

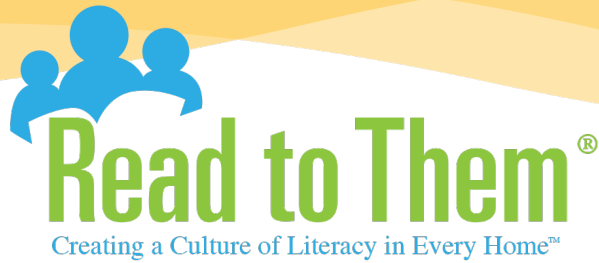
Discussion Questions for
Judy Moody Was in a Mood (2000)
by Megan McDonald

Chapter 1 – A Bad Mood (pp. 1-10)

1. “Judy Moody did not want to give up summer.” (p. 1) Have you ever felt like Judy? Or is your “back to school mood” different than this? Do you get excited instead?
2. “Even the smell of her new Grouchy pencils could not get her out of bed.” (p. 1) What gets you out of bed in the mornings? What helps you go to sleep?
3. What has been your greatest summer experience so far? Share with the class. If you could make a T-shirt to commemorate the experience, what would be on it?
4. Stink tells Judy, “You can’t wear pajamas to school!” (p. 5) Can you? What’s your favorite school outfit?
5. Judy lets out a “ROAR” when she doesn’t get her way. Is there any word or noise that you let out when you are not pleased? As a class, can you choose a few words or phrases that would be useful when someone doesn’t feel they are getting their way?

Chapter 2 – Roar! (pp. 11-23)

6. A Me collage is a collection of things that are all about you. What would be the most important thing you would include on your Me Collage? Why would you choose this?
7. Judy refers to Mr. Todd as Mr. Toad (and cracks herself up.) But Mr. Todd doesn’t seem to mind. Why do you think that is?
8. “Even a real shark would not scare him off.” (p. 15) Frank Pearl is persistent in his desire to be friends with Judy. How about you? Are you shy when making new friends? Or do you have a lot of friend-making confidence, like Frank Pearl?
9. Why do you think Mr. Todd chooses Rocky to get the pizza instead of Judy?



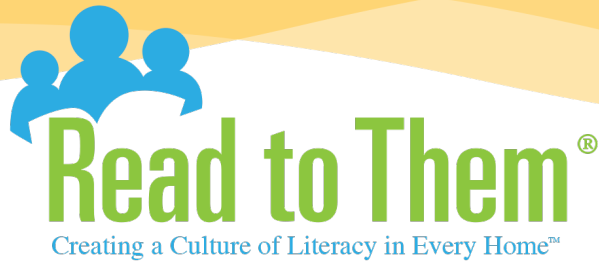
10. Judy has a collection of “twenty-seven dead moths, a handful of old scabs, a dozen fancy toothpicks, hundreds of designer Band-Aids (she needed the box tops), a box of body parts (from dolls!) including three Barbie heads, and four unused erasers shaped like baseballs.” (p. 23) Is there anything that you collect? If so, what is it, and why do you collect it? (If you don’t have a collection, what would you collect if you did, and why?)
11. Make a prediction: will Judy be able to come to school in a good mood to keep the mini pizza table for her collection? Or will one of Judy’s bad moods take over?

Chapter 3 – Two Heads Are Better Than One (pp. 24-39)

12. Judy doesn’t want to take Stink to Vic’s but her mom insists. Can you think of a time you had to take someone somewhere that you didn’t want to? How did it turn out?
13. Judy wants to be a doctor when she grows up. What about you? What would you like to be when you grow up, and why?
14. Stink suggests to Judy and Rocky that they “look for rocks until we get to China.” (p. 32) What do you do to pass the time when you are anxious to get somewhere?
15. Judy smashes Stink’s moon rock and it becomes moon dust which clever Stink later sells for 50 cents a bag! Do you think Judy did Stink a favor? Or do you think what she did was mean?
16. Would you buy moon dust from Stink for 50 cents? If so, what would you do with it? If not, why wouldn’t you?

Chapter 4 – My Favorite Pet (pp. 40-52)

17. Do you have any pets? If so, do you have a favorite? If you don’t have any pets, what would you choose...and why?
18. Judy’s whole family takes a trip to Fur & Fangs, the local pet store. Is there a spot – a store, a public place, a restaurant, a park – that you and your family like to go to together?
19. Judy gets Stink to help her catch food for her Venus flytrap by first offering him a dime and later telling her she will let him feed it. What tactics do you use to try and get someone to do something for you?



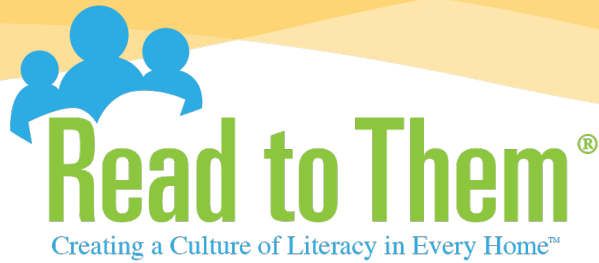
20. “I didn’t mean to. The trap closed really fast!” (p. 52) Judy thinks that Stink killed her Venus flytrap. Have you ever done something by accident that made someone else upset? Can you describe that experience? What would you have done differently next time?
21. Judy’s dad says that the Venus flytrap is “digesting.” (p. 52) Do you believe him? Why?

Chapter 5 – My Smelly Pet (pp. 53-59)

22. The next morning, after the Venus flytrap went all droopy, Judy tries to tease it open with a brand-new ant. She also talks to it in her “best squeaky baby voice.” (p. 53) What type of mood do you think Judy is experiencing now?
23. “Judy Moody did not care if the president himself was coming” to Frank Pearl’s birthday party. (p. 56) Why is Judy so unenthusiastic about Frank Pearl? Would you go to his birthday party or raise a fuss like Judy?
24. Mr. Todd thinks that Judy is going to use the oldest trick in the book – that her pet ate her homework! What’s the best reason you’ve ever had for not bringing your homework back to school? Did your teacher believe you?
25. Judy names her Venus flytrap Jaws. Do you like this name? If you could change it, what would you name it?

Chapter 6 – Doctor Judy Moody (pp. 60-71)

26. As far as Judy is concerned, the only thing “finer” than getting Jaws was getting a big brown box in the mail with the name DOCTOR Judy Moody on it. What’s the “finest” thing that’s happened to you recently?
27. Judy tells Stink to not “even breathe” until she gets back with the glass of water. But he ignores her and turns the knob on Hedda-Get-Bedda’s head. Why do you think Stink does this? What type of mood is *he* in?
28. When she couldn’t fix Hedda-Get-Bedda on her own, Judy took her doll to her mom to fix. Then she took it to her dad. Who do you take something to when it’s broken, and you can’t fix it?
29. “I cured her!” (p. 71) What mood do you think Judy is experiencing now?

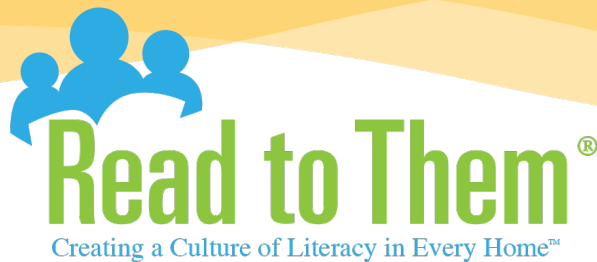


Chapter 7 – The T.P. Club (pp. 72-85)

30. Stink is pretty sure that it's going to rain for "forty days and forty nights." (p. 72) That's a lot of rain! How do you prepare for a string of rainy days? What are your favorite rainy-day activities?
31. Judy tells Mouse (her cat) not to get hair on her collage. What do you think Mouse would tell Judy if she could talk back?
32. What would you put on your Me collage to represent your sibling(s)? What about your best friend(s)?
33. What is your favorite color and why?
34. What would you put on your Me collage for THE WORST THING THAT EVER HAPPENED to you? What about for THE FUNNIEST THING THAT EVER HAPPENED to you?
35. If you started a secret club that just you and your friends could know about, what would it be called?

Chapter 8 – The Worst Thing Ever (pp. 86-103)

36. Judy ends up giving Frank Pearl the tadpole kit she was going to get for herself. What's the best birthday gift you have ever given someone? What's the best birthday gift you have ever received?
37. Judy *exaggerates* a little when she says that her family has left for New Zealand. What is an exaggeration? Can you define it in your own terms? Now find the real definition. Do you know anybody who exaggerates? Do you ever exaggerate? Is exaggerating a good thing or a bad thing? Can it be both?
38. When Judy sees what's going on in the backyard of Frank Pearl's birthday party, she wants to "climb right up Frank Pearl's tire-swing rope and howl like a rain forest monkey." (p. 96) What type of mood do you think Judy is in right now?
39. What's the coolest party favor you've ever received?
40. Judy turns out to really like Frank, and they have a lot of the same interests and hobbies. Have you ever judged someone or made assumptions about them, without getting to know them first? Has this ever happened to you?



Chapter 9 – Definitely The Worst Thing Ever (pp. 104-110)

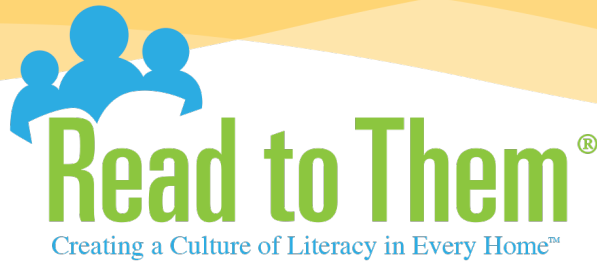
41. “Judy’s day was off to a grouchy start.” (p. 104) When Judy finds out that her whole family is going to Washington D.C. she is not exactly thrilled to be left behind. Has this ever happened to you? Tell about a time that you felt this way. Were you able to do anything to make yourself feel better?
42. Has anyone in your class ever visited the White House? If so, share that experience. If you haven’t visited, what would you be the most interested in seeing?
43. Judy’s school hosts a “Brush Your Teeth Week” assembly. What’s your favorite assembly that your school has hosted?

Chapter 10 – The Funniest Thing Ever (pp. 111-127)

44. Judy is picked to be a cavity in the school assembly, something she’s not too excited about. Have you ever had to stand up in front of a group and do something? How did you feel about it? Did you enjoy the limelight, or did it make you feel self-conscious?
45. Judy is very jealous of Stink’s trip to the White House. Have you ever gotten jealous like this, of a friend or a sibling? Can you share that experience? How do we get over our jealousy? How can we try to feel happy for others instead?
46. Judy had an idea that orbited her head “and landed like a spaceship, the way good ideas do.” (p. 120) Have you ever had an idea that was so good it felt like a spaceship orbiting your head?
47. Did you enjoy Judy’s hand prank on Stink? Do you think it had “Funniest Thing Ever” potential? Or did you find it to be a little mean? Share your thoughts.
48. Have you ever pulled a prank on someone? How did it go over?

Chapter 11 – The Me Collage (pp. 128-140)

49. Have you ever been anxious about something like Judy is about getting her Me collage to school? What made you so nervous? How can we learn to be less nervous about such things, particularly things we can’t really control?
50. Stink messes up Judy’s Me collage by spilling Jungle Juice on it in the car. Has anyone ever messed up something of yours like this? Or...have you ever done this to someone else?



51. Judy turns a very bad situation into a very good one by making the Jungle Juice spill part of her Me collage. When is a time you took a bad situation and made it into a good one?

Chapter 12 – Band-Aids and Ice Cream (pp. 141-152)

52. Mr. Todd tells Judy that she’s “a mover and a shaker” (p. 147) and then tells her it means she has an imagination. How about you? Are you “a mover and a shaker?”
53. While eating ice cream with her family, Judy is in her “best Judy Moody mood ever.” (p. 149) What puts you in your best mood ever?
54. Would you want to be in the Toad Pee Club? Would it be worth it?
55. What do you do to celebrate when you accomplish something? What makes this celebration so special?
56. Judy’s favorite ice cream is Chocolate Mud. Toady’s favorite is Rain Forest Mist. What’s yours?
57. “He crossed his eyes, and they all fell down laughing.” (p. 152) When was the last time you laughed this hard? And who was it with?

End of the book

58. What was your favorite part of *Judy Moody Was in a Mood*? Who was your favorite character? Share your favorites with the class and discuss.
59. Do you think it’s harder to have Judy Moody for a big sister or to have Stink for a little brother?
60. Judy had a lot of different moods throughout this book...which one could you sympathize with the most?