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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.

# Grade Three

## **The Van Gogh Café**

by Cynthia Rylant

Some people believe that magic is make-believe, while others believe magic is everywhere. In Flowers, Kansas, Clara and her father, Marc, have found that magic happens all the time at their restaurant, The Van Gogh Café.

On an almost daily basis, the former theater building brings in strangers from all over the country. With them comes the magic. Possums show up and just hang around, a silent film star arrives and waits for a friend from his film days, and magic muffins multiply.

This is a simple story that is easy to read and makes the reader want to believe in magic. This book is recommended for third-graders and struggling readers. It can be completed quickly, as it is a very short book.

## **Skylark**

by Patricia MacLachlan

*Skylark* is the continuation of *Sarah, Plain and Tall*. Papa, Sarah, Anna, and Caleb have become a happy family. However, a drought is forcing most prairie families to leave their homes. Eventually, the family well goes dry, wildfires break out, and life becomes too dangerous for the children. Sarah takes Anna and Caleb to Maine while Papa remains on the prairie awaiting rain. After a long summer, the rain comes; as does the announcement that Sarah is expecting a baby. The family returns home, and as they once anxiously waited for rain, they now await the new baby.

This book is recommended for students in third grade. They need not have read *Sarah, Plain and Tall* to understand this book, but students who have read it will enjoy the continuing story.

# 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.