

***Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing* by Judy Blume**

Living with his little brother, Fudge, makes Peter Hatcher feel like a fourth grade nothing.

Whether Fudge is throwing a temper tantrum in a shoe store, smearing smashed potatoes on walls at Hamburger Heaven, or scribbling all over Peter's homework, he's never far from trouble. He's a two-year-old terror who gets away with everything—and Peter's had enough.

When Fudge walks off with Dribble, Peter's pet turtle, it's the last straw. Peter has put up with Fudge too long. How can he get his parents to pay attention to him for a change?

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Discussion Questions:

1. Do Peter's mother and father recognize and understand Peter's feelings? How do you know? What do they do to both support him and let him down?
2. Fudge is quite a character! The first time we meet him, he's busy being annoying to Peter. Is Fudge just a normal two-year-old, or is he spoiled, as Peter claims? Use your personal experience and evidence from the text in your answer.
3. How do Peter's mother and father differ in their child-rearing styles? Is this a good thing or a bad thing?



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4. Jimmy Fargo is Peter's best friend. How does Jimmy feel about Fudge? Why is this?
5. Shelia Tubman is a colorful character who has a specific personality. What is she like? Would you want to be her friend? Why or why not?
6. Why does Peter need boundaries from Fudge? Is it only to protect his stuff?
7. Do you think that Mr. and Mrs. Hatcher treat Fudge better than they treat Peter? Why or why not?
8. Why do you think that Fudge decides to swallow Dribble?
9. How does living in New York City make Peter's childhood unique and interesting?
10. Do you think that Mr. Hatcher is a good dad?
11. Why does Mrs. Hatcher always seem to take Fudge's side over Peter's?
12. Do you think Peter sees the puppy as his reward for being a good kid? Does it make up for all he's been through?
13. How is Peter a good brother to Fudge?
14. What do we learn about how Peter's parents really feel about him vs. what he thinks they feel about him?
15. Why do you think the author kills off poor little Dribble?



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- You might also enjoy *Grow Up, David*
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