

Superfudge

by Judy Blume

As if dealing with his little brother, Fudge, is not enough, now Peter learns his mother is going to have another baby and what's more, they are going to move to New Jersey while Dad writes a book.

THEMES

humor, sharing, family, sibling rivalry, friendship, change

I. PRE-TEACHING

A. Have the class define and discuss these terms:

pregnant, somersaults, naughty, precious, privileges, addicted, emergency, sublet, suffer, absentminded, humid, sic, hiccuped, disguise, regenerate, prime, cowered, chanting, phase, tangled, rough, moustache, conflict, career, cultured, contagious, fortified, embellish, rummaged, preservatives, sociable, imitate, genus, vulture, mimicked, profession, unanimous, dictate, enthusiastic, Hanukkah, ceremonial, catastrophes, precision, aggressive, psychologist, bruise, peroxide, vocabulary, thermos, commuting

B. Before beginning the story, discuss the following questions with the class:

1. Do you have younger brothers or sisters? What do you like about them? What problems do you have because of them?
2. What's it like when a new baby comes? Why are older children sometimes jealous?
3. Have you ever moved and had to start at a new school? How did you make friends? What happened to the friends you left behind? How did you feel about the move?

II. PRESENTATION

A. Understanding the Story:

1. Begin with Chapters 1-4: What news does Mom have? How does Peter feel about it? What is Fudge's reaction? What does Fudge do after he learns how babies are made? What is the baby's name? What is she called? How does Peter feel about her? How does Fudge try to get rid of her? How does the baby change the household? How does Peter feel when he holds Tootsie? What news does Dad have? What news does Mom have? How does Peter react to these announcements? Why doesn't Peter want to live with Jimmy and his father?
2. Advance to Chapters 5-8: Describe the Hatcher's new house. Who is Peter's first new friend? What does Peter like about him? Why is Peter called to the principal's office? What conflict does Fudge have with Mrs. Hildebrant? What new game has Tootsie learned?

- What kind of bird does Fudge decide on? What does Fudge want to be for Halloween? What does Peter see in the art gallery window? Why did Jimmy's father paint the picture, *Anita's Anger*? Why does Peter volunteer to take Fudge trick-or-treating? What is Alex's costume?
3. Complete the story with Chapters 9-13: What does Daniel tell Fudge about Uncle Feather? Why does Peter feel left out when Jimmy and Alex get together? How does Mom get rid of Daniel? What does Fudge's letter to Santa say? What secret does Fudge tell Peter on Christmas night? What does Fudge get to do at school? Why does Fudge get upset? What do he and Daniel do? How do they punish him? What decision has Dad made? What is Tootsie's first word?

B. For Discussion:

1. In what ways does the year in New Jersey affect each member of the family?
2. How does Peter feel when his two friends dislike each other? How does he feel when they start acting like good friends? Why does he react this way?
3. How can you tell that Fudge is a bright little boy? How does his being bright create problems for him and for his family?
4. Dad tells Peter, "Changes take some getting used to, but in the long run they're healthy." What does Peter find difficult about the changes in his life?

III. EXTENDING THE LESSON

Give students the opportunity to work with partners, groups, the whole class, or alone.

INTERDISCIPLINARY CONNECTIONS:

A. Language Arts:

1. Have students write about a new baby coming to their home. If they have younger siblings, have them try to capture how they felt. If they don't, have them talk to students who have experienced this.
2. Have students write about a time when they wanted to run away from home. What was the reason they felt this way? Where did they plan to go? What happened?

3. Have students write about moving and going to a new school. How did they feel at first? How did they make friends?
4. Have students notice the chapter titles. How do they make them want to find out what's going to happen in each chapter?

B. Art and Music:

1. Have students select background music that might be appropriate to some of the scenes. Lullabies or music about babies might be appropriate for when Tootsie is born. "Puff the Magic Dragon" or theme music from *Sesame Street* might be played for when Fudge is in his room, and "Toot, Toot, Tootsie" for when they are singing to Tootsie.
2. Have students make a bulletin board about the story. They could cover the board in pink for the new baby girl, add toys, a teething ring, a mobile, and other baby items, show pictures of ice cream cones with special names, a picture of a can of worms, Halloween costumes, candy, and Christmas decorations and wrapping paper. They might recreate Frank Fargo's painting, *Anita's Anger*.
3. Have students design mobiles a baby might enjoy above its crib.
4. Have students come up with names and new flavors for ice cream and make a poster. They might even try making ice cream with one of these flavors.
5. Have students decide on a melody for "Who owns the school?" the sixth graders are singing when Peter first gets there. They might add new lyrics.
6. Have students watch TV commercials and talk about their favorites. Why do they like these? Do they think they are effective for selling the product? Why or why not? Which ones don't they like? Why not?
7. Hold a dress-up day and have students come dressed like a famous painting.

C. Social Studies:

1. Peter doesn't like it when people use baby talk with Tootsie. Have students talk about why some people feel babies shouldn't be exposed to baby talk. Hold a debate about the subject.

2. Have students work in groups and come up with what's needed to prepare for a new baby. They might gather items and take them to someone who's expecting a baby.
3. Have students find out why dogs need to have licenses and why there are laws about leashes.
4. Peter's teacher, Mr. Bogner, spent the summer as an Outward Bound instructor. Have students find out more about this program. What values does it teach?
5. Have students find out more about Halloween. Why do we celebrate it? Why do we wear costumes and go trick-or-treating?

D. Science and Math:

1. Have students find out about myna birds. Where do they come from? How are they able to talk? Why do they make good pets?
2. Worms and other animals are able to regenerate parts or even a whole new animal when cut in pieces. Have students find out which animals can do this and how.
3. Because Tootsie is teething, her gums are sore. Have students find out more about babies and their teeth. Why do we have two sets of teeth?
4. Jimmy's father's paintings sell in the thousands. Have students find out how art is valued. What makes a painting worth a lot of money? What is the highest price paid for a single painting?

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