."* What are two ways Fudge *looked up* to Peter?

1) _____

2) _____

Reflect: Mrs. Hatcher is leaving for the weekend. List three reasons Peter is looking forward to spending the weekend with his father.

1) _____

2) _____

3) _____

Infer: *"There he is! That's the kid I want!"* How did Mr. Hatcher feel when he saw Mr. Vincent choose Fudge for the commercial?

Infer: How did Peter feel about Fudge being chosen for the role in the commercial? Cite evidence to support your answer.

Reread to Clarify: How did Peter help his father with the Toddle-Bike commercial?

After Chapter 9: Just Another Rainy Day

Reflect: Mr. Hatcher suggested he take the boys to the movies. Why did Peter think Fudge should not go to the movies?

- a) It is raining outside and Fudge will get wet.
- b) Fudge will fall asleep in the theater.
- c) Fudge is too young to go to the movies.

Cause and Effect: Fill in the cause.

Cause: _____

Effect: The movie stopped in the middle of a scene. The lights came on.

Reread to Clarify: Why did Fudge leave his seat in the middle of the movie? What did Fudge want to do?



Compare and Contrast: Compare and contrast how Peter felt about his father's *super-duper omelet* and how Fudge felt about his father's omelet.

Infer: How did Mrs. Hatcher feel when she saw the Toddle-Bike commercial?

After Chapter 10: Dribble!

Reflect: "*Mom... where's Dribble?*" Dribble is gone. What happened to Dribble?

Infer: Which best describes how Mrs. Hatcher felt when she learned Fudge swallowed Dribble?

- a) amused
- b) curious
- c) panicked



Vocabulary: *"We arrived at the back door of the hospital. Fudge was whisked away by two nurses. My mother ran after him."*

What does the word whisked most likely mean?

- a) to move somewhere quickly or suddenly, or make somebody or something do this
- b) a quick light brushing or sweeping movement
- c) a bundle of twigs, straw, or grass attached to a handle used to sweep things

Reflect: *"Tears came to my eyes."* Why did Peter cry at the hospital?

Reflect: Fudge was showered with presents when he returned from the hospital, making Peter jealous. What did Peter's parents give him to cheer him up and prove they did not forget about Peter?

Infer: Which best describes Peter's mood at the conclusion of the story?

- a) anxious
- b) irritated
- c) joyful

After Finishing the Story:

Character Traits: Identify and describe one character trait of Peter Warren Hatcher.

- Use two pieces of evidence from the text to support your answer.
 - Circle your character trait and underline your evidence from the story.
-
-
-
-
-
-

Sequence of Events: Put the following events in chronological order using the numbers 1 through 10.

- _____ With Peter's help, Fudge stars in the Toddle-Bike commercial.
- _____ Peter wins Dribble at Jimmy Fargo's birthday party.
- _____ Peter works on a project about transportation with Jimmy and Sheila. His father installs a chain latch on his door.
- _____ Fudge eats Dribble. Peter is devastated. Fudge is rushed to the hospital.
- _____ Fudge went missing at the movie theater. Peter finds him trying to pet the bears.
- _____ Fudge ate some of his mother's flowers. The Yarbys are fed up, they decide to stay at a hotel.
- _____ Mr. Hatcher buys Peter a dog for being such a good sport. Peter names the dog Turtle.
- _____ Peter helps his mother throw a birthday party for Fudge. The party is exhausting.
- _____ Fudge tries to fly like a bird, he knocks his front teeth out.
- _____ Mrs. Hatcher and Peter take Fudge to the dentist. At lunch, Fudge dumps his dish of peas on his head.



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TYCRANDOOI
6

FEDGU

RETHORB
4

RPEET
5

BIRBEDL
3

FAMLIY

LAPHITSO
2 1

LURTE
7

NAGF

Word Jumble

W - **K**
1 2 3 4 5 6 7

What do you get when you cross a turtle and a porcupine?

Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing Word Search

X D N P G S E I V O M J V J C
 G O S E H N U G X D J N M Q O
 R Q X A W F A M I L Y A N G M
 O M O F K Y J F Y M U Z D D M
 T R A N S P O R T A T I O N E
 A Y C D N F F R L L C N H T R
 V A A F R K U A K T O A H P C
 E I W D B I T D I C T O E K I
 L L T B H I B O G C I T H W A
 E E C N P T N B H E E T N C L
 J H Q S X A R E L R H U Y B S
 I S O U R J R I D E N T I S T
 M H Y Y V F C P B H T E E T L
 M D N U O R G Y A L P W W P Z
 Y Y Y T P F B U N F U U K M M

BIRTHDAY
 COMMERCIAL
 DENTIST
 DICTIONARY
 DRIBBLE
 ELEVATOR
 FAMILY
 FANG
 FUDGE
 HATCHER
 HOSPITAL
 JIMMY



MOVIES
 NEW YORK CITY
 PETER
 PLAYGROUND
 SCHOOL
 SHELIA
 TEETH
 TRANSPORTATION