

How to (Almost) Ruin Your Summer

By Taryn Souders

Annotation

Chloe McCorkle is willing to do anything in order to avoid having to ride her hot pink “Dora the Explorer” bike to her first day of middle school --- well, anything but go to summer camp, that is. Unfortunately, when you’re 11-years-old, what mom and dad says goes. Leaving behind her friends, her stuffed elephant (too dorky to bring to camp) and her plans to get rich babysitting, Chloe begrudgingly heads to Camp Minnehaha for what she is sure is going to be the worst two weeks ever.

Book Talk

Camp Minne HA HA!!! The worst camp EVER? Chloe thinks so...why? Well let’s see...

1. The spiders (wayyyy too creepy)
2. A CRAZY goat named King Arthur
3. A horrible room mate determined to ruin her life named Victoria.

Chloe McCorkle knew that a summer camp where you had to learn a career was a bad idea. Convincing her parents of this was of NO USE. They just HAD to go on vacation to Alaska: selfish? YES! She’ll try to make the best of it. She might even learn some skills that will help her make money for the new bike she's been eyeing. THINK AGAIN! Chloe quickly realizes there's only one area at which she excels: getting in TROUBLE!

Book Trailers

- No book trailers as of March 2017

Author on the Internet

- Website: <http://tarynsouders.com/>
- Twitter: <https://twitter.com/TarynSouders?lang=en>
- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/taryn.souders>
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Items to use in a library display

- toy canoe
- summer camp items
- a crown for the diva
- summer camp letters
- stuffed goat
- plastic creepy critters like spiders

Book Club Discussion Questions/Topics

- Chloe was put in a camp she didn’t want to go to. She was forced to deal with it. Have you ever been in a situation that you just didn’t want to be in? How did you handle it?

- How did Chloe turn around her attitude toward being at camp?
- What were some of the situations Chloe found herself in that caused trouble for her? How could she have avoided those problems?
- Chloe has to find a way to cope with the “camp diva”. How would you deal with someone you can not relate to? How did Chloe deal?
- Do you have a journal or have you ever journaled? Do you enjoy journaling? Would you recommend it? Why or why not?

First Line of the Book:

- “Someone once told me that money can’t buy happiness.”

Non-Fiction Companion Title(s)

- *Show me the Money by Alvin D Hall*
- *Better Than a Lemonade Stand: Small Business Ideas for Kids by Daryl Bernstein*
- *PS I Still Hate It Here by Diane Falanga*
- *101 LIFE SKILL GAMES FOR KIDS*

What to Read Next

- *All the Answers* by Kate Messner

Other Books by this Author

- *Dead Possums are Fair Game*

Additional Resources

- Poetry: https://www.poetrysoup.com/poems/short/summer_camp