

TALES OF A FOURTH GRADE NOTHING

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Synopsis

Peter feels his parents are neglecting him and giving all their attention to his rambunctious, two-year old brother, nicknamed Fudge. To everyone else Fudge is cute, but he is not cute to Peter, he is annoying. When Fudge misbehaves, it's Peter's job to entertain him so he will be better. When their father takes them to the movies, Fudge gets lost and the manager has to turn the movie off, and the theater lights on, so they can search for Fudge. Peter is very embarrassed. They find Fudge on stage trying to touch the bears on the movie screen. The final blow to Peter is when Fudge gets into his room, and eats his pet turtle. Everyone is concerned about Fudge, but no one seems to be worried about the turtle or Peter. Peter's parents buy him a new pet that is too big for his brother to eat, and let him know he is still important to them.

TALES OF A FOURTH GRADE NOTHING

LESSON 1

Chapters 1 - 2

1. Peter's mother doesn't just want him to wash his hands, she wants him to scrub them. What does she mean?

2. Why did the Yarbys leave the hatcher's apartment?

A. They didn't like the noise and confusion of children.

B. It was time for them to catch their flight home.

C. They didn't like Mrs. Hatcher's cooking.

3. From what point of view is this story being told?

A. A narrator

B. Peter's point of view

C. Fudge's point of view

4. Put the following events in the correct order.

_____ Fudge puts green stamps on the Yarby's luggage

_____ Peter wins the turtle at Jimmy's birthday party

_____ Mr. And Mrs. Yarby come to visit

_____ Fudge eats the flowers

5. How do you think Peter felt when Mrs. Yarby gave him his present?

6. When you received a present that you didn't really want or need, how did you behave? Did you handle it in a good way or not? Explain your answer.

TALES OF A FOURTH GRADE NOTHING

LESSON 2

Chapters 3 - 4

1. What does Peter do to get Fudge to eat?
 - A. Make funny faces
 - B. Run around in circles
 - C. Stand on his head

2. Mr. Hatcher finally does something to make Fudge start eating, what did he do?

3. Fudge was doing what when he got hurt?

4. What does the word "impressed," mean? "They were all impressed."

5. Put a check by the event that happened first.
 - Fudge jumps off the jungle gym.
 - Sheila offers to baby-sit
 - Fudge won't eat his food
 - Peter's mother gets mad at Fudge

6. How would you feel if someone you were baby-sitting got hurt?
Explain your answer.

TALES OF A FOURTH GRADE NOTHING

LESSON 3

Chapters 5 - 6

1. What is Fudge's real name?
2. At Fudge's party there are three types of kids. Circle the three Types of kids at his party.

Biter Giggler Crier Eater Hitter
3. Peter's mother takes the boys shopping for what?
4. What does the idiom "chip off the old block" mean?
5. When Peter cleans out Dribble's bowl, what does he do next after he puts Dribble in the bathtub?
 - A. Rinses out the bowl
 - B. Removes and cleans the rocks
 - C. Washes dribble carefully
6. Where is your favorite place to go with your parents? Why?

TALES OF A FOURTH GRADE NOTHING

LESSON 4

Chapters 7 - 8

1. What did Fudge do to Peter's poster?
 - A. Penciled in a mustache
 - B. Wrote his name on it
 - C. Colored it with markers
2. How did Fudge get chosen to be in the Toddle-Bike commercial?
3. What trick do they use to get Fudge to make the commercial?
4. Put the following events in the correct order.
 - _____ Fudge ruins the committee's poster
 - _____ Mr. Vincent picks Fudge for a commercial
 - _____ Mrs. Hatcher (Peter's mom) flies to Boston
5. Describe a school project that you have done that you were proud of.
6. Do you think Fudge likes Peter? Support your answer using examples from the story.

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LESSON 5

Chapters 9 -10

1. Why did the lights go on in the middle of the movie?
 - A. The projector broke down
 - B. Fudge was lost
 - C. There was a fire
2. Fudge had to be rushed to the hospital. What was the reason?
3. He (meaning Fudge) splashed around like a duck. In this simile what is being compared?
4. Why did Peter's father want to keep their weekend activities a secret from Peter's mother?
5. How do you think Peter felt when he realized that Dribble wouldn't live?
6. Do you think having a brother like Fudge would be funny or difficult? Explain why you think that.

TALES OF A FOURTH GRADE NOTHING ANSWER KEY

LESSON 1

1. When Peter's mother says to scrub his hands she means for him to use soap and rub his hands together, not just rinse.
2. A
3. B
4. The correct order is 4, 1, 3, and 2.
5. Answers may vary but he isn't very excited about it.
6. Answers will vary.

LESSON 2

1. C
2. Mr. Hatcher puts Fudge in the bathtub and pours cold cereal on his head.
3. Fudge was pretending to be a bird and flying off the jungle gym when he got hurt.
4. Impressed means to have influenced someone's mind or feelings.
5. Fudge won't eat his food is the first event and should be checked.
6. Answers will vary. The reader should understand that accidents happen even when they are carefully watching and they shouldn't feel guilty if they were doing everything they could have.

LESSON 3

1. Fudge's real name is Farley Drexel Hatcher.
2. BITER, CRIER, EATER should be circled.
3. Peter's mother takes the boys shopping for shoes.
4. Chip off the old block in this case means the boys are like their father.
5. B
6. Answers will vary.

LESSON 4

1. C
2. Mr. Vincent the president of Toddler-Bike spotted Fudge and thought he was a child actor and he wanted Fudge in the commercial.
3. The men pretended that Peter was going to be the boy in the commercial. After he had done it a couple of times Fudge got jealous and decides he wants to do the commercial.
4. The correct order is 1, 3, and 2.
5. Answers will vary.
6. Answers will vary.

LESSON 5

1. B
2. Fudge had to go to the hospital because he ate Dribble, Peter's turtle.
3. The simile compares Fudge to a duck. They both splash around.
4. Answers may vary. Mr. Hatcher wanted his wife to think he had done a good job and everything had gone well. He didn't want her to know all the problems he had.
5. Answers may vary. Peter was upset when he realized Dribble wouldn't live, he wanted to cry.
6. Answers will vary.