

YHBA Novel Resource

The Lemonade War
Jacqueline Davies
Sandpiper
Houghton Mifflin Company
2007



<http://www.jacquelinedavies.net/>

About the Author:

Jacqueline Davies was born in Cleveland, Ohio on July 25, 1962. In high school she was in a dance troupe and was a writer and editor for the school newspaper. She loved to read and her favorite books were books written in another time and place. She wrote her first book when she was in Kindergarten called *The Sad Shape*, but said it never got published. She loves to visit schools and talk to students about her books and reading. She lives in Needham, Massachusetts with her husband, three children, and a dog named Harley. She got the idea for this novel one day when her sons and their friends both wanted to set up a lemonade stand at the same time in the same place. They were arguing over who had rights to the driveway space! This gave her an idea for *The Lemonade War*. Other books she has written are *The Night is Singing*, *The Boy Who Drew Birds: A Story of John James Audubon*, *The House Takes a Vacation*, and *Where the Ground Meets the Sky*. The Story *The House Takes a Vacation* was named a Summer 2007 Booksense Children's Pick!

Annotation: Jessie doesn't understand emotions and Evan doesn't understand math and usually the two siblings get along, but with Jessie skipping the third grade to join Evan in his class in fourth, Evan is dealing with feelings of inadequacy and humility as he is always the kid who gets the math problems wrong and reads slower than the other kids in his class. With his little sister, the whiz, in his class, he feels as though he will be

made fun of and isn't taking the news lightly. The siblings start a lemonade war that escalates with the addition of contest to see who can sell \$100 worth in the last five days of summer vacation. Evan goes to war to prove he can beat his younger sister and Jessie goes to war to prove she won't be an embarrassment to him in fourth grade. As the contest progresses, both kids realize they will do whatever it takes to win. They sabotage each other's lemonade, steal money, and eventually get so angry, it gets physical. Full of marketing tips for running a business and math problem solving skills, this novel shows how war can escalate and how dark and dirty it can become and will test the feelings, emotions, and family values of siblings.

Genre: Realistic Fiction

Point of View: This story is told from the point of view of two siblings. They take turns telling their side of the story.

Themes:

Perseverance: Both siblings are determined to prove something to the other one throughout the book and do not give up until the end.

Competition: Rules of good sportsmanship are learned as the siblings sabotage each other's sales.

Economics: Business terms are introduced and applied throughout the novel.

Overall theme: There is a strong theme of family as the two siblings discover that this war is a stupid idea and that they would rather play with each other than fight.

Conflict: This novel provides personal and professional conflict. The personal conflict is with the siblings and their feelings towards each other over the letter that arrived. They begin a professional conflict when each plans their marketing tactic for their lemonade stands.

Conflict Resolution: The conflict is resolved when they have both done something so hurtful to each other, Jessie ruining Evan's lemonade and Evan losing \$200 of Jessie's money. Jessie gets angry and hits Evan while Evan feels so badly that he just takes it until they both run out of steam. They talk about their feelings that they have been harboring throughout the book and call a truce.

Characters:

Evan Treski: Main character. Evan gets angry because his sister is skipping a grade level and will be in his class. Half of the novel is told from his point of view.

Jessie Treski: Main character. Jessie is upset because Evan is angry with her and won't allow her to play with him. Half of the novel is told from her point of view.

Megan Moriarty: Megan helps Jessie with her lemonade stand and they become fast friends. Evan is upset because he likes Megan and doesn't want his sister to make him look bad.

Scott Spencer: Scott is a minor character yet impacts the other characters. Scott steals money from Evan on two occasions and Evan does not tattle on him or stand up to him.

Mom: Mom plays a small yet important role. Since her husband left the family, the kids have learned to not upset her by handling their own differences. This impacts how they deal with their conflict.

Setting: The setting occurs in the late summer in a suburban neighborhood at the children's home and on the sidewalks where they sell lemonade.

Interest Level: Grades 3-5

Reading Level: 3.7

Booktalk: Evan and Jesssie Treski used to be really close, that is before the letter came. Ever since that day Evan has been downright mean to Jessie and she doesn't understand why. Evan tells her he hates her and finds the neighborhood jerk to hang out with instead. Jessie gets furious and teams up with the girl that Evan likes. Finally, the two get so mad at each other that they go to war. They develop a contest to see who can sell the most lemonade by the end of the summer. The lemonade war begins with each of them trying to make their stand better than the other, but quickly turns into a down and dirty match to see who can ruin the others chance of winning. By putting worms, fruit flies, and dirt into lemonade and stealing money, this war is getting out of hand. Evan and Jessie have to decide where to end this war before they go too far.

Discussion Questions:

Chapter 1: Slump

Pre-reading: Create a list of summer jobs that you could have this summer? Have you ever gotten in a fight with a sibling? What was it about?

During:

- 1. p. 1-** Why do you think the thought of the baseball hitting and breaking Evans' nose made him want to keep tossing it up? Have you ever done something that you knew was dangerous, yet did it anyway?
- 2. p. 4-** How does Evan feel when the book says, "He was starting to feel the words poling up inside him, crowding his lungs, forcing out all the air. It was like having a chest full of bats, beating their wings, fighting to get out."? Has there ever been a time when you felt like that? What made you feel that way?

Post: Why do you think Evan is being so mean to his sister? Have you ever told someone you hated them? Did you mean it, or were you just really angry?

Chapter 2: Breakup

Pre: What does it mean to break up? What types of things can break up?

During:

- 1. p. 15-** Why is Evan upset? Explain using details from the story. How would you feel if your sibling skipped a grade and ended up in your class? Do you think the other students would treat you the same as everyone else?
- 2. p. 21-** Why do you think Evan made a lemonade stand with Scott if he doesn't like him? Have you ever tried to make someone else jealous or angry when you were mad at them?

Post: If you were Jessie, what would you do and how would you feel after Evan started a lemonade stand without you and wouldn't let you be a part of it?

Chapter 3: Joint Venture

Pre: What is a joint venture? What do you think Jessie is going to do now?

During:

- 1. p. 34-** Would you want a friend like Scott? Do you think Evan will want to hang out with Scott anymore? Why?
- 2.** What would have happened if Scott didn't drink so much lemonade?

3. What are some of the things that the boys did well that helped them sell lemonade? Use details from the story.

Post: What do you think Evan will do now that he knows Jessie is selling lemonade too?

Chapter 4: Partnership

Pre: Who do you think will partner up in this chapter to run a business?

Do you think Jessie will want Evan to sell lemonade with her? Why?

During:

- 1.** p. 50- Evan had given Jessie some advice about the way people sometimes talk to you. Do you think his advice was good advice? Why?
- 2.** p. 55- Jessie is really good at math. Do you think Megan will think she is really smart or just a show-off?

Post: Jessie was trying to be nice to Evan and show him that she could hang out with the older kids, but he thought she was showing off the amount of money she made. How would you feel if you were Evan? Has there ever been a time when you misunderstood someone and got mad at them and later found out that you were wrong?

Chapter 5: Competition

Pre: What are some different competitions you have been in? When you are competing against others, what types of things should you do to make sure you are being a good sport?

During:

- 1.** Have you ever felt competitive with someone you are close to, like a sibling or a good friend? What was the competition about? What did you do? How was it resolved?
- 2.** Evan is pretty sure that Scott Spencer stole the lemonade money he "borrowed" from Jessie. Why doesn't Evan confront Scott? Why doesn't he ask for his money back?
- 3.** Evan and Jessie are not treating each other very nicely. Do you think both of them really want to be fighting? What from the story makes you feel this way?

Post: Which of the siblings do you think will make the most money? Using details from the story, explain why?

Chapter 6: Underselling

Pre: What does the prefix 'under' mean? What do you think will happen in this chapter?

During:

1. p. 73- How would you feel if you were Jessie? What makes kids act that mean toward other kids?
2. p. 75- Megan did a nice thing for Jessie. What was it and why do you think she did it?
3. p. 81- Evan started selling lemonade for \$.10 a cup. Do you think this is a good strategy? Why?

Post: What do you think Jessie will do at her lemonade stand next?

Chapter 7: Location, Location, Location

Pre: What do you think location has to do with selling lemonade?

During:

1. p.89- Evan tries working out a long division problem and gets frustrated. What advice could you give him to solve the problem?
2. P.91- Evan figured out the math problem by himself. Why do you think he felt so good about solving the problem? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.
3. P.96- What does the phrase “pride goeth before a fall” mean? What happened that made Evan think of this quote.

Post: If you were Evan, would you stop selling lemonade now that you had reached the goal or would you keep going? Why?

Chapter 8: Going Global

Pre: Do you think you could make a lemonade stand a global company? What types of things are sold globally?

During:

1. p.102- Do you think Jessie’s idea to add the nail painting etc. to the lemonade stand was a good idea? What could she have done differently?
2. p. 115- What do you think of Jessie’s idea so far? Do you think it is going to work? Why?
3. p.119- Jessie wonders “If Megan knew about the war, whose side would she be on?” Whose side do you think Megan would be on and why?

Post: If you were Evan or Jessie, would you quit selling now? Why?

Chapter 9: Negotiation

Pre: What does it mean to negotiate? Give an example of a time when it would be good to negotiate?

During:

1. p. 124- Do you think Jessie and Evan are tired of fighting yet?

2. p.126- What do you think Evan is worried about his sister telling Megan?

Post: Evan is angry. Do people usually make good decisions when they are angry? Do you think Evan will do something mean to Jessie?

Chapter 10: Malicious Mischief

Pre: What does malicious mischief mean? Make a list of things that are malicious or mischievous.

During:

1. p.129- Do you think the Megan is being mean to Evan intentionally? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

2. p.135- Do you think Jessie is really upset or do you think she is up to something? Have you ever cried to get something you wanted?

3. P. 142- What does Jessie mean when she thinks “yep, there would be some fireworks tonight.”

Post: Do you think Evan deserved what Jessie did to him? What could she have done instead?

Chapter 11: A Total Loss

Pre: What do you think is going to happen when Evan sells the lemonade?

During:

1. p.147- If you were Evan, what would you do if someone had ruined all of your hard work?

2. p.150- Do you think the war should continue or keep going, since Jessie cheated to keep Evan from winning?

Post: Is Evan making a good decision by taking the money? What could happen if he takes the money?

Chapter 12: Waiting Period

Pre: When is it a good time to wait? When do you have to wait for things? Are you a patient or impatient waiter?

During:

1. p. 152- Why do you think Jessie is so uncomfortable in the car? Have you ever felt bad about something so much that no matter what you did, you couldn't feel better?

2. P.153- Why does Jessie keep thinking about all of the things that she and Evan do together?

Post: Do you think that Jessie is going to make-up to Evan? Do you think she will tell him she is sorry about what she did?

Chapter 13: Crisis Management

Pre: What are some good ways to get out of a sticky situation like Evan and Jessie are in?

During:

1. p. 156- The boys are playing basketball in the heat. What are some of your favorite activities to do in the hot summer sun?
2. p.159- Why do you think Scott leaves so suddenly? What makes you think this?

Post: What do you think Evan is going to do? What do you think he should do?

Chapter 14: Reconciliation

Pre: What does reconciliation mean? When do people reconcile?

During:

1. p. 161- Why is Evan trying so hard to get Jessie to quit the war? Did he really make no money? Why is he telling her that he did?
2. p.168- How do you think the siblings feel about each other now? Do you think they will be done fighting about this issue?
3. How do Evan and Jessie finally resolve the conflict — both their lemonade war and their personal war?

Post: What do you think school will be like for Evan and Jessie? Do you think the other kids will make fun of Evan or Jessie? Why?

Language:

slump- p.1- drop in sales

dissolution- p.11- breaking up or dissolving

bankrolling- p.22- supplying with money

venture- p.27- starting a business where risk is involved

pooling- p.4- putting together in one place

menacing- p.66- troublesome

earwig- p. 70- nocturnal insect

permit- p.96- document allowing you to do something

persistent- p.106- not giving up

negotiation- p.122- to make a deal

malicious- p.128- evil

spigot- p.139- faucet for the hose

Indiana Academic Standards:

Grade 3 Language: 3.1.4, 3.1.5, 3.1.7, 3.1.9, 3.3.3, 3.3.4, .3.3.8

Grade 3 Math: 3.2.1- 3.2.3, 3.3.2, 3.6.1, 3.6.3, 3.6.7

Grade 4 Language: 4.3.1-4.3.4, 4.3.6, 4.3.7

Grade 4 Math: 4.2.3, 4.2.5, 4.2.6, 4.7.2-4.7.4

Grade 5 Language: 5.1.6, 5.3.1-5.3.5, 5.3.7, 5.3.8

Grade 5 Math:5.2.1, 5.7.1, -5.7.3

Anticipation Guide:

Before		The Lemonade War By Jacqueline Davies	After	
Agree	Disagree		Agree	Disagree
		Making a lemonade stand is easy, just get lemonade and sell it.		
		It's ok to fight with my sibling/friend because it only affects us.		
		It would be fun to skip a grade level.		
		War can be a good thing.		
		You should do whatever it takes to win.		
		Words are more hurtful than actions.		

Read Aloud #1: Chapter 1-2 p.9-p.11

Before: Ask students if they have ever had someone say something mean to them. Discuss how it makes people feel.

“Leave me alone. I came down here to get away from you and you just had to follow. You ruin everything. You ruined my summer and now you’re going to ruin school. I hate you.” When he got to the bottom of the steps, he threw the baseball down in disgust. *Thud.*

Jesse didn’t get it. She just didn’t get it.

What was Evan’s problem?

He’d been acting like a weirdo for two days now.

And it was two days ago that the letter had arrived.

But why would he be so upset about that letter?

This is a puzzle, Jessie told herself. And I’m good at puzzles. But it was a puzzle about feelings, and Jessie knew that feelings were her weakest subject.

After: How would you feel if someone was mad at you and you didn’t know why? What would you do if you were in this situation?

Importance of this read aloud: Evan and Jessie are having a fight. This section sets the tone for the story. It tells the reader that Evan is very angry about his sister and that a letter is what started this anger. The rest of the book revolves about the feelings the siblings have over what is inside this letter.

Read Aloud #2: Chapter 4- p.44- p.45

Before: Have you ever tattled on someone because you were mad? Did that help the situation or make it worse?

It’s true that when Evan had first walked out of the garage, Jessie had banged up to her room and tried to think of every way possible that she could make his life a living misery.

She’d thought of telling Mom that Evan was the one who broke the toaster (by playing hockey in the house, which is not allowed). She’d

thought of taking back every one of her CDs from his room (even though she knew that would mean she'd have to give back all of *his* CDs). She'd even thought of putting peanut butter in his shoes. (This was something she'd read in a book, and she loved to imagine the moment of horror when he'd think he'd somehow gotten dog doo *inside* his shoes.)

After: Would you think about doing these things to someone if you were mad?

Importance of this read aloud: Jessie is angry at Evan for not allowing her to play with him. Kids can relate to tattling on siblings and the itch to get them in trouble when they are angry. They also enjoy any mention of "doo" and this would grab their attention enough to keep them moving through the book.

Read Aloud #3: Chapter 6- p.73- p.74

Before: Do you know someone who is mean to other students? Does it make you mad? Would you stand up for someone who is getting picked on?

On the playground, Jessie went up to Becky. "Why is she breaking up the club?" she asked.

Becky gave her a sour look. She'd been grumpy all morning. "Don't you get it, you dummy? WHJ doesn't stand for Wild Hot Jellybeans. We just said that to Mrs. Soren. It stands for We Hate Jessie. It's the We Hate Jessie Club, and everyone in the class is a member."

Jessie stared at Becky. Why did they hate her? What had she ever done to them? It didn't make sense. And then Lorelei, Andrea, and Eileen had laughed, and even Becky had managed a smirky grin.

"Jerks," Evan said later, when Jessie told him the whole story. "They've got rocks for brains. But Jess, you gotta be on the lookout for girls like that."

After: How would you feel if this happened to you? What would make kids be this mean to someone?

Importance of this read aloud: Jessie is in a situation, talking to her new friend Megan, when she is wondering if the other girl at her house, Carly, is like the girls who were mean to her last year. This is a great time to

have a discussion about why it is not ok to treat others like this. Many of our students can relate to having been on both sides of this situation.

If you like *The Lemonade War*, you'll love...

Frindle by Andrew Clements: Nick Allen has plenty of ideas. He has created a new word for pen and word is spreading like wildfire. His parents and teacher want him to stop the word from being used, but it is out of his control. All he can do is wait and see what happens. Shows how quickly things can get out of control.

Lunch Money by Andrew Clements: Greg Kenton loves money. He loves making money and he loves saving it. When he starts selling toys and candy to kids at school, the principal doesn't see it as an appropriate school venture, but what about comic books? Doesn't the principal want students reading? Follow Greg as he creates a business and learns about what it takes to get what you want.

The Homework Machine by Dan Gutman: A book about losing control. Follow the D Squad, four very different 5th graders, as they create a machine to do homework and use it. Having a machine do your homework sounds great, but is it all that it's cracked up to be?

The Get Rich Quick Club by Dan Gutman: Five kids come up with a way to get rich. They create a photo of a UFO and sell it to a tabloid. This book shows how an idea can snowball out of control.

Flush by Carl Hiaasen: Someone is polluting the river and it's up to Noah to figure out who it is. No one believes his dad when he tells the police who it is so Noah works to prove his dad is right. Themes of family values and perseverance run through this story.

Across the Curriculum Connections:

- **Math:** Students can complete the math problems in the book as they appear. Before students get to the math problem, ask how they would solve a similar problem and see if the story solves it the same way.

You can ask for different ways to solve the problems and have students solve them as you go.

Indiana Academic Standards: 5.2.1, 5.7.1, -5.7.3

- **Economics:** Students could design their own business and create a business proposal for it. There are tips in the book for running your own business and how to get more money out of it.

Indiana Academic Standards: 5.4.6, 5.4.7

- **Writing/Technology:** Watch the following trailer for the book:

http://www.lemonadewar.com/book_trailer.shtml

Have students create their own trailer for other books you have read in class. This can be done using Microsoft Powerpoint or any program you choose. Students will learn how to entice readers to read the books they have chosen. This shows students how to create a video booktalk.

Indiana Academic Standards: 5.5.3

Book Activities:

- **Group or whole class activity**

This is a great economics lesson. Use the story and Evan and Jessie's ideas and mistakes to create either a lemonade stand or a business, i.e. school store, at school. Students can plan a stand, design posters, create a business plan, work on advertising, and set costs for items being sold. You can divide the class into groups and make a contest out of it to see whose business plan is the most successful. Teach students about supply, demand, and how location is crucial to success. Maybe they will sell it on the playground at recess or in the cafeteria at lunch. Get another class involved and use ideas from the story to bring the story to life.

Indiana Academic Standards:

Grade 3 Standards: 3.4.6-3.4.8

Grade 4 Standards: 4.4.4, 4.4.8, 4.4.10

Grade 5 Standards: 5.4.6, 5.4.7

Resources: Advertising for kids

http://pbskids.org/dontbuyit/advertisingtricks/betheaddetective_1.html

<http://www.buzzle.com/articles/effective-advertising-poster-design.html>

Resources: Business plan for lemonade stand

<http://www.familycapers.com/Projects/Lemonade/default.html>

<http://www.teachingkidsbusiness.com/lemonade-stand.htm>

- **Comment Cards:** Individual Activity

In the story, the third graders do an activity every Friday where they get assigned another student and they have to write something positive about that person on an index card. Then it gets read out loud. This is a great activity to do to help build self-esteem with your students and to get students thinking positively when they can often times be negative.

Example from story:

You're a really nice person and you have good ideas all the time. You're fun to be with and I'm glad you're my friend.

Indiana Academic Standards:

Grade 3 English: 3.5.5, 3.6.1- 3.6.3

Grade 4 English: 4.5.6, 4.6.1, 4.6.2, 4.6.4, 4.6.5

Grade 5 English: 5.5.6, 5.6.1, 5.6.8, 5.6.3

For more book activities go to:

www.houghtonmifflinbooks.com/readers_guides/davies_lemonade.shtml

<http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00000781.shtml>

<http://www.ae4rv.com/games/lemonade.htm>

<http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00000036.shtml>

Bibliography

The Lemonade War by Jacqueline Davies

www.lemonadewar.com

www.houghtonmifflinbooks.com/readers_guides/davies_lemonade.shtml

http://www.jacquelinedavies.net/my_books_lemonade.html

<http://www.schoollibraryjournal.com/blog/1790000379/post/170010817.html>

<http://www.powells.com/biblio/1-9780547237657-0>

<http://www.teachervision.fen.com/fiction/printable/55932.html>

<http://www.perma-bound.com/ViewDetail/23724-lemonade-war>