**Worst of Friends**

**AUTHOR:** Suzanne Tripp Jurmain  
**ILLUSTRATOR:** Larry Day  
**PUBLISHER:** Dutton Children’s Books  
**COPYRIGHT DATE:** 2011

**GENRE:** Informational Nonfiction

**SUMMARY:**  
This is the true story of the on-off-on friendship between two of America’s founding fathers. While rebelling against England, Thomas Jefferson and John Adams were united against the common enemy, but once they had to share their thoughts about how to set up our country, their differences became quite clear. Later in life, after retiring from politics, they became good friends again.

**BOOKTALK:**  
We all know the names John Adams and Thomas Jefferson, and when we think of them, we think of greatness. In fact, these two were the best of friends as the United States was being created, but soon they began disagreeing about how to run the country. They even started calling each other names like, “vain,” “stubborn,” “uninformed,” and “weak.” How did their friendship deteriorate into name-calling? And how did they make up and become good friends again? Read *Worst of Friends* to find out.

**AUTHOR’S BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH:**  
Suzanne Jurmain has been writing since she was four years old. She has always been interested in history. She lives in Los Angeles with her husband and dog.

**Other books written by the author:**  
The Forbidden Schoolhouse  
Freedom’s Sons  
George Did It  
Once Upon a Horse  
The Secret of the Yellow Death

**CHALLENGING WORDS**

- éclair
- wilted
- corsets
- harsh
- vain
- irritable
DISCUSSION QUESTIONS: (Please include 4-6 questions: if question is related to a specific chapter include the chapter number in parenthesis following the question)

1. Have you ever had a time when you had an argument with your friend? How did you get through it? How does that help you understand the story better?
2. Why was it easy for John and Thomas to work together against the British?
3. Why do you think it took so long for them to make up
4. When you disagree with a friend, how do you handle it? Do you think John and Tom handled it well?
5. John and Tom call each other some pretty nasty names. Would you be able to forgive and forget like they eventually did?
6. What were the differences in the two political parties? (Republican and Federalist)

ACTIVITIES with COMMON CORE STANDARDS:

Language Arts: List activities and Common Core Standards for Grades 4-6 here

1. Create a work of drama (play, skit, puppet show, etc.) where you explain the changing relationship of John and Thomas throughout their lives. Use the text to support your show.

5.RI.3 Explain the relationships or interactions between two or more individuals, events, ideas, or concepts in a historical, scientific, or technical text based on specific information in the text.

3. Create a Venn diagram comparing and contrasting Thomas Jefferson and John Adams.

Common Core Standard: 5.RI.3 – Explain the relationships or interactions between two or more individuals, events, ideas, or concepts in a historical, scientific, or technical text based on specific information in the text.
**Social Studies**: List activities and Common Core Standards for Grades 4-6 here

3. Create a web or other graphic organizer portraying the major figures of the American Revolution. Use this book and other sources to put this together.

Indiana State Standard:
5.1.10 Identify major British and American leaders and describe their roles in key events of the war for independence.

4. Choose a president to research. Create a flip chart about the president. Include physical characteristics, personality traits, and political contributions.

Common Core Standard: 4.W.7 – Conduct short research projects that build knowledge through investigation of different aspects of a topic. 5.RI.9 Integrate information from several texts on the same topic in order to write or speak about the subject knowledgeably.

**LIFE SKILLS:**
Cooperation, Friendship, Integrity

**RELATED INTERNET SITES:**

Thomas Jefferson Bio:
http://www.whitehouse.gov/about/presidents/thomasjefferson

John Adams Bio:
http://www.whitehouse.gov/about/presidents/johnadams

**American President: An Online Reference Resource**

**American Presidents: Life Portraits**

**Mr. President: Profiles of our Nation’s Leaders**