

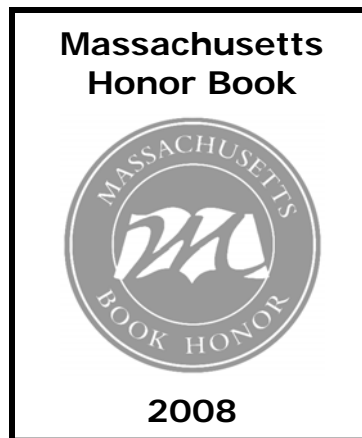
## A Reading and Discussion Guide

### *The Lemonade War*

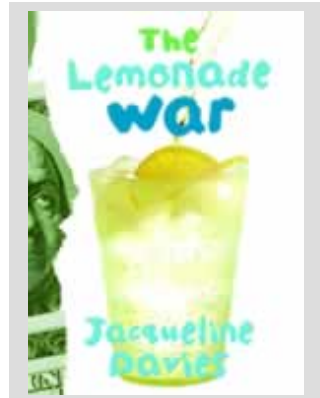
By Jacqueline Davies

Houghton Mifflin

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### SUMMARY



Siblings Evan and Jessie Treski used to be best friends, but when Jessie skips two grades to Evan's fourth-grade class, their relationship goes from friendly to competitive. Inspired by one of their former favorite activities, selling lemonade together on hot summer days, Jessie challenges Evan to a war: who can make the most money selling lemonade and the winner takes all the profits. Employing creative business strategies, their friends in the neighborhood, and some underhanded tactics, Jessie and Evan battle it out, making more money than they ever had before. But when the drive to win at all costs leaves both of them with next to nothing, they learn that when you compete against those you love, nobody wins. Though they feel they

wasted the final days of summer in pointless competition, Evan and Jessie learn that the value of money is nothing compared to family, friendship, and true business savvy.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. In the book Jessie skips second and third grades and goes straight to fourth grade. Skipping causes problems between her and her brother and makes the other kids in her neighborhood think she is strange. Do you think skipping a grade or two is a good thing or a bad thing and why? How would you feel being in class where everyone is one or two years older than you? If there was a much younger student in your class, what would you think about them?
2. Both Evan and Jessie earn more \$100 selling lemonade. Evan wants to spend his money on an iPod; Jessie wants to donate hers to charity. What would you do if you had \$100? Spend it, save it, give it away? What would you spend it on or to whom would you give it away?
3. When Jessie is upset, reading *Charlotte's Web* makes her feel better. Evan plays basketball with his friends to lift his spirits. Is there something you like to do that makes you feel better when you need to take your mind off of your problems? How does it help

you? Is it relaxing – like taking a nap or reading – or does it take energy, like playing sports or doing a craft?

## ACTIVITIES

### 1. Make Fresh Lemonade

Evan and Jessie make their lemonade from the frozen stuff at the grocery store, but making fresh lemonade is easy! Just be sure an adult helps with cutting the lemons.

#### Ingredients:

- 1 cup freshly squeezed lemon juice  
To get freshly squeezed lemon juice, take a whole lemon and roll it on the counter with your hand pressing down on top of it. This will make it easier to squeeze. Now cut it in half and either squeeze the halves by hand or use a citrus juicer. Don't forget to take out the seeds! Repeat until you have 1 cup of fresh juice.
- $\frac{3}{4}$  cup sugar
- 4 cups water
- ice cubes

#### Mixing the Ingredients:

- In a pitcher, combine the lemon juice and the sugar. Stir well until the sugar dissolves
- Pour in the water and stir again
- Add ice cubes
- Invite your friends over and enjoy!

Makes 6 servings

Recipe from [sunkist.com/recipes](http://sunkist.com/recipes)

### 2. Comment cards

After spending so much time together running a lemonade stand, Megan gives Jessie a “comment card” telling her that she is a good friend with good ideas. Jessie keeps it in her money box as a reminder of how much Megan likes her. Try it with your reading group...

If the kids in your group know each other, give them each an index card. Have them write something nice about the person sitting next to them (or if you want the comments to be anonymous, have the kids draw names from a hat). Let the children keep the card written about them so they can be reminded of the nice things people think about them.

If the kids in your group don't know each other, hand out the cards and ask them to think about someone they really care about (a parent, a sibling, a friend, a teacher, etc.). Ask them to write something nice about this person and to give that person the card the next time they see them. If you think the kids would feel comfortable, ask them to share who they wrote about and why they chose that person.

### 3. Start a business

Split the children up into small groups. Give them the hypothetical situation of starting their own lemonade stand. Based on the titles of the chapters, the scraps of paper with business

advice that Jessie keeps in her box, and tactics Jessie and Evan use in the war, have each group pick one or two that they would use to run a successful lemonade stand. The groups should say why they picked those particular strategies and what they would need to implement the strategies. (For example, a group might pick location based on the scene where Evan takes his lemonade stand to a crowded park. One thing the group would need to know, however, is the laws that govern selling lemonade on public property, something Evan didn't think about in the book.)

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Jacqueline Davies was born in Cleveland, Ohio on July 25, 1962. She started writing at a young age and published her first book, *Where the Ground Meets the Sky*, in 2002. Now Ms. Davies lives in Needham, Massachusetts, with her husband, three kids, and a dog. The idea for *The Lemonade War* actually came from an argument between her sons when they were selling lemonade!

### Books by Jacqueline Davies:

- *Where the Ground Meets the Sky*
- *The Boy Who Drew Birds*
- *The Night is Singing*
- *The House Takes a Vacation*
- *The Lemonade War*

## RESOURCES FOR MORE INFORMATION

- <http://lemonadewar.com> The official site for the book. Check out the “Blast” page for more activities, e-cards, and postings from kids around the country.
- <http://www.themint.org/> Sponsored by Northwest Mutual, this site has information about earning, saving, spending, and investing for kids as well as resources for parents and teachers.
- *Earning Money*, by Patricia Murphy: Part of the How Economic Work series, this book gives ideas of how children can earn money on their own. Recommended for children ages 8-12.
- *Making Cents*, by Elizabeth Keeler Robinson: An introduction to money for children. Based around a story about a group of kids earning and saving money to build a neighborhood clubhouse, this book addresses math and money, changes in American currency, and the payoffs of hard work.
- A Bibliography of Children's/Young Adult Business & Finance books:  
[http://www.massbook.org/reading\\_guides/LemonadeWarBiblio.pdf](http://www.massbook.org/reading_guides/LemonadeWarBiblio.pdf)



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