



TeachersFirst **READING TREKS**

Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing

[TeachersFirst Reading Treks Link](#)

Synopsis of Book

Judy Blume offers a glimpse into the life of fourth grader Peter Hatcher. Ten hilarious tales introduce the reader to his family and friends, his 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 1950's near New York's Central Park.

Using a TeachersFirst Reading Trek to Explore This Book

TeachersFirst Reading Treks are a way of creating a virtual field trip of resources about a piece of literature or 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 a book.

TeachersFirst has done the hard work for you! Use the activities in this Instructional Guide and the accompanying Reading Trek 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!

Grade Level & Content Areas

Grades 3-5, ages 8-12, for reading aloud or for individual reading. Lexile Level: 1170L. Accelerated Reading Level: 3.3. Quiz 3.0 Points. DRA Level: 40. Guided Reading Level: Q. English/language arts, social studies, and social development.

Common Core State Standards for Grades K-6

Reading

- **Literature** (key ideas and details and craft and structure)

Writing

- **Text Types and Purposes**

- **Research** (to build and present knowledge)

ISTE: Student Standards

- (1) Empowered Learner: Students leverage technology to take an active role in choosing, achieving and demonstrating competency in their learning goals, informed by the learning sciences.
- (3) Knowledge Constructor: Students critically curate a variety of resources using digital tools to construct knowledge, produce creative artifacts and make meaningful learning experiences for themselves and others.
- (6) Creative Communicator: Students communicate clearly and express themselves creatively for a variety of purposes using the platforms, tools, styles, formats and digital media appropriate to their goals.

National Curriculum Standards for Social Studies

- **Theme: CULTURE**
- **Theme: PEOPLE, PLACES, AND ENVIRONMENTS**

National Core Arts Standards for Visual Arts

- **CREATING**
- **RESPONDING**

Using the Reading Trek in Class

This title has connections to people, places, and environment.

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 layer for Peter Hatcher's Important Places, noting that many of the places named in the text actually exist today. Some places, such as Peter's school are not identified by name.
2. Take a virtual field trip of New York City at [OldNYC: Mapping Historical Photos from NYPL](#) to see some older photos of the eastern side of Central Park. Or, try [Big Apple Tour](#).
3. Calculate the distance that Peter may have walked when visiting the Central Park Zoo, the distance around Peter's block, or other locations of choice.
4. Take a virtual tour of [Central Park](#). As the tour progresses, count different types of trees mentioned, statues identified, bodies of water, and other features of choice and graph, possibly on a pictogram at [Pictogram Graph \(TeachersFirst review\)](#).
5. Book and author information:
 - a. Read about the author's life and other books using the author information link on the Author's Information Layer of the map.
 - b. Choose an additional text to read from the list of books.

Additional Activities

1. Use the Reading Trek for stimulating discussion, asking questions, or for writing prompts about living in a large city.
2. Draw a floor plan of how you imagine the Hatcher's apartment might have looked. Older or more advanced students may take a photo of their floor plan and upload it to [Mapwing](#) ([TeachersFirst review](#)) to insert comments and hotspots.
3. Create a My Map depicting your home, school, and several other places that you visit on a regular basis.
4. Create a book trailer about the book using [Sway](#) ([TeachersFirst review](#)).
5. Create a set of directions to go from the 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

- [Judy Blume on the Web](#).
- [Shmoop Literature Learning Guides](#).
- Book Trailer Examples found at [Kid Lit TV's Book Trailer Archives](#) or [Slime Kids](#).
- [TeachersFirst CurriConnects Book List - Maps](#)
- [TeachersFirst Review of Google My Maps](#)
- [OK2Ask: Google MANIA - Google Maps: Make Learning a Journey with Reading Treks](#)