

# Instructional Overview

**Book Club**

**Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing**  
By: Judy Blume  
Grade Level: 4 / Guided Reading Level: Q

**Instructional Focus:**  
Describing Characters Using Text Evidence

**Background:**  
Describing characters using evidence from the text is an important comprehension skill for young readers to master.

In order for students to develop this skill they must learn to identify and consider the specific strategies authors use to develop characters. In this Book Club Resource Set for **Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing** students will explore how author, Judy Blume, develops characters with the following:

- Characters' thoughts
- Characters' words and actions
- Characters' perspectives
- Characters' external description

**Instructional Overview:**

**Meeting #1**  
Set Expectations for Book Club and Introduce Character Description as a Form of Character Development

**Meeting #2**  
Chapters 1 – 2 (pages 3-21): Describing Characters Using Dialogue

**Meeting #3**  
Chapters 3 – 4 (pages 22-40): Describing Characters Using Characters' Thoughts

**Meeting #4**  
Chapters 5 – 6 (pages 41-69): Describing Characters Using Other Characters' Perspectives

**Meeting #5**  
Chapters 7 – 8 (pages 70-96): Describing Characters Using External Descriptions

**Final Meeting**  
Chapters 9 – 10 (pages 97-120): Reflecting on Character Development Strategies & Culminating Activity

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Instructional Focus

Description of the Instructional Focus

List of Book Club Meetings and the Instructional Focus for Each Meeting

List of Materials and Preparation

**Book Club**

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**Materials and Preparation:**

- Determine which students will participate in the **Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing** Book Club (4-6 students)
- Gather copies of **Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing** by Judy Blume (1 per student)
- Prepare copies of the **Book Club Calendar** (1 per student)
- Prepare copies of the **Expectations for Book Club** (1 per student)
- Prepare copies of the **Book Club Reading Response Board** (1 per student)
- Prepare **Reader's Notebooks** (1 per student)
  - These may be spiral notebooks, or several sheets of lined paper stapled together, or bound in a folder.
- Prepare **chart paper and markers**
- Prepare **Character Description Graphic Organizer** (1 for each student)
- Prepare **Character Description Sets** (1 set for each student)
- Prepare **Character Biography Template** (1 for each student)
- Access to a computer/tablet/smartphone (to access video link)
- Optional: Prepare **Student Self-Evaluation Forms** (1 per student per meeting)
- Optional: Prepare **Assessment Resources** (1 set per student)

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