

Educational Goals that can be achieved in a variety of lesson formats:

Develop vocabulary

Identify themes that help us understand the human experience at an appropriate grade level

Topic: Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing by Judy Bloom

Constructivist Mode of Lesson Planning

Format Derived from Deporter, Reardon, and Singer-Nourie

Learning Goals:

Students will be able to demonstrate knowledge of words in an illustrated vocabulary book.

Students will connect the theme of sibling rivalry to their own lives by writing a letter to Peter about how to handle Fudge, utilizing at least five vocabulary words. Or, if they choose, they may write a letter to Fudge giving him advice about how to handle Peter, utilizing at least five vocabulary words.

Enroll/Engage

How many of you have brothers or sisters? How many of you have close cousins or friends who seem like brothers or sisters? Has anyone ever gotten frustrated with one of those relatives or friends? Would anyone be willing to share a brief story about that? Remember to speak nicely of others!

Experience

Role play: Ask three students to volunteer, and the teacher will read the stage direction. Tell them quietly that one will play Peter, one will play Fudge, and the other will play their mother. They are going to act out the scene in the book where Fudge ruins Peter's school poster. In this scene, Peter comes home to find Fudge in his room; he is smiling.

Peter: Why are you in my room?

Fudge smiles

Peter: You know you're not supposed to be in here. This is my room.

Fudge: Want to see?

Peter: See what?

Fudge: Want to see:

Peter: What? What are you talking about?

Fudge pulls Peter's poster out from under his bed, then holds it up. The poster is scribbled all over; it is ruined.

Fudge: See, pretty!

Peter: What did you do? What did you do to our poster?!

Peter runs to his mother.

Peter: *To his mother.* Look at what he did to my poster! How could you let him? How? Don't you care about me?

Peter throws the poster down, runs to his room, and slams the door. Peter's mother comes to his room, knocking on the door.

Mother: Peter, may I come in?

Peter doesn't answer.

Mother: I'm very sorry.....Peter....Peter, please listen.

Peter: Don't you see, Mom? I can't ever do my homework without him messing it up. It just isn't fair! I wish he was never born. Never! I hate him.

Mother: You don't hate him, you just think you do.

Whole class: The teacher asks, What advice would you give to each one of our characters?

Label

Great job! You just acted out one of our important themes from the book we are reading! Peter and Fudge don't always get along. We call that "sibling rivalry." What are some things that they don't agree on? (elicit: attention from friends and parents, privacy, etc.)

Demonstration

Whole Class Discussion: Let's look at our vocabulary words. How might we incorporate them into some of our advice to Peter on how to handle Fudge? Or, How might we incorporate them into some of our advice to Fudge on how to handle Peter?

Which of these words (written on the board) might help you give advice to Peter? advantages, announced, advertising, complained, delicious, discussing, hollered, insulted, reptile, slurping (add more words)

Working in groups of three, let's now write some advice to Peter about how to handle his little brother. Or, if you wish, you could write to Fudge about how to handle his brother. Write a letter from your group.

Now that we have used some of our vocabulary words, let's create our own vocabulary books with illustrations. For each word, write a sentence and draw a picture or symbol that represents its meaning. Be creative! Remember that the pictures are meant to help you remember the words.

Review

What is sibling rivalry? (elicit: the ways in which we occasionally get frustrated with those who are close to us).

What is your favorite word from our list today? Let's say them all together aloud.

Celebrate

Teacher: Now let's think about all we have learned today. We talked about sibling rivalry and lots of new vocabulary words. To celebrate, let's think about things that we appreciate about our siblings and close relatives and friends. We will go around the room and everyone gets to say one thing they appreciate.

Teacher: We will continue to look for our theme of sibling rivalry in the book and how it plays

out in our own lives. Today, try to use at least three of your vocabulary words and tell us tomorrow how you used them!