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Chapter Summaries

1 The Big Winner

- Peter Warren Hatcher wins a turtle at Jimmy Fargo’s birthday party by guessing the number of jelly beans in a jar. He names his pet Dribble.
- Peter lives on the twelfth floor of an old apartment building on 68th Street in New York City.
- Henry Bevelheimer is the elevator operator.
- Peter’s mother doesn’t like the way Dribble smells.
- Peter’s father, who is in the advertising business, writes a commercial for the Juicy-O company. The family gets a whole crate of Juicy-O from the president of the company.
- Peter’s biggest problem isn’t his mother or his father. It’s his two-and-a-half year old brother, Farley Drexel Hatcher, also known as Fudge.
- Fudge is always in Peter’s way, messing up things, screaming and throwing fits, kicking and banging his fists.
- Peter warns Fudge that Dribble is his turtle and he is not to touch the animal.

2 Mr. and Mrs. Juicy-O

- Mr. Yarby, the president of the Juicy-O company, and his wife are coming from Chicago to New York. Peter’s father invites them to stay with the Hatcher family rather than in a hotel.
- Fudge’s bedroom is converted into a guest room, and Fudge’s crib is moved into Peter’s room.
- Peter’s mother spends the day in the kitchen. Fudge eats two of the flowers from the silver bowl she puts on the dinner table.
- When she arrives, Mrs. Yarby picks up Fudge right away calling him the “cutest little boy!”
- Mrs. Yarby gives Fudge a noisy windup train. She gives Peter, who is nine and in fourth grade, a picture dictionary, which he thanks her for though he has had his own regular dictionary since he was eight.
- Fudge brings out Peter’s old, worn-out picture dictionary and shows it to Mrs. Yarby.
- When the family and the Yarbys are in the middle of their roast beef, Fudge climbs out of his crib and appears carrying Dribble’s bowl.
- Mrs. Yarby screams because she can’t stand reptiles, and Mr. Yarby insinuates that Peter’s parents have not taught him and Fudge good manners.
- During dessert, Fudge reappears wearing a Halloween gorilla mask causing Mrs. Yarby to scream so loud Peter’s mother spills coffee all over the floor.
- Peter awakes the next morning to find Fudge standing over him and Dribble crawling around on his arm. Later, Fudge plays with his noisy new train and wakes everybody in the house, including the Yarbys.
- The Yarbys announce their plans to leave for a hotel after breakfast, only to find that Fudge has decorated their suitcase with green stamps.
- Peter’s father loses the Juicy-O account.
- Both Peter and his father admit that they never liked Juicy-O.

3 The Family Dog

- Peter’s father says he is glad he lost the Juicy-O account so he can spend more time on the new TV commercial for the Toddle-Bike company.
- Peter thinks his father might use him in the commercial because he can stand on his head, but his father says he doesn’t plan on having any head-standers.
- Fudge suddenly stops eating, and on the third day Peter agrees to stand on his head in the kitchen to make Fudge laugh so his mother can stuff some baked potato into his mouth.
- The next day, Peter refuses to stand on his head for Fudge even though his mother begs, and he is upset that nobody ever worries about him the way they worry about Fudge.
- Fudge starts hiding under the table pretending to be a dog. His mother puts a plate of food on the floor.
# Word Lists with Definitions

(Listed in story order. Some words are found on multiple pages.)

**Part 1: 1 The Big Winner—5 The Birthday Bash**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Word</th>
<th>Definition</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>combination</strong></td>
<td>A joining of two or more things, either by merging one item into another or by blending the parts into a new substance; a set or series of numbers or letters used in setting the mechanisms of a lock (p. 6)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>commercial</strong></td>
<td>Work that has profit as the chief aim; a paid advertisement on television or radio (p. 6)</td>
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<td><strong>racket</strong></td>
<td>A loud distressing noise; a dishonest business or practice; <em>racket</em> or <em>racquet</em>—a device consisting of an oval frame with a tight interlaced network of strings and a handle for use in various games (p. 10)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>mumbling</strong></td>
<td>Uttering indistinctly by lowering the voice or partially closing the mouth; a low, indistinct utterance or sound (p. 10)</td>
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<td><strong>measly</strong></td>
<td>Contemptibly small; meager (p. 11)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>advantages</strong></td>
<td>Beneficial factors; favorable positions; benefits (p. 13)</td>
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<td><strong>peppermint</strong></td>
<td>A plant <em>Mentha piperita</em>, having small purple or white flowers and downy leaves that yield a pungent oil used as a flavoring; a candy or lozenge flavored with this oil (p. 12)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>cuddling</strong></td>
<td>Hugging tenderly; holding in the arms (p. 13)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>polite</strong></td>
<td>Marked by or showing consideration for others, tact, and observance of acceptable social usage; refined; mannerly; gentle (p. 15)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>vanish</strong></td>
<td>To pass out of sight, especially quickly; disappear; to pass out of existence (p. 16)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>insulted</strong></td>
<td>Treated with gross insensitivity, insolence, or contemptuous rudeness; offended (p. 16)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>reptiles</strong></td>
<td>Any of various cold-blooded, egg-laying vertebrates such as snakes, lizards, crocodiles, turtles, or dinosaurs having an external covering of scales or horny plates and breathing by means of lungs (p. 17)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>decorated</strong></td>
<td>Furnished, provided, or adorned with something ornamental; embellished; awarded a medal or other honor (p. 20)</td>
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<td><strong>juggling</strong></td>
<td>Keeping two or more objects in the air at one time by alternately tossing and catching them; to keep two or more activities in progress at one time; using trickery or practicing deception (p. 23)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>brilliant</strong></td>
<td>Marked by unusual and impressive intellectual ability; full of light; shining; glorious; magnificent; wonderful (p. 23)</td>
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<td><strong>broiled</strong></td>
<td>Cooked by direct radiant heat, as over a grill or under an electric element; exposed to great heat (p. 26)</td>
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<td><strong>tasty</strong></td>
<td>Having a pleasant flavor; savory (p. 27)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>helium</strong></td>
<td>A light colorless nonflammable gaseous element found especially in natural gases and used chiefly for inflating airships and balloons, for filling incandescent lamps, and cryogenic research (p. 30)</td>
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<td><strong>pollution</strong></td>
<td>The act of making unfit or harmful to living things, especially by the addition of waste matter; to make less suitable for activity, especially by the introduction of unwanted factors: <em>The stadium lights polluted the air around the observatory</em> (p. 31)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>imitate</strong></td>
<td>To copy the actions, appearance, mannerisms, or speech of; mimic; to appear like; resemble (p. 32)</td>
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<td><strong>perched</strong></td>
<td>Standing, sitting, or resting on an elevated place or position; resting on a perch (p. 32)</td>
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<td><strong>hesitated</strong></td>
<td>Paused in uncertainty; wavered; spoken, decided, or acted slowly (p. 34)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>squirmed</strong></td>
<td>Twisted about in a wriggling, snakelike motion; writhed (p. 35)</td>
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<td><strong>supervise</strong></td>
<td>To watch and direct; to be in charge of (p. 42)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>demonstrate</strong></td>
<td>To show clearly and deliberately; to prove; to show the use of to a prospective buyer; to participate in a public display of opinion (p. 49)</td>
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<td><strong>patience</strong></td>
<td>A good-natured tolerance for delay or incompetence; tolerant; understanding; calmness (p. 50)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>entertain</strong></td>
<td>To hold the attention of with something amusing or diverting; to show hospitality to guests; to consider or contemplate (p. 51)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>embarrassed</strong></td>
<td>Caused to feel self-conscious or ill at ease; ashamed; mortified; humiliated (p. 54)</td>
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Dictionary Digs

Part 1: 1 The Big Winner—5 The Birthday Bash

Dig into your favorite dictionary to answer the following questions about some words from Peter Warren Hatcher’s story. Write the letter of the correct answer in the blank before each number.

_____ 1. Which of the following is not a correct definition of brilliant?
   (A) really intelligent,    (B) shining,    (C) unbelievable

_____ 2. Commercial can be used correctly as an adjective or a noun. Which part of speech is commercial as it is used in this sentence?
   Several companies believe that his invention has commercial value, and they are competing for a chance to put it on the market.
   (A) adjective,    (B) noun,    (C) it can be either one

_____ 3. One definition for the word racket is a loud distressing noise. It can also mean an oval frame with a tight interlaced network of strings and a handle for use in various games such as tennis. What is another correct spelling for the second definition?
   (A) rackett,    (B) racquit,    (C) racquet

_____ 4. Which of the following words is a synonym for imitate?
   (A) imagine,    (B) design,    (C) mimic

_____ 5. Which word is a homophone (pronounced the same but has a different meaning) of patience?
   (A) patients,    (B) patents,    (C) patrons

_____ 6. An allowance of $1.50 a week can be correctly described as
   (A) advantageous,    (B) mealy,    (C) measly

_____ 7. Which sentence is not a correct way to use the word entertain?
   (A) Dad has agreed to entertain the possibility of a weekend fishing trip.
   (B) Aunt Frances can entertain me for hours with stories of her childhood on the farm.
   (C) On school nights, my sister is allowed to entertain her phone calls to a fifteen-minute minimum.

_____ 8. An antonym of embarrassed is (A) mortified, (B) delighted, (C) humbled.

_____ 9. Decorated does not mean (A) moved to a special location, (B) changed the appearance of, especially with the addition of elaborate colors, (C) awarded a medal or other honor.

_____ 10. Another word for combination is (A) mixture, (B) mechanism, (C) complete.

_____ 11. The gaseous element that can keep a balloon afloat is (A) oxygen, (B) helium, (C) peroxide.

_____ 12. Which of the following phrases does not illustrate the correct use of the word tasty?
   (A) a tasty morsel,    (B) a tasty concoction,    (C) a tasty canopy

_____ 13. Which word correctly completes the following sentence?
   The man seemed to __________ into the teeming subway station.
   (A) vanquish,    (B) vanish,    (C) vandal
Short Answer Questions

1 The Big Winner
1. What did Henry Bevelheimer say when he learned that Peter had won a turtle at a birthday party?
2. Why did Peter’s mother make a face when she saw Dribble?
3. Why did the president of the Juicy-O company send a whole crate of Juicy-O to Peter’s family?
4. How was Peter’s brother, Farley Drexel Hatcher, his biggest problem?
5. What did Fudge do when he was asleep?

2 Mr. and Mrs. Juicy-O
1. How did Peter’s mother react when his father said Mr. and Mrs. Yarby should stay with them because it would be more comfortable than a hotel?
2. Why did Peter pick off and try to chew a petal from a pink rose that was in the silver bowl his mother had put on the table?
3. What did Mrs. Yarby say about Fudge when she first saw him?
4. Explain how Fudge created a problem with the gift Mrs. Yarby gave to Peter.
5. What did Fudge do that prompted Mr. Yarby to suggest that Peter’s father hadn’t taught them manners?
6. What surprise did Fudge have for the Yarbys when they went to pick up their suitcase and move to a hotel?
7. Why wasn’t Peter’s father worried about losing the Juicy-O account?
1

The Big Winner

Write the letter of the correct answer in the blank before each question.

1. Peter won Dribble at (A) a bazaar, (B) a birthday party, (C) a school festival.
2. Peter won Dribble by guessing the number of (A) people in the city, (B) beans in a bucket, (C) jelly beans in a jar.
3. Dribble was (A) a white gold fish, (B) a small green frog, (C) a tiny green turtle.
4. Peter lived in an apartment building in (A) New York City, (B) Chicago, (C) Los Angeles.
5. Henry Bevelheimer was (A) Peter's Uncle, (B) the elevator operator, (C) the doorman at the apartment building.
6. When Peter's mother saw Dribble, she said (A) she didn't like the way he smelled, (B) he was cute, (C) she once had a pet turtle.
7. Peter promised he would (A) not ask for any other pet, (B) keep Dribble out of sight, (C) take care of Dribble.
8. Peter's mother was always telling him to (A) scrub his hands, (B) clean Dribble's bowl, (C) clean his room.
9. Peter's father was (A) a teacher, (B) in the advertising business, (C) an electrical engineer.
10. Peter's main problem was (A) finding a place to keep Dribble, (B) living on the twelfth floor and having no place to play, (C) his two-and-a-half year old brother, Farley Drexel Hatcher.
Whole Book Test

From the list above, choose the name, word, or phrase that fits each of the clues below and write it in the blank. All answers will be used at least once. Some answers will be used more than once.

1. The movie that Fudge, Peter, and his father went to see was about these.
2. He was Peter's best friend.
3. X-rays showed that he was in Fudge's stomach.
4. She lived in Peter's building and liked to tease him about having cooties.
5. She gave Fudge a toy train and Peter a picture dictionary.
6. Peter's father wrote a commercial for this company.
7. He liked to bang pots and pans together.
8. He won Dribble at Jimmy Fargo's birthday party.
9. He jumped off a jungle gym and knocked out his two front teeth.
10. Peter had one of these on his door to keep Fudge out of his room.
11. This is the name of the city where Peter lived.
12. She made a tinkle on the rug at Fudge's birthday party.
13. She went away for the week-end when her sister had a baby.
14. Fudge ate under the table and pretended he was one of these.
15. He was the elevator operator in Peter's apartment building.
16. He was Peter and Fudge's father.
17. He was afraid of everything, especially birthday parties.
18. Peter's father poured a bowl of this over Fudge's head.
Think, Write, Create

1 The Big Winner

Peter won Dribble at a birthday party by guessing the number of jelly beans in a jar.

- What is the best thing you or somebody you know ever won? What was it? What did you (they) do with it? Was it as good a prize as you (they) thought it would be?
- What prize or contest would you like to win? What would you have to do to be the winner? How would you use the prize or the money that you would receive?

Peter’s father was interested in TV commercials because he was in the advertising business. It was his job to inform people what was available for purchase and why they needed to buy it.

- Imagine that you are a young entrepreneur who decided to buy and sell used toys. To be successful, you must let people know your are in business and then convince them to buy your products. You need a commercial!
- Write the script for a TV commercial to convince people they should visit your store and buy your merchandise. (See Graphic Organizer #1)

2 Mr. and Mrs. Juicy-O

Peter’s father invited Mr. and Mrs. Yarby to stay with them because he believed they would be more comfortable with the family than in a hotel. Mother thought his idea was about the silliest thing she had ever heard.

- What do you think Mrs. Hatcher meant? Explain how she was right and Mr. Hatcher was wrong.
- What are some things you believe adults should say to people when they don’t want them as guests but do wish to be polite?

When Mrs. Yarby gave him the picture dictionary, Peter politely said, “Thank you very much. It’s just what I’ve always wanted.” The truth was, he had outgrown just such a dictionary years ago!

Later, when Fudge appeared with Peter’s old, worn-out picture dictionary, Mrs. Yarby sounded insulted when she said, “It’s returnable. It’s silly to keep it if you already have one.”

The Yarbys continued to show how impolite they were by implying that Peter’s father hadn’t taught his children manners. It’s times like these when each one of us wishes we had snappy comebacks—polite, but snappy!

Imagine that you had been an invisible guest when Peter’s family was doing its best to be polite hosts for the ill-mannered Yarbys. What polite snappy comebacks would you have whispered to Peter’s family in the following situations? Indicate which person—Peter’s father, Peter’s mother, or Peter—you would have chosen to speak your words.

“It’s returnable.” Mrs. Yarby said, “It’s silly to keep it if you already have one.”

Mrs. Yarby shrieked. “Ohhhhh! I can’t stand reptiles. Get that thing away from me!”

“HATCHER!” Mr. Yarby boomed, “Make him get that thing out of here!”

... I heard Mrs. Yarby say, “It must be interesting to have children. We never had any ourselves.”

“But if we did,” Mr. Yarby told my father, “we’d teach them some manners. I’m a firm believer in old-fashioned good manners.”

It’s a very real-looking mask. I guess that’s why Mrs. Yarby screamed so loud.

Mr. Yarby... told my father that he and Mrs. Yarby had their suitcase packed. They were leaving for a hotel as soon as breakfast was over.
Think, Write, Create

It would be correct to say that Sheila was forceful, organized, and intelligent. However, Sheila could resort to unflattering behavior as well.

- Did Sheila sometimes overestimate her abilities? Give at least one example.
- How did Sheila demonstrate that she wasn’t above the use of trickery?
- In what way was Sheila immature? Did Peter and Jimmy exhibit immature behavior as well?
- The author gives us quite a few details of Sheila’s personality, but says nothing about her appearance—except that Peter thinks she looks like a monkey and his mother thinks she will be a beauty. Look through magazines and find a picture of a girl that you think best represents Sheila’s physical characteristics. Explain why you chose the picture. If you like to draw, create your own image of Sheila instead.

During Fudge’s day on the town, both Dr. Brown and Mother resorted to using tricks to get him to behave. The Toddle-Bike commercial provided an opportunity for Peter’s father to practice Fudge trickery as well.

- Do you agree with the adult Hatcher’s methods of dealing with Fudge? Why or why not? The goal was to help Fudge learn to behave in a socially acceptable way. Were they successful?
- Though Peter identified Farley Drexel Hatcher to be his number one problem, how do you know that Fudge looked up to Peter? Who seemed to have more influence over him—Peter or his parents? Use clues from the story to support your answers.

All of the following words can be applied to Fudge:

cute       funny       exasperating       willful       stubborn
intelligent  manipulating  exuberant       precious       sweet
boisterous    destructive  loveable       entertaining  cuddly
irresistible  sneaky      creative       bold          rude
adorable      inconsiderate  spoiled       ill-mannered  darling

- Which two words from the list do you suppose each of the following people would chose to describe Fudge and his antics? Explain your choices by citing events or conversations from the story.

  - Peter’s mother
  - Peter’s father
  - The Yarbys
  - Peter’s grandmother
  - Sheila
  - Dr. Brown, the dentist
  - Mr. Berman, the shoe salesman
  - the theater manager
  - Janet, the secretary
  - Henry Bevelheimer, the elevator operator

- What is your opinion of Fudge? What two words did you choose? Support your choices.
Commercial for a Young Entrepreneur

Peter’s father was interested in TV commercials because he was in the advertising business. It was his job to inform people what was available for purchase and why they needed to buy it.

Imagine that you are a young entrepreneur who decides to buy and sell used toys. To be successful, you must let people know you are in business and then convince them to buy your products. You need a commercial!

On the organizer below, write the following topics on the lines radiating from the center box: Types of Toys, How Toys Are Refurbished, Why Used Is Better Than New, Customer Service, Store Location, Store Hours. In the connected bubble, add details about the topic. Give your company a catchy name. Use the ideas you gathered to write a script for your commercial.