



DOUBLE DOG DARE

by Lisa Graff

Louisiana Young Readers' Choice Nominee 2015 Grades 6-8

*Submitted by Carol Hill de Santos, Youth Services Librarian,
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Title: *Double Dog Dare*

Author: Lisa Graff

Publisher: Philomel

Pages: 304

SUMMARY

When the school Media Club votes to select the news anchor for the school Media Club, it's a tie between Francine, who has been working hard all year to earn the job, and newcomer, Dallas, known as the King of Dares at his old school. To break the tie, it's decided that the winner will be the person who wins the most dares. The dare war begins, and the double dog dares get crazy—lizard licking, spork balancing, ketchup eating, green hair dying crazy. As the days pass and the dares escalate, the two competitors will discover that they share something in common: the changes in families and friendships when parents get divorced. When they also realize they have an unexpected rival for the news anchor job, Francine and Dallas will need to work together to save both the Media Club and their chance to be news anchor.

AUTHOR'S BIOGRAPHY

Lisa Graff was born in California and has always loved to write. Her books have been named to a total of 26 state award lists. She first graduated from UCLA and later earned a MFA from The New School in Writing for Children in New York. She worked as an associate editor for five years, but now writes full-time from her home in Pennsylvania. She also works as an adjunct professor at McDaniel College.

Biographical information found on the author's website at www.lisagraff.com,
Accessed August 27, 2014.

AWARDS

Double Dog Dare was nominated for the following state reading lists:

Louisiana Young Readers' Choice Award 2015



Rhode Island Children's Book Award 2014
South Carolina Children's Book Award 2013-2014
Sunshine State Young Readers Award (Florida) 2013-2014

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Double Dog Dare page on the author's website
<http://www.lisagraff.com/double-dog-dare.html>

OTHER TITLES BY AUTHOR

The Life and Crimes of Bernetta Wallflower (2008)
Sophie Simon Solves Them All (2010)
A Tangle of Knots (2013)
The Thing about Georgie (2007)
Umbrella Summer (2009)

RELATED TITLES (Students may also enjoy these titles)

Because of Mr. Terupt by Rob Buyea
Boys Start the War Phyllis Naylor
How to Eat Fried Worms by Thomas Rockwell
No Talking by Andrew Clements
Waiting for the Magic by Patricia McLachlan

CLASSROOM CONNECTIONS

Social Studies:

Learn about making your own school news reports: The PBS NewsHour Extra Student Reporting Labs are classrooms, after-school programs, and clubs around the country producing original, inspiring reports about how national and global issues affect local communities. Included on this webpage is a curriculum for students to learn about reporting the news.

<http://www.studentreportinglabs.com/lesson-plans>

Art:

Draw your own Rube Goldberg machine: In the book, Francine's dad likes to draw pictures of Rube Goldberg type machines. Inspired by his drawings, Francine and Dallas create a Rube Goldberg machine using objects from their dares to pour a glass of milk at the talent show. Draw your own machine. As a class, you could use a list of objects and a list of possible tasks for students to design a drawing to show how the objects can be used to perform a task.

Writing:

- Double Dog Dare contest: Use your imagination and create your own double dog dares. Individually or as a group come up with a list of possible double dog dares. Choose categories to decide winners: most creative, funniest, most dangerous, grossest, etc. *Do not do these at home.*
- Point of View: The story is told from two points of view: Francine and Dallas. Rewrite a chapter of the story using the point of view of another character in the

book. Imagine what it is like seeing Francine and Dallas performing the dares and what your reaction would be. How would the story be different if Mrs. Weinmore, Miss Sparks, Brendan, Andre, or another student was telling the story?

- News Report: Write a news report about the winners of the school talent show.

Science:

Draw your own Rube Goldberg machine: Try building your own Rube Goldberg machine. Look at the Rube Goldberg website to see contest winners who have created their own Rube Goldberg machines (<http://www.rubegoldberg.com/>). The publisher of the book also sponsored a contest when the book was published. See <http://www.lisagraff.com/rube-goldberg-machine.html> for more details. Use the concepts of simple machines to design your machine.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Francine really wanted to be the news anchor and felt liked she had worked hard to deserve it. Dallas was new to the school and the club, but was good at reading the news. Who do you think should have been chosen to be the news anchor? Was the dare war a fair way to choose the next news anchor? What do you think is the fairest way to decide who gets the job? What other ways do we use to make choices? (Flipping coins, hand games, picking numbers, etc.)
2. Dallas and Francine eventually find out that they share some common experiences such as their parents divorcing. Knowing that they were going through some of the same experiences and changes helped them understand each other better and eventually become friends. Sharing personal experiences can create a bond of friendship and understanding between people. Describe a situation where finding out that something similar happened to someone else changed your opinion about them. Did you become friends or did your relationship with that person change?
3. The book shifts back and forth between what Dallas and Francine are both thinking. Hearing both or multiple sides of a story can provide a more complete understanding of something that has happened. Think of something that happened that people might remember differently. What did each person remember about the event? Have each person describe an event which they all witnessed. Does hearing different versions of the same story change the way you think about the event?
4. During the story, the other members of the Media Club forget that Brendan also wanted to be news anchor. By the end of the story, it becomes clear that Brendan was doing things and making crazy dares to try to keep Dallas and Francine from being the news anchor so that he could have the job. Dallas and Francine were so caught up in the war that they didn't stop to question the dares or some of the things which happened. What Brendan did can often happen in real life. Some people will try to manipulate events and people so that they can benefit from it. Can you think of any examples of this? What would have happened in the story if Brendan became the news anchor? How would the other characters have reacted?

RELATED WEBSITES

The Mayo Clinic: Children and Divorce

<http://www.mayoclinic.org/healthy-living/childrens-health/in-depth/divorce/art-20047788>

Information on helping kids after a breakup

Media Clubs in School

<http://www.ciet.nic.in/docs/concept%20note%20revised.pdf>

More about founding and managing a school media club as well as possible activities