***The Great Treehouse War***

by Lisa Graff

**Annotation**

Winnie’s last day of fourth grade ended with a pretty life-changing surprise. That was the day Winnie’s parents got divorced. The day they decided that Winnie would live three days a week with each of them and spend Wednesdays by herself in a treehouse smack between their houses, to divide her time perfectly evenly between them. It was the day Winnie’s seed of frustration with her parents was planted, a seed that grew and grew until it felt like it was as big as a tree itself. By the end of fifth grade, Winnie decides that the only way to change things is to barricade herself in her treehouse until her parents come to their senses—and her friends decide to join her. It’s kids versus grown-ups, and no one wants to back down first.

**Book Talk**

Can you imagine the most epic sleepover ever with at least 10 of your friends in a treehouse with no parents? Well, Winnie and her friends get just that, a sleepover in a treehouse for multiple days while they refuse to leave until their parent’s meet their demands in a kid vs. parent showdown.

**Book Trailer**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8OqY65qgGBM>

**Author on the Internet**

* Website: <http://www.lisagraff.com/>
* Twitter: <https://twitter.com/lisagraff>
* Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/lisagraffauthor>

**Items to use in a library display**

* Tree house
* Fruit loops
* Buttons the cat
* Zip line

**Book Club Discussion Questions/Topics**

* Student activism/protest
* Divorce/separation
* How did Winnie feel about her parent’s divorce?
* Why were Wednesday’s one of Winnie’s favorite days?
* What led Winnie to barricade herself in the treehouse? Do you think she made the right decision?
* What issues did the Treehouse Ten face once they all joined Winnie in the treehouse?
* Are there rules or procedures at home or school that you disagree with? If so, how do you voice your thoughts?
* Do you think that all the children in the treehouse had a valid reason for being there? Why, or why not?
* What are ways that students can protest unfair rules in real life?

**First Line of the Book:**

“Your Class Writes!”

**What to Read Next**

* *Double Dog Dare* by Lisa Graff
* *Joey Pigza Swallowed the Key* by Jack Gantos
* *Holes* by Louis Sachar
* *Ruby Holler* by Sharon Creech

**Other Books by this Author:**

* *Umbrella Summer*
* *Lost in the Sun*
* *Absolutely Almost*

**Additional Resources**

* Art/craft activity: Craft camp, Make friendship bracelets (p. 78), make a stuffed lizard out of toe-socks (p. 173), make comic books/strips
* Interview with the author: [Lisa Graff reads an exerpt from the book on a podcast](https://whyy.org/articles/new-childrens-book-provides-humor-as-it-takes-on-divorce/) followed by a short discussion.
* Lesson ideas: [Word search](http://www.lisagraff.com/The_Great_Treehouse_War_Word_Search.pdf), collective memoir project for the class

**Name that Book:**

“P.S. We DID pass 5th grade, right?? (Pease don’t flunk us!!!!!)” (p. 1)

“From the cupboard above the sink, she grabbed a green bowl, a spoon, and a box of Froot Loops, and then she sat down at the small round table. Buttons settled himself on top of the table, likea fluffy kitty king.” (p. 28)

“I’ve tried numerous times to call each of you with no success in scheduling a meeting; I’m hoping this email will do the trick. It is crucial that the two of you come in to meet with me for a parent-teacher conference regarding your daughter’s grades and her future.” (p. 56).

“By the end of summer, you’ll be the number-one feces collector on the team.” (p. 90)

“The building and surrounding grounds of an embassy or consulate are considered property of that building’s country. So when a person passes through the doors of the French Embassy in Washington, D.C., he is no longer in the United States--he is suddenly in France!” (p. 100).

“So the war raged on. And all over the world, kids and grown-ups held their breath, hardly daring to guess who would break first.” (p. 178)

“And because he was the world’s greatest cat, he offered her the tiniest of nods.” (p. 202)

“We love you, too.”

That’s what they said.

“We’re sorry.”

They said that, too.

And after all those remarkable things, there was only one thing left to do. (p. 262)