

### **Oppitunnin tavoite**

- Introduce students to Judy Blume (American Author)
- Introduce students to novel
- Tell students about the outcomes and expectations of this novel study

### **Mitä tarvitaan?**

- Copy of "Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing" by Judy Blume for each student
- Teacher copy of the novel
- Photocopies of the homework journal questions

### **Oppitunnin kulku**

#### **Introduction to novel study: Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing**

- Introduction to back cover
- Comparison between cover art over the years (original vs. today's)
- Introduction to book and the author:
  - Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing was written by Judy Blume, in 1972
  - It is the first book of a 4 book series called the "Fudge Books"
  - Judy Blume was born in 1938 in New Jersey, United States. She began writing in 1969 and retired in 2013
  - She was also a teacher, as well as a writer
  - Based on the covers that you have in front of you, what do you think the story will be about?
  - About the book: Peter is the older brother to adorable, cute and annoying younger brother Fudge who is 2. Fudge is a trouble maker and often his crimes go unpunished which is very frustrating for Peter. Peter has a pet turtle named Dribble whom Fudge loves to bother. Fudge also throws non-stop temper tantrums, does not like to eat and despite being what Peter thinks to be a bad kid, his parents LOVE everything about Fudge.

#### **Read Aloud: Chapter 1: The Big Winner**

- Words or expressions to discuss:
  - Commercials: TV advertisements
- Character introduction: Peter Hatcher, 9 years old, in the fourth grade
  - Peter wins a turtle which he names Dribble at his best friend's birthday party by guessing how many jelly beans were in the jar
  - Has a younger brother names Fudge (Farley Drexel) who is 2.5 years old and Peter finds his to be very annoying
- Fudge likes socks, eats his mother's flowers
- Peter's father works in the advertising business and his biggest client is Juicy-O, a drink that Peter drinks a lot of despite not liking it.

#### **For homework, students should read Chapter 2 and complete the following questions in their English Journal or workbook:**

1. We learn that Peter has a little brother named Fudge who Peter finds annoying, frustrating and overall a pain in his side! If you have any

brothers or sisters, can you think of a time when your sibling angered or frustrated you so badly that you just wished they would disappear? If you do not have any brothers or sisters, can you think of something that may really frustrate or anger you about having a brother or sister?

2. Peter was happy when he won a turtle at his friend's birthday party. Write about a time that you won something. What did you win? How did you win it?
3. While reading your homework assignment, please find **four** words that are new to you. Look up their meaning in a dictionary (in English), whether in paper form or with the permission of your parents, on the internet. Write down their meaning. To challenge yourself further, write down a synonym (another word that means the same thing).

**Kesto: 60 minutes**

### **Odotetut oppimistulokset**

Overall outcome of this novel study:

- Introducing students to an unfamiliar, North American writer (Judy Blume)
- Encourage active reading, listening and student participation
- Creative thinking and writing development through journal questions, in class writing tasks and oral presentations
- Activate and use prior vocabulary knowledge while enhancing understanding of new words and expressions
- Making opinion based predictions based on chapter titles prior to reading
- Brief ideas of life in New York City (Central Park, Peter's neighbourhood, the elevator and the man who rides it)