

# Freckle Juice



By

Judy Blume

A Novel Study  
by Joel Michel Reed

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**About the author:** Joel Reed has over 70 published novel studies and is the author of four novels. For information on his work and literature, please visit [www.reednovelstudies.com](http://www.reednovelstudies.com)

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## Suggestions and Expectations

This curriculum unit can be used in a variety of ways. Each chapter of the novel study focuses on one chapter of *Freckle Juice* and is comprised of five of the following different activities:

- Before You Read
- Vocabulary Building
- Comprehension Questions
- Language Activities
- Extension Activities

### Links with the Common Core Standards (U.S.)

Many of the activities in this unit are supported by the Common Core Standards. For instance the *Reading Standards for Literature, Grade 5*, makes reference to the following:

- a) determining the meaning of words and phrases. . . including figurative language;
- b) explaining how a series of chapters fits together to provide the overall structure;
- c) compare and contrast two characters;
- d) determine how characters ... respond to challenges;
- e) drawing inferences from the text;
- f) determining a theme of a story . . . **and many others.**

A principal expectation of the unit is that students will develop their skills in reading, writing, listening and oral communication, as well as in reasoning and critical thinking. Students will also be expected to provide clear answers to questions and well-constructed explanations. It is critical as well that students be able to relate events and the feelings of characters to their own lives and experiences and describe their own interpretation of a particular passage.

A strength of the unit is that students can work on the activities at their own pace. Every activity need not be completed by all students. A **portfolio cover** is included (p.7) so that students may organize their work and keep it all in one place. A **Student Checklist** is also included (p.6) so that a record of completed work may be recorded.

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## List of Skills

### Vocabulary Development

1. Locating descriptive words /phrases
2. Listing synonyms/homonyms
3. Identifying/creating *alliteration*
4. Use of capitals and punctuation
5. Identify *foreshadowing*.
6. Identify *personification*
7. Use of singular / plural nouns
8. Listing compound words
9. Identifying parts of speech
10. Identifying syllables
11. Identify/create *similes*
12. Identify anagrams

### Setting Activities

1. Summarize the details of a setting

### Plot Activities

1. Complete a *time line* of events
2. Identify conflict in the story
3. Identify *cliffhangers*
4. Identify the climax of the novel.

### Character Activities

1. Determine character traits
2. Identify the protagonist
3. Relating personal experiences
4. Compare two characters

### Creative and Critical Thinking

1. Research
2. Write a book review
3. Write about personal feelings
4. Participate in a talk show
5. Complete an Observation Sheet
6. Complete a KWS Chart

### Art Activities

1. A Storyboard
2. Create a collage
4. Design a cover for the novel
5. Create a comic strip

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## Synopsis

More than anything in the world, Andrew Marcus wants freckles. His classmate Nicky has freckles – they cover his face, ears, and the whole back of his neck. But when Andrew asks Nicky where he got them, Nicky just says he was born with them. Some help he is!

That's when Sharon offers Andrew her secret freckle juice recipe – for fifty cents, she promises, Andrew can look just like Nicky. His freckleless days are over! He rushes home to whip up the concoction. Grape juice, vinegar, mustard ...

But what starts out as a simple freckle juice recipe quickly turns into something disastrous. Andrew is still determined to get his freckles and to show that pesky Sharon that she doesn't know everything – and he has the perfect solution! Or does he? (Simon and Schuster)

A complete synopsis and other helpful reviews can be found on the following website:

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Freckle\\_Juice](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Freckle_Juice)

## Author Biography

*Judy Blume*

Blume was born and raised in Elizabeth, New Jersey, the daughter of homemaker Esther (née Rosenfeld) and dentist Ralph Sussman. She has a brother, David, who is five years older. Her family was Jewish. She graduated from Battin High School in 1956, then enrolled in Boston University. In the first semester, she was diagnosed with mononucleosis and took a brief leave from school before graduating from New York University in 1961 with a bachelor's degree in Education.

A lifelong avid reader, Blume first began writing when her children were attending preschool, and published her first book, *The One In The Middle Is The Green Kangaroo*, in 1969. The decade that followed proved to be her most prolific, with 13 more books being published, including many of her most well-known titles, such as *Are You There God? It's Me, Margaret*. (1970), *Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing* (1972), *Otherwise Known as Sheila, The Great* (1972), and *Blubber* (1974). Judy Blume has won more than 90 literary awards, including three lifetime achievement awards in the United States. (Courtesy of Wikipedia.)





# Freckle Juice



*By Judy Blume*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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## Chapter 1



### Before you read the chapter:

Briefly predict what you believe the plot of *Freckle Juice* will be about.




### Vocabulary:

Draw a straight line to connect the vocabulary word to its definition. Remember to use a straight edge (like a ruler).

1. Combination
2. Wiggle
3. Inspect
4. Deal
5. Balance
6. Remind
7. Giggle
8. Dirty
9. Million
10. Arithmetic

- A. To examine something closely.
- B. To weight two or more items evenly.
- C. Causing someone to remember something.
- D. The study of mathematics.
- E. The joining of substances together.
- F. To make a fair trade or agreement.
- G. A number equaling a thousand and a thousand.
- H. To laugh in a silly way.
- I. To move up and down, or side to side.
- J. To be filthy, soiled, or unclean.

## Questions



1. Describe the setting of the story as Chapter One begins.


2. Why did Andrew want to have freckles so badly?


3. Why was Andrew embarrassed when Miss Kelly asked him to read?


4. What was Nicky's response when Andrew asked him how he got his freckles?


5. What was Andrew's response when Sharon told him about freckle juice?


### Fascinating Facts - Freckles

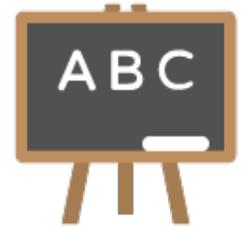
Freckles might appear to be simple spots on the face, but they are actually concentrated clusters of **melanin**. Melanin is a skin pigment that determines the color of every human being. It is common to find freckles on individuals with a fair or light skin complexion, and those with red or blonde hair.



## Language Activities



**A.** Many authors enjoy using **alliteration** – a literary device where the author repeats the same sound at the beginning of several words. Here's an example of an alliteration: "... screaming, shrieking, shouting about something scary."



Using your imagination, create your own examples of **alliteration** from the following topics. Each example must contain a minimum of three words.

The appearance of a freckle-faced child	
The sounds of children playing.	
One from your own imagination.	

**B.** A **simile** is a comparison using the words "like" or "as". The following is an example of personification: "*Andrew slept like a log.*"

What two things are being compared in this example?

--	--

Invent two of your own **similes** comparing two different things using your own imagination:

a)

b)

**C. Foreshadowing** is a literary device used by authors to provide clues for the reader so they are able to predict what might occur *later* in the story. How might the following statement be considered an example of this literary device: *"It'll cost you fifty cents. I have a secret recipe for freckle juice," Sharon whispered.*"




**D.** Find at least two examples of each of the following five parts of speech from Chapter One, and list them in the appropriate section of the chart below.

<b>Nouns</b>	
<b>Pronouns</b>	
<b>Adjectives</b>	
<b>Adverbs</b>	
<b>Verbs</b>	

## Extension Activity

### Storyboard

A storyboard is a series of pictures that tell about an important event in a story. A storyboard can tell the story of only one scene – or the entire novel.



Complete the storyboard below illustrating the events described in Chapter One of *Freckle Juice*. You may wish to practice your drawings on a separate piece of paper.

1	2
3	4
5	6