

# ***Absolutely Almost***

By Lisa Graff

## **Annotation**

- Albie has never been the best at anything in his class, as his parents keep reminding him. However, he comes to discover his strengths and gain self-confidence with the help of his babysitter Calista.

## **Book Talk**

- Have you ever felt like you could never do anything right? And you spend most of your life trying to figure out what you're good at? Albie spends most of his time wondering just that. His new babysitter, Calista, opens up a world of adventures teaching him new skills and sometimes getting him in trouble.

## **Book Trailers**

- [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MwjigsnY\\_8M](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MwjigsnY_8M)

## **Author on the Internet**

- Website: <http://www.lisagraff.com/>
- Twitter: @lisagraff
- Facebook: Lisa Graff Author

## **Items to use in a library display**

- model airplane
- stack of cups
- sketch of "Donut Man"

## **Food**

- doughnuts

## **Book Club Discussion Questions/Topics**

- "I've got coffee cups for eyeballs." What does this mean to you? (pg. 281)
- What does being "cool" mean to you? Make a list of 5 helpful hints to being cool."
- My stomach is tied up like knots in a rope." What does this mean to you? (p. 135)
- Albie thought, "The only thing wrong with my brain was my brain." Why does he feel this way? (p.123)

## **First Line of the Book:**

- "Not everybody can be the rock at the top of the rock pile."

## **What to Read Next**

- *The Fourteenth Goldfish* by Jennifer L. Holm

## **Other Books by this Author:**

- *Lost in the Sun*

- Tangle of Knots
- Double Dog Dare
- Sophie Simon Solves It All
- Umbrella Summer
- The Thing About Georgie
- <http://www.lisagraff.com/resources.html>

### **Additional Resources**

- Art/craft activity: Create a superhero comic book character
- Interview with the author:  
[https://soundcloud.com/recorded\\_books/feature-author-interview-lisa-graff](https://soundcloud.com/recorded_books/feature-author-interview-lisa-graff)
- Interview with the author:  
[http://bookpage.com/interviews/16706-lisa-graff#.Vy4kE\\_gpBP](http://bookpage.com/interviews/16706-lisa-graff#.Vy4kE_gpBP)
- Reading Group guide for Absolutely Almost:  
[https://docs.google.com/document/d/1T0XR0dl\\_pZgTGOkBnvRcd17vR1wDHI1RomxhZfmSB2M/edit](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1T0XR0dl_pZgTGOkBnvRcd17vR1wDHI1RomxhZfmSB2M/edit)
- Teacher's Guide to Absolutely Almost:  
[http://www.lisagraff.com/LisaGraff\\_StudyGuide\\_FNL-revise-lo.pdf](http://www.lisagraff.com/LisaGraff_StudyGuide_FNL-revise-lo.pdf)
- Lesson ideas/Book Study:  
[http://www.penguin.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/LisaGraff\\_StudyGuide\\_FNL-revise-lo.pdf](http://www.penguin.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/LisaGraff_StudyGuide_FNL-revise-lo.pdf)