

JUDY BLUME

"When I was growing up, I dreamed about becoming a cowgirl, a detective, a spy, a great actress or a ballerina. Not a dentist, like my father, or a homemaker, like my mother -- certainly not a writer, although I always loved to read. I didn't know anything about writers. It never occurred to me they were regular people and that I could grow up to become one, even though I loved to make up stories inside my head."



Judy Blume spent her childhood in Elizabeth, New Jersey, making up stories inside her head. She has spent her adult years in many places, doing the same thing, only now she writes her stories down on paper. Adults as well as children will recognize such Blume titles as: *Are YOU THERE GOD? IT'S ME, MARGARET*; *SUPERFUDGE*; *BLUBBER*; *JUST AS LONG AS WE'RE TOGETHER*; and *FOREVER*. More than 75 million copies of her books have been sold, and her work has been translated into more than 20 languages. Judy lives on islands up and down the East Coast with her husband George Cooper, who writes nonfiction. They have three grown children and one incredible grandchild.

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Are You There, God? It's Me, Margaret

By Judy Blume

About this Book

Margaret Simon is eleven, going on twelve, moving to a new house and school and experiencing all the changes that adolescence brings. Not only does Margaret have questions about boys and bras, she has some pretty serious questions about religion and other stuff she just can't talk to her friends about. So Margaret finds someone else to talk to.

Discussion Questions:

1. Do you think Margaret is happy about moving? Do you think she is right that her parents are moving to get away from Grandma Simon?
2. Margaret, trying to figure out what is going on in the churches and the synagogue she visits, is reduced to counting different colored hats the women are wearing. She does not understand the sermons, and she emotionally responds to only the music. What is her difficulty? Is the fault with Margaret or the experience she has?
3. What is the role of religion in the novel? Do you think Margaret will ever decide which religion she wants to be?
4. Nancy Wheeler lies about menstruating, about Laura Danker's reputation, and about Moose Freed's reputation. Why does she do this?
5. Laura Danker, beautiful and physically mature beyond her years, is the target of much envy; why do you think the girls envy her? Is their envy justified?
6. Do you think Mr. Benedict is a good teacher? Do you think he was a better teacher at the end of the year, than at the beginning?
7. What do you think about Margaret's relationship with her Grandma Simon? Why do you think she refers to Margaret as "her Margaret?" How do you think this makes Margaret's mother feel? What about Margaret's relationship with Mr. and Mrs. Hutchins (her mother's parents)? Are they very different from Grandma Simon? Will Margaret ever be close to them?
8. Which of the characters do you like the best? Which of her friends do you think Margaret is closest to? Why?
9. Why do you think the girls are obsessed with maturing, and getting their periods? Do you think this is normal behavior?

Resources referenced:

kidsreads.com, teenreads.com, bookrags.com, teachingbooks.com, multcolib.org, barnesandnoble.com,
And MPL Staff.