

Story Squares for Grade 3

Multiple Learning Styles for Reading Comprehension

Author: Denise Cunningham
Author: Nicole Sullivan
Editor: Jonathan Gross
Book Design: Patti Jeffers

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Grade Three

Freckle Juice

by Judy Blume

In this classic story, young Andrew wants what somebody else has – in this case, freckles. A sly classmate offers Andrew a fictitious recipe that will create freckles and he falls for it, as well as falling ill from the recipe.

This story is a great book to introduce Story Squares™ since it is an easy read. It would also be one to use with struggling readers. This book is recommended for third-graders.

Judy Moody Was in a Mood. Not a Good Mood. A Bad Mood.

by Megan McDonald

Judy Moody's first day of third grade goes exactly how she expected – badly! She has no cool vacation tee-shirt to wear, has to sit next to a kid who eats paste, and isn't allowed to pick up the class pizza. Plus, she has to create a collage about herself. While she and her best friend, Rocky, figure out what to put on their collages, Judy's brother Stink is ruining everything.

In the end, Judy finishes her collage (with an unexpected last-minute addition), makes a new friend, and is a member of her very own club. Third grade isn't so bad after all.

This book is recommended for third-graders. It is easy to understand and would be an excellent independent book or introductory class book for Story Squares™.

The Magic Finger

by Roald Dahl

The Gregg family enjoys hunting, a hobby the little girl next door finds appalling. She tries to convince them of their wrongdoing, to no avail. Unfortunately for the Greggs, her magic finger takes over. The Greggs turn into ducks, and the ducks they hunt take over the Greggs' house. The Greggs learn a valuable lesson about being kind to animals and treating others with respect.

This book is recommended for third-graders. Because the author is British, there may be wording that needs explanation. Therefore, large group reading or paired reading may be preferred to independent work.

Chocolate Fever

by Robert Kimmel Smith

This is the story of Henry Green, a *chocoholic*. He eats chocolate every day, at every meal, and for every snack. He believes there is nothing better than chocolate – until he comes down with Chocolate Fever. Henry is hospitalized due to his unknown condition, and in a moment of panic, he runs away from the hospital.

On his adventure, Henry meets Mac, a truck driver who helps Henry see the better side of the situation. They get hijacked and eventually meet Mr. Cane, the man who helps Henry cure his Chocolate Fever.

The students learn the lesson that there can be too much of a good thing.

This book is recommended for third-grade readers. It is a great independent or small group book.

Freckle Juice

By Judy Blume

Choose _____ from each square.

1

- 1 List ten things that are about the size of five freckles put together.
- 2 Make a list of 15 nouns from the story. List the pages on which you find them.
- 3 After reading the story, write down ten important events in the order they occurred.
- 4 Sharon's Freckle Juice recipe costs 50 cents. Make a list of ten things you could buy for 50 cents each.
- 5 Write a two-sentence summary for each chapter.

2

- 1 Write an *address poem* about freckles.
- 2 Which chapter did you like the best? Write a paragraph telling why that chapter was your favorite.
- 3 Andrew wants freckles badly enough to try anything. Why do you think he wants freckles so badly? Write a paragraph to explain your answer.
- 4 In a paragraph, tell about a time you really wanted something, but were disappointed when you got it.
- 5 Write a brand new recipe or a favorite recipe from your own kitchen.

3

- 1 If you were Andrew, how would you trick Sharon to get even with her?
- 2 Create your own nasty recipe for Freckle Juice. Make sure to list all the ingredients and the directions to prepare it.
- 3 Make a chart to show how Nicky and Andrew are alike and different. You could make a *Venn diagram*, a *T-chart*, a list, etc.
- 4 What do you think will happen to Nicky if he gets a secret recipe from Sharon?
- 5 Do you think the author did a good job describing Andrew? Tell why or why not.

4

- 1 Create a newspaper ad to try to sell Freckle Juice.
- 2 Make a before picture and an after picture of Andrew if the Freckle Juice had worked.
- 3 Give five reasons freckles are good to have.
- 4 Write Sharon's recipe to make freckles go away.
- 5 What could Andrew do if he wants to get taller? Think of five ways that he could try to become taller.

Judy Moody Was in a Mood. Not a Good Mood. A Bad Mood.

by Megan McDonald

Choose _____ from each square.

1

- 1 Write a three-sentence summary for each chapter.
- 2 Make a list of ten common nouns and ten proper nouns from the story.
- 3 Research Elizabeth Blackwell. Write five facts about her.
- 4 Make a list of ten rules for the T.P. club.
- 5 See how many words you can find in the letters making up the phrase "GINO'S EXTRA CHEESE PIZZA."

2

- 1 Judy collects strange things. Do you collect anything? Tell about them.
- 2 Give an oral report telling your class about yourself.
- 3 What would you do if you were the only girl at an all-boy party (or vice-versa)?
- 4 Write a seven-line *triangle poem* about Judy Moody.
- 5 If you could be friends with any character from the book, who would it be? Why?

3

- 1 Make a *Venn diagram* comparing Judy and Frank.
- 2 Stink causes many problems in the story. Write the effects of the bad things he does.
- 3 Summarize Judy's first day of third grade in a well-written paragraph.
- 4 Write a "You are the Flag" essay telling why the flag is important to you.
- 5 List five things that can cause you to be in a good mood and five things that can cause you to be in a bad mood.

4

- 1 Make a "Me Collage" about yourself. Use Mr. Todd's list of ideas for help.
- 2 Design a tee-shirt from a place you have been or would like to visit.
- 3 With a partner, act out a scene between Judy and Stink.
- 4 Choose your favorite chapter and make it into a *comic strip* with at least eight scenes.
- 5 Think of an idea for a new Judy Moody book. Create a *story map* to tell its plot.

The Magic Finger

by Roald Dahl

Choose _____ from each square.

1

- 1 Name 15 synonyms for the word *cross*.
- 2 After you have read to page 39, write ten important events in the order they happened.
- 3 Make a list of 20 nouns found in the story. Put them in alphabetical order.
- 4 List the human-like things the ducks did, and the duck-like things the Greggs did.
- 5 On page 58, there is a list of birds. Find an interesting fact about each type of bird mentioned.

2

- 1 Describe two times you were very angry. If you had a magic finger, what do you think would have happened? Write two paragraphs about it.
- 2 Pretend you are the narrator. Write a letter to the Greggs or the Coopers persuading them to stop hunting.
- 3 What are three advantages and three disadvantages of having a magic finger?
- 4 Write a script as if you were a TV reporter reporting on either the human-sized birds or the humans with wings.
- 5 Is it right for an eight-year-old to have a gun for hunting? Defend your opinion in a well-written paragraph.

3

- 1 What lesson does this book teach? Explain it in one or more paragraphs.
- 2 Predict what might happen if the narrator's mom and dad wouldn't let her go to her friend's house to play.
- 3 How did the magic finger experience change the Greggs? Write a paragraph explaining these changes.
- 4 If you were forced to eat bugs, how would you prepare them? Write a bug recipe.
- 5 Stop on page ten where it says, "I PUT THE MAGIC FINGER ON THEM ALL!" Predict what you think the magic finger is and what it does. Write a paragraph about it.

4

- 1 Write an *epilogue*. Write two or more paragraphs describing what happens once the magic finger is aimed at the Coopers.
- 2 What would the Gregg family look like if they had been turned into deer instead of ducks? Draw it.
- 3 What if the narrator did not have a magic finger? What are two other ways she could have solved the hunting problem?
- 4 Imagine being a winged person. Write an adventure you would have if you had wings.
- 5 Using sticks, leaves, and other bits of nature, make a bird's nest to fit birds the size of the Greggs. Bring it to class and show it to everyone.