

Dear Incoming Fourth Grade Student,

Your summer reading assignment is Fourth Grade Rats by Jerry Spinelli. Attached is the packet you will need to complete while reading this book.

Remember to use complete sentences where needed and use neat handwriting and correct spelling.

Please bring your completed packet on the first day of school.

HAPPY READING!

Fourth Grade Rats



NOVEL STUDY

Name: _____

After Chapter 1: Rats Don't!

Point of View: From which point of view is this story written?

- a. First person
- b. Third person



Which word(s) helped you to determine the point of view?

Infer: How does the narrator feel about being a fourth grade rat? Cite evidence to support your answer.

Cause and Effect: Fill in the cause.

Cause: _____

Effect: The narrator let out a howl then cried.

Word Meaning—Prefix: "Like a miracle, the pain in my thumb disappeared."

Underline the base word and circle the prefix in:

disappeared

What does the prefix mean? _____

In which word does the prefix 'dis-' mean the same as it does in 'disappeared':

- a) discontent
- b) district
- c) disco



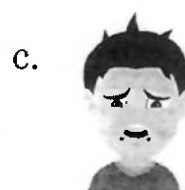
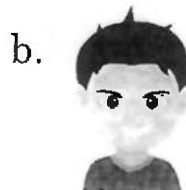
Reflect/Infer: How does the narrator feel about Judy Billings? Do you think Judy feels the same way about the narrator? Explain your thinking.

Vocabulary - Context Clues: Define the vocab. words using context clues and/or a dictionary.

"He was wagging his head. His face was smirky."

smirk - _____

Which of the following faces is smirking?



Figurative Language: Write the type of figurative language used in the following Chapter 1 excerpt.

hyperbole	simile	metaphor
alliteration	personification	onomatopoeia

"I loved my lunch box. It was like a brother to me."

Reflect: "He broke out laughing. He pounded the table." What did Joey find so funny about the narrator's lunchbox?

After Chapter 2: Real Meat

Reflect: What did Joey suggest Suds Morton should eat for lunch?

- a) pizza
- b) baloney and other meats
- c) As many vegetables as possible

Vocabulary: "Now, don't be so glum. Before you know it, fourth grade will be over, and you'll be a - what's fifth grade?"

What does the word glum most likely mean?

- a) quietly miserable; down; negative
- b) showing passionate interest in something or eagerness about something
- c) a feeling of happiness, delight, or satisfaction

Figurative Language: Write the type of figurative language used in the following Chapter 2 excerpt.

hyperbole	simile	metaphor
alliteration	personification	onomatopoeia

"Meat, Morton, meat."

Infer: Which word would best describe Gerald Willis?

- a) friend
- b) bully
- c) passerby



After Chapter 3: Number One

Compare and Contrast: Compare and contrast how Suds felt about kicking the first graders off the tire swing and how Joey felt kicking the kids off the tire swing.

Figurative Language: Write the type of figurative language used in the following Chapter 3 excerpt.

hyperbole	simile	metaphor
alliteration	personification	onomatopoeia

*"But not before he yelled, 'Rat!' and spit at me.
Missed by a mile. First-graders are not good spitters."*

Vocabulary: *"We were going to powwow at the tire swings, but two little kids were already there."*

What does the word powwow most likely mean?

- a) a meeting or gathering to discuss something
- b) a traditional Native American ceremony featuring dance
- c) an outburst of violent anger

Analyze: What did Joey mean when he said, *"I'm talking about taking care of Number One for a change."*?

Predict: *"Don't forget. Say no to your mom."* Do you think Suds is going to heed (pay attention to) Joey's advice? Why or why not?

After Chapter 4: Zippernose and Bubba

Infer: Which best describes how Suds is feeling at the start of the chapter?

- a) enraged
- b) gloomy
- c) terrified



Cause and Effect: Fill in the cause.

Cause: _____

Effect: The narrator got the nickname Suds.

Reflect: Why did Zippernose get sent to her room?

- a) She was texting at the table.
- b) She was teasing Suds.
- c) She was playing with her food.

Reflect: "*I'm outta here.*" Why did Suds leave the dinner table?

After Chapter 5: You're Not Funny

Reflect: What did Suds find on his pillow? What did he do with the item?

Cite Evidence: Cite one piece of evidence from the chapter to support the following statement:

Suds's mother has a good sense of humor.

1) _____

Vocabulary: *"No., 'fraid not. It was black. About as dull as a lunch box gets."*

What does the word dull most likely mean?

- a) causing intense excitement
- b) strikingly bright or intense in color; producing strong and distinct mental images
- c) arousing no interest or excitement; boring

Infer: "*The phone rang.*" Who called Suds at the conclusion of the chapter? Explain your inference.

Connect: Suds's mother believes he is taking this rat business too seriously. Do you agree with Suds's mother? Why or why not? Explain your thinking.

Prediction: What do you think Suds will do to try to become a "*man*"?

After Chapter 6: Joey Becomes a Man

Reflect: The author titled the chapter "Joey Becomes a Man." Explain what happened making Suds believe Joey became a man.

Figurative Language: Write the type of figurative language used in the following Chapter 6 excerpt.

hyperbole	simile	metaphor
alliteration	personification	onomatopoeia

"Judy Billings followed Joey around the rest of the day like a puppy dog."

Parts of Speech: *"And he started wearing one of his father's old sweatbands around his head."*

Which part of speech is old as used above?

- a) adjective
- b) interjection
- c) verb



Vocabulary - Prefix: "First she would touch the invisible sting spot and say, 'Does that hurt?'..."

Underline the base word and circle the prefix in:

invisible

What does the prefix mean? _____

In which word does the prefix 'in-' mean the same as it does in 'invisible':

- a) inaccurate
- b) intermediate
- c) instrument



Cause and Effect: Fill in the cause.

Cause: _____

Effect: "'Traitor.'" Suds is angry with Joey.

Connect: Do you think Suds is right to be angry with Joey? Why or why not?

Connect: What would your parents say if you destroyed your room like Joey did to his? Explain your thinking.

Figurative Language: Write the type of figurative language used in the following Chapter 7 excerpts.

hyperbole	simile	metaphor
alliteration	personification	onomatopoeia

"I looked at Mrs. Peterson. Mrs. Peterson glared daggers at Joey. This lasted for about three hours."

"The pizza box he flipped like a Frisbee against the wall."

Predict: *"What do I do?"* What do you think Suds is going to do to try to *"be a rat"*?

After Chapter 8: Training Camp

Reflect: List four ways Joey taught Suds to be a rat.

1) _____

2) _____

3) _____

4) _____

Vocabulary - Context Clues: Define the vocab. words using context clues and/or a dictionary.

"I went upstairs like I was walking to the gallows."

gallows - _____

Figurative Language: Write the type of figurative language used in the following Chapter 8 excerpts.

hyperbole	simile	metaphor
alliteration	personification	onomatopoeia

"As usual, the waterworks came on. My eyes, my cheeks were like Niagara Falls."



"My heart felt like an exploding football in my chest."

Cause and Effect: Fill in the effect.

Cause: Zippernose saw a shoeless Suds hanging from the front porch.

Effect: _____

Reflect: *"You'll never hack it as a rat."* What are two things Suds wouldn't do to make Joey tell him he will never *hack it as a rat*?

1) _____

2) _____

After Chapter 9: You Want a Rat?

Infer: How did Suds feel as he approached Judy sitting alone at the lunch table?

- a) grumpy
- b) excited
- c) nervous



Sequence: Put the Chapter 9 events in order from first to last using the numbers 1-7.

- _____ Suds swiped his Matchbox collection off of his bookcase.
- _____ Gerald Willis pulled out Suds's chair and he fell on the ground.
- _____ Suds got in bed and a mousetrap snapped on his toe.
- _____ Zippernose told her mom about what happened earlier in the cafeteria.
- _____ Suds sees Judy sitting alone at lunch and goes to sit with her. Judy does not want him to sit with her.
- _____ Suds screamed "*Okay, you want a rat, you got a rat.*"
- _____ Suds shoved a cake into one of the laughing third graders.

Vocabulary - Context Clues: Define the vocab. words using context clues and/or a dictionary.

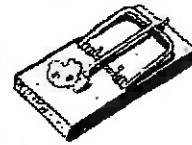
"I got up. I slunk away. Kids were laughing."

slink - _____

Figurative Language: Write the type of figurative language used in the following Chapter 9 excerpt.

hyperbole	simile	metaphor
alliteration	personification	onomatopoeia

"What could be under there? It felt like wood... it felt like... SNAP!"



Prediction: What do you think is going to happen next? What does Suds mean when he says "Okay, you want a rat, you got a rat!"? Explain your prediction.

After Chapter 10: No!

Cause and Effect: Fill in the cause.

Cause: _____

Effect: Suds received his first-ever detention.

Infer: Which best describes how Suds's mother reacted when he told her "no" about cleaning up his room?

- a) amused
- b) pleased
- c) shocked



Infer: Why was Suds in a daze when he was walking to school with Judy? Explain your inference.

Vocabulary - Context Clues: Define the vocab. words using context clues and/or a dictionary.

"For the next two days, I went on a rampage."

rampage - _____

Connect: Review the definition of *rampage*. Would you consider Suds's misbehaviors a *rampage*? Explain your thinking.

Parts of Speech: *"Man! Wow! I'm walking to school with Judy Billings! I don't believe it."*

Which part of speech is Wow! as used above?

- a) adjective
- b) interjection
- c) verb

Figurative Language: Write the type of figurative language used in the following Chapter 10 excerpt.

hyperbole	simile	metaphor
alliteration	personification	onomatopoeia

"A tiny-footed nightmare on my skin."



Infer: *"Judy did most of the talking."* Judy used to ignore Suds. Why do you think she suddenly started talking to Suds? Explain your inference.

Cause and Effect: Fill in the cause.

Cause: _____

Effect: Suds's classmates gathered around him and started calling him *"Black Widow Man."*

After Chapter 12: Me and Judy Billings

Reflect: *"I wasn't too anxious to go home..."* What is one reason Suds was not eager to go home after school?

- 1) _____

Vocabulary - Synonyms and Antonyms: Write a synonym and an antonym for the underlined word.

"She looked up at me, smiling that beautiful smile."

Synonym of beautiful: _____

Antonym of beautiful: _____

Reread to Clarify: Answer the following Chapter 12 multiple choice questions.

- 1) Why was Suds not climbing down from the tree?
- Suds wanted to stay up there because he thought he looked brave.
 - Suds's foot was caught on a branch.
 - Suds is scared of heights.

2) Who helped Suds get down from the tree?

- a. Judy Billings
- b. Joey
- c. His parents



3) How did Suds's mother know he was trying to be a good rat?

- a. She heard Suds talking about being a good rat with Joey.
- b. She talked to Joey's mom.
- c. Moms know everything.

Infer: *"I came back to earth."* How did Suds react when he finally got off the tree and was back on solid land? Cite evidence to support your answer.

Analyze: What did Joey's mother mean when she said Joey has *"dropped out of the rat race and has rejoined the human race."*?

Reflect: *"He said he was sick yesterday."* Joey was not sick. Why was Joey really absent from school yesterday?

Vocabulary: *"It was his mother who was sick. Sick of his shenanigans. She kept him home to clean up his room."*

What does the word shenanigans most likely mean?

- a) the act of obeying; following instructions
- b) mischievous behavior; trickery; dishonesty
- c) a state of extreme physical or mental tiredness or collapse

Predict: Do you think Suds is surprised Judy Billings left him in the tree once he saved Muffy?

- a) Sure. He thought she had a crush on him.
- b) No way. Judy has never been nice to Suds.

Predict: *"Mom, I have a confession."* What do you think Suds is going to confess to his mother?

After Chapter 13: Confession

Analyze: What did Suds's mother mean when she told him, "*Confession is good for the soul*"?

Vocabulary - Context Clues: Define the vocab. words using context clues and/or a dictionary.

"She shook her head. She was dumbfounded. 'I'm afraid to ask if there's anything else.'"

dumbfounded - _____

Which is **not** a synonym of dumbfounded?

- a) astonished
- b) denied
- c) surprised

"A regular ripsnorter."

ripsnorter - _____

Reread to Clarify: *"It's no fun being a rat."*

According to Suds, why was it not fun being a rat?

Reflect: *"As soon as you stopped trying to be a man, you became one."* According to Suds's mother, what are two *grown-up things* he did to reveal he is on his way to becoming a man?

1) _____

2) _____

Reflect/Infer: How is Suds's attitude toward Judy different in Chapter 13 than in previous chapters? Explain.

After Chapter 14: Me and Dad

Analyze: Why was it significant (important) for Suds to see his dad cry while watching *E.T.*? What do you think Suds learned from seeing his dad cry?

Connect: Have you ever watched *E.T.*? Did the movie make you cry? Are there any movies that make you cry?

Sequence of Events: Put the following events in chronological order using the numbers 1 through 9.

- _____ Suds's third grade teacher hugs him in the hall.
- _____ Joey destroys his room and covers himself in tattoos.
- _____ Suds learns that his dad cries while watching E.T., just like he does.
- _____ Suds confesses all of the 'rat' things he has done over the last few days. He realizes he does not love Judy anymore.
- _____ Suds climbs a tree to save Judy's cat, then is too scared to come down. Judy leaves him in the tree.
- _____ Suds finds a mousetrap in his bed. He throws it into Zippernose's room. Joey calls to ask if he said no to his mother.
- _____ Joey teases Suds about his elephant lunch box.
- _____ Joey trains Suds to become a rat.
- _____ Suds walks to school with Judy Billings. He lets a spider crawl on him.

Author's Purpose: What was the author's purpose for writing *Fourth Grade Rats*?

- a. To persuade.
- b. To inform.
- c. To entertain.



Jerry Spinelli

Rating: How many stars would you rate this book?

- 1 being terrible and 5 being awesome.
- Be sure to color or shade your rating!



Connect: Who would you rather be friends with, Joey or Suds? Explain your reasoning.

Fourth Grade Rats Word Jumble



SSDU

--	--	--	--

TORHFU

--	--	--	--	--	--	--

6 7

OYJE

--	--	--	--

NGTAINIR

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

1

RAST

--	--	--	--

5

NESSOCF

--	--	--	--	--	--	--

YDJU

--	--	--	--

3

RIDPES

--	--	--	--	--	--

2



PORZINSEEP

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

4

**WHAT KIND OF BATH CAN YOU
TAKE WITHOUT WATER?**

--

1

--	--	--	--

2 3 4

B			
----------	--	--	--

5 6 7

!

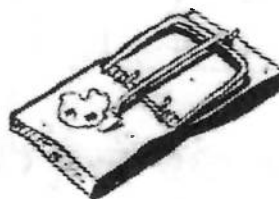


Fourth Grade Rats Word Search



J M Y P T H E Y Q F R Z Y E M
 O B N L G N I N I A R T D D F
 E H S G N I W S T H W A O V S
 Y Z T Y L S T S P Z R Y B S L
 P N H A U S H W I G B E D P E
 A F O L B J S P E T A N F I G
 B Z S T I H P E V Y E O P D N
 Y D U J R E A D F I N L O E A
 O V C E R O O F R N W A D R B
 Y J Y N H M M F U F O B O S N
 B S O V O B U B B A O C K E H
 H S U T H E I G H T S U B E I
 E W H D P Y F T P L N P R B X
 F E R I S T Z P X V J W A T D
 R U O H M Q W J S S N X S A H

ANGEL
 BALONEY
 BATH
 BEES
 BUBBA
 CONFESS
 FOURTH
 FRIENDS
 GRADE
 HEIGHTS



JOEY
 JUDY
 MORTON
 MOTHER
 RATS
 SPIDER
 SUDS
 SWINGS
 TRAINING
 ZIPPERNOSE