



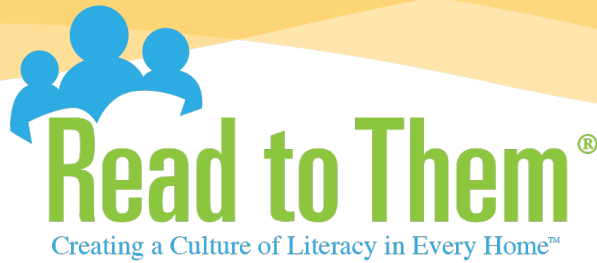
**Discussion Questions for
The Lemonade War (2007)
by Jacqueline Davies**

Chapter 1 – Slump (pp. 1-10)

1. Evan's pretty sure his mom has given up on moving the air conditioner because it's so hot. He calls it "giving-up kind of weather." (p. 3) Can you relate to this? Is there a type of weather that makes you feel like giving up? Other weather that makes you super motivated?
2. Evan is *really* mad at Jessie. Do you think he handled his anger well? How do you handle it when you get angry with someone? What would you have suggested to Evan that he could have done differently?
3. Evan feels like he has a "chestful of bats, beating their wings, fighting to get out." (p. 4) Think about a time you felt this way. How did you handle it?
4. According to Jessie, Evan just got ten dollars for his birthday. If someone gave you ten dollars, what would you do with it?
5. Jessie says that Evan's favorite game is Stratego. How about you? What's your favorite board game to play?
6. Have you ever said "I hate you" to someone? Did you mean it? Did you regret it afterward?

Chapter 2 – Breakup (pp. 11-26)

7. Jessie says she's good at puzzles, but that feelings are her weakest subject. What do you think she means?
8. Evan never bothers to look at the mail, but Jessie likes to enter contests, so she always flips through the mail right away. How about you? What's the last thing you got in the mail that made you excited?
9. "Growing up. Growing away." (p. 13) We all know that people grow up and sometimes people grow apart. Have you ever grown apart from someone? How did you both deal with it?



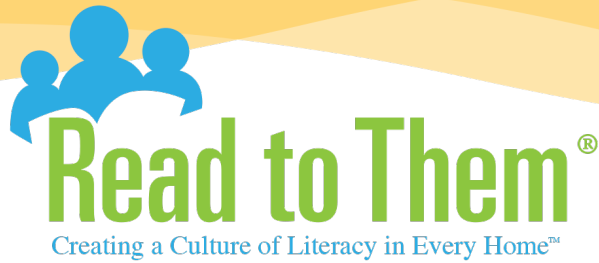
10. Jessie talks about the happy and unhappy feelings she sometimes gets when reading *Charlotte's Web*. What book gives you these types of mixed feelings?
11. Jessie would rather do a hundred math problems than try to figure out someone else's mixed-up feelings. What about you? Are you a person who prefers for a problem to have one answer, or do you like looking at things in different ways?
12. Would it be hard to find out your sibling was going to be in your class (or on your team or your favorite club)? Do you blame Evan for his behavior? How do you think Evan, Jessie, and/or Mrs. Treski could have handled this situation differently?

Chapter 3 – Joint Venture (pp. 27-40)

13. “Evan was getting abused on both sides.” (p. 27) Do you feel sorry for Evan? What type of advice would you give him in this situation?
14. As soon as they sit down, Scott pours himself a big cup of lemonade, filling it all the way to the brim. What does this behavior tell you about Scott?
15. Mrs. Treski once told Jessie and Evan, “Buying something is only *half* about getting something. The other half is all about human contact.” (p. 31) What do you think she means? Do you agree?
16. Evan is an optimist. Is Scott? Are you?
17. Evan seems to spend his money as soon as he gets it. Do you ever have issues keeping your money? What are some things a person can do with their money so they don't spend it right away?
18. Jessie sneers and waves her money at Evan. Do you think this was an okay thing to do? Was she in the right? What would you have done if you were Jessie?

Chapter 4 – Partnership (pp. 41-58)

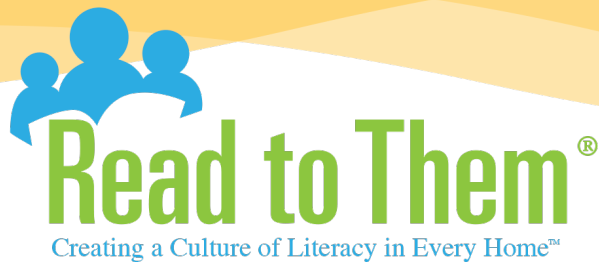
19. Jessie is struggling to understand why Evan reacted the way he did to her lemonade stand, particularly because she thought his reaction was going to be so different. On the other hand, Evan clearly misunderstood Jessie's reaction as well. Have you ever been in a situation like this, where a big misunderstanding led to an argument?



20. “And she didn’t get it. The way she didn’t get a lot of things about people.” (p. 43) Do you struggle to understand people the way Jessie does? Or are you good at people’s nonverbal cues and communication with you? Do you have any tips for Jessie?
21. When she’s feeling sad and alone, Jessie wants to curl up on her bed with *Charlotte’s Web*. How about you? What makes you feel better when you feel like Jessie does?
22. Jessie points out a bunch of things that Evan has done for her when she’s been in a jam. Can you share a time that you bailed a sibling or friend out of a bad situation? How about vice versa?
23. Evan says, “People tell you things with their hands and their faces and the way they stand.” (p. 50) What does he mean by this? Can you give some examples? Discuss forms of communication that aren’t verbal.
24. Jessie may struggle with nonverbal communication, but she’s good at convincing Megan to have a lemonade stand with her! Think of a time you had to persuade someone to do something for or with you. What was your tactic? Did it work?

Chapter 5 – Competition (pp. 59-66)

25. Jessie and Evan take turns cleaning up the kitchen after dinner. Does your family have a chore ritual at night? Which is your favorite?
26. On page 60, Evan realizes he only made \$2.11, after paying his mom back. He also suspects that Scott kept the \$5 they earned. Why did Evan end up with such a small profit? What could Evan have done to better keep track of his money?
27. Evan says that Jessie is “a howler.” (p. 61) She doesn’t cry often but when she does, it’s loud. Is there someone in your family who cries easily? What usually sets them off? How does the rest of your family react?
28. Even also calls Jessie a “miser.” (p. 63) Is it better to be someone who saves all your money (never spending it) or someone who spends easily? Think about the advantages and disadvantages of both.
29. Jessie says she’ll give her money to the Animal Rescue League if she wins the lemonade war. What charity would you have chosen?



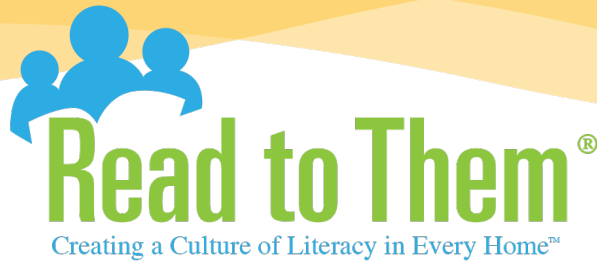
30. Define ‘competition’ in your own words. Discuss a time that you were in a competition with someone. What are the pros of a good competition? The cons? Is this competition between Evan and Jessie something good, something bad...or something else?
31. Who do you think will win the lemonade competition? Pick either Evan or Jessie and explain your choice.

Chapter 6 – Underselling (pp. 67-86)

32. The girls in Jessie’s class bully her and laugh at her, exchanging looks that Jessie doesn’t understand. Have you ever experienced a bully or group of bullies treating you or a peer like this? What would you have done if you had seen girls treating Jessie like this?
33. One of the things that drives Jessie crazy about girls is that they always say things halfway and then expect her to get the other half. And she never does. Can you think of someone who says things to you that you don’t totally get? How do you handle it? How would you encourage Jessie to handle her situation?
34. According to Jessie, adding snacks and music to the lemonade stand is really about adding fun. What else would you add to increase the fun?
35. Paul is Jessie’s favorite of her brother’s friends. If you have siblings, think of one of their friends that is your favorite. What qualities do they have that make them this way?
36. Evan’s friends help him out for the day, even letting him keep all the proceeds from the lemonade stand. What are some things that you and your friends do to show your support for each other?

Chapter 7 – Location, Location, Location (pp. 87-100)

37. Evan solves his money math problem all by himself and feels very proud! Can you remember a time when you solved a problem, or completed an assignment, and felt the same way? What does that sense of “pride” mean to you?
38. Everyone in the town square has picked a spot to try and stay cool in the heat. Where is your favorite place to go on a hot summer day?



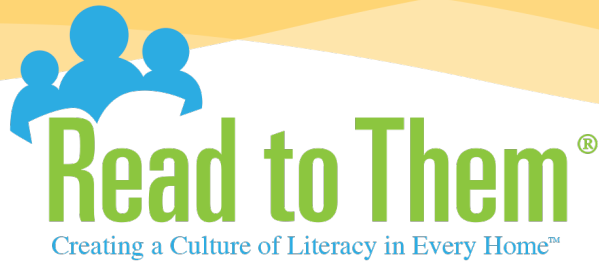
39. When the woman offers him a free sample of ice cream, Evan chooses to taste the Strawberry Slam. What flavor of ice cream would you choose at an ice cream shop?
40. Put on your thinking cap for this one! Evan remembers something his grandma said: “Pride goeth before a fall.” (p. 96) Any guesses on what this means? How does it apply to this scene?

Chapter 8 – Going Global (pp. 101-121)

41. On Saturday morning, Jessie sleeps in—until 9:05! In your opinion, is this considered “sleeping in” on a Saturday? What time do you normally wake up on the weekends?
42. Jessie’s mom calls her *persistent*. What does persistent mean? Is being persistent a good thing or a bad thing? Describe a situation where being persistent is a good thing, and one where it may be too much.
43. After scanning the school directory, Jessie realizes that – even though she knows most of the soon-to-be fourth grade girls – she doesn’t *really* know them. At least not enough to ask if they want to do something with her. Do you think she should ask anyway? Would you?
44. Megan gives Jessie a comment card that says she’s a really nice person, has good ideas, is fun to be with, and she’s glad that she’s her friend. If you were going to write a comment card about Megan, what would it say?
45. When Megan asks if Evan can come to the beach with them, Jessie tells her he’s busy. Why do you think she told her that? What would you have done in her situation?

Chapter 9 –Negotiation (pp. 122-127)

46. Jessie offers Evan some advice about his marble track, but he doesn’t appreciate it. How do you handle advice? Are you better at taking it from some people more than others? Can you think of a better way that Jessie could have tried to help Evan?
47. Do you know anybody like Grumpminster Fink? Someone who is mean and cranky, but deep down just wants to be loved? What is the best way to deal with someone who acts like a Grumpminster Fink?
48. When Evan finds out that Jessie’s been talking to Megan about the lemonade war, he gets really upset. Why does this bother him so much?



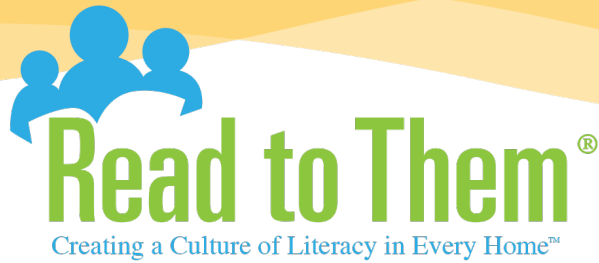
49. Evan's convinced that Jessie has once again "figured out some way to show the world just how stupid he was." (p. 126) Do you think this is true? Do you think Jessie is trying to make her brother look stupid?
50. Evan was really proud when he got 100 percent on his spelling test. Tell about a recent time when you felt the same way about one of your accomplishments.

Chapter 10 – Malicious Mischief (pp. 128-142)

51. "The world was a confusing place, and she needed Evan to help her figure it out." (p. 129) Do you ever feel like Jessie does? Can you tell about a time that someone made some part of the world feel less confusing for you?
52. What does *malicious mischief* mean? Discuss what you think of Jessie's *malicious mischief* in this chapter. Was it okay for her to sabotage Evan's lemonade? Can you come up with reasons both of them were right? And both were wrong?
53. There's a strict rule in the Treski house that no one is allowed to enter another person's bedroom without permission. How about in your house? Share a rule or two that your family has established to honor other people's personal space.
54. The cedar box where Evan keeps his money is a souvenir from a family summer vacation. What's the best souvenir you've ever gotten? Why is this particular thing so important to you?
55. Jessie is going to the beach for the day with Megan. What's your favorite thing to do with a friend when you have a whole day to spend together?
56. Jessie mentions at the end of the chapter that there will be fireworks that night. What do you think she meant by this?

Chapter 11 – A Total Loss (pp. 143-151)

57. What's the grossest thing you've ever found in your food or drink? What did you do about it?
58. "She was the kind of mother who thought she was the mother of the whole world." (p. 145) Do you know any mothers like this?



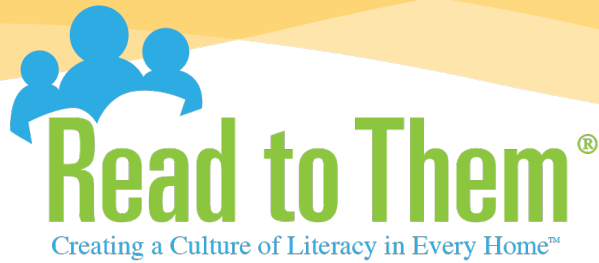
59. Evan loses all of his money (and hard work!) because of the bugs and dirt in his cooler. Not only does he feel totally defeated, but also embarrassed. Have you ever had a setback like this after lots of effort? How did you handle it?
60. Evan says that Jessie is smart, but she isn't very smooth. What's the difference between these two things?
61. Now it's Evan's turn to engage in some *malicious mischief* of his own. He's so upset that he goes into Jessie's room and steals her money. Do you think it was okay for him to do this? What would you have suggested he do instead?
62. Why do you think Evan is in such a hurry to get out of the house after he takes Jessie's money?

Chapter 12 – Waiting Period (pp. 152-154)

63. The girls amuse themselves in the car by playing license plate tag, magnetic bingo, and twenty questions. What do you do to pass the time during long rides?
64. Megan and Jessie both like to do different types of things at the beach. How about you? What would be your ideal beach day?
65. Why do you think Jessie is feeling sick as she gets closer to home? Why is she so worried about facing Evan when she gets there?

Chapter 13 – Crisis Management (pp. 155-159)

66. Evan is distracted and can't focus on his basketball game. Have you ever been so distracted by something that you had trouble focusing? Were you able to eventually regain your focus?
67. Do you like swimming pools? If so, what's your favorite pool game to play?
68. Jack's mom shouts at the boys to dry off before they come inside the house but she does it in a "nice way." (p. 158) What does this mean? Can you think of a time a grown-up shouted at you in a "nice way?"
69. Scott leaves suddenly. Later, Evan realizes that his sister's money is gone. Do you think Scott took it? If so, what does that tell you about Scott?



Chapter 14 – Reconciliation (pp. 160-173)

70. “There was no room for laughing.” (p. 162) Have you ever been in an argument with someone and tried to make a joke, but it just didn’t land the way it normally would have? What happened?
71. Evan deals with Jessie’s anger because he feels bad for “making Jessie feel so rotten about herself” just because he “felt so rotten about himself.” (p. 164) Can you relate to the way he’s feeling? Have you ever tried to hurt someone because you were already hurting?
72. Were you surprised to find out that the *real* reason Evan doesn’t want Jessie in his class is because he feels she is smarter than him? Have you ever felt a similar way about a classmate, friend, or family member?
73. Evan finally gives Jessie a compliment, telling her that she’s “really something” (p. 165) for earning so much money selling lemonade. What’s the best compliment someone has given you lately? What is the best compliment you have given someone else?
74. “One thing ends, another begins.” (p. 172) Mrs. Treski says this, then follows up with, “Fireworks. Rainstorm.” Jessie says, “Summer. School.” Evan finishes with, “War. Peace.” What two words make you think of one thing ending and another starting?
75. Evan and Jessie make up, and there is peace in the Treski house again. Share about a time you made up with a friend or family member. How did you do it? And what did you learn from the experience?

End of the Book

76. What do you think about the entire lemonade war that Evan and Jessie had? Was it worth it? What do you think Evan and Jessie learned about each other, themselves, and the point of fighting with each other in the end?
77. Jessie says she has a plan to get the money back from Scott. As a class, come up with some ways that you think Jessie and Evan could reclaim the money.