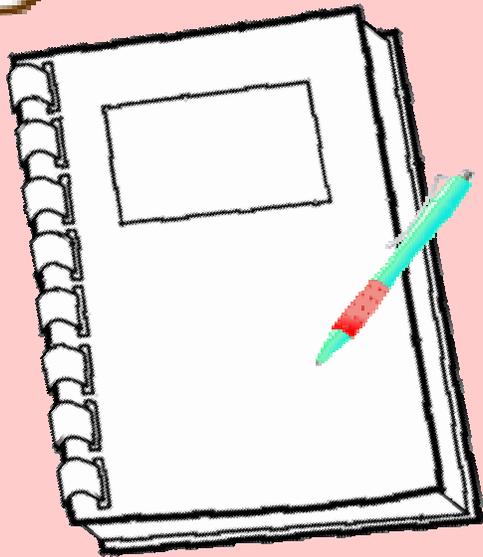




A Teaching Unit
For
Love, Stargirl



**Great for
literature
circles!**



ELA Core Plans

Teacher-Written Standards-Based Lesson Plans

A Teaching Unit for *Love, Stargirl* by Jerry Spinelli

By Tammy D. Lewis and Shannon B. Temple
www.elacoreplans.com

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Love, Stargirl ~ Table of Contents

January 1 – January 15	Irony; Stargirl's Poem	6
January 16 – February 14	Realistic Dialogue; Discussion; Text Interpretation; Fluency Practice	7
February 18 – March 6	Extended Metaphors	8
March 10 – March 23	Idioms, Writing a Friendly Letter; Fluency Practice	10
March 24 – April 1	Haiku	12
April 2 – May 26	Create a Classified Ad; Meet the Face from the Dumpster	13
May 28 – June 16	Figurative Language	14
June 18 – July 18	Imagery; Discussion	15
Test 1 – January 1 – July 18		16
Answer Key 1 – January 1 – July 18		19
July 19 – August 3	Allusion; Oxymoron	23
To The Teacher: Reader's Theater		24
August 3	Reader's Theater	25
August 8 – August 21	Discussion; Writing a Friendly Letter	26
August 23 – August 24	Strong Verbs	28
August 25 – September 1	Poetry Elements	29
September 3 – September 7	Non-Fiction Passage Analysis	30
September 8 – September 29	Mood	31
Test 2 – July 19 – September 29		32
Answer Key 2 – July 19 – September 29		34
October 5 – October 8	Perry Explains Why Stargirl is Interesting	38
October 9 – October 18	Meet the New Employee	39
October 9 – October 18	Silent Passage Analysis	40
October 20 – November 1	Create a Comic Strip	42
November 5 – November 13	Flashback	44
November 15 – November 24	Fluency Practice; Alliteration Review; Symbolism	45
November 25 – November 29	Writing Opportunity – An Essay	46
December 3 – December 20	Conflict	48
December 23 – January 2	Theme	49
Discussion Questions		50
Literary Elements Scavenger Hunt		51
Character Analysis		52
Silent Passage Analysis		53
Test 3 – October 5 – January 2		55
Answer Key 3 - October 5 – January 2		60

Love, Stargirl
To The Teacher

This unit could be used as an independent novel unit for your students to complete on their own or in small groups. If you should choose to do this, a reading requirement chart is provided to allow you to set up a schedule for the reading of the novel.

The student has tasks to complete after each section is read. Each task begins with comprehension questions. These questions may be answered while reading or after reading each section of the novel. You may even decide to use them as a quiz or homework. The comprehension questions are followed with standards-based activities.

Love, Stargirl
January 1 –January 15

Name: _____ Date: _____

Comprehension

1. To whom is Stargirl writing? _____
2. What has Stargirl recently found? _____ For what will she use this place? _____
3. What is different about Stargirl's crying? _____
4. What is Stargirl's biggest regret? _____
5. Since leaving Mica High, where is Stargirl receiving her education? _____
6. What is *Bemus*? _____ Who does Stargirl meet at *Bemus*? _____
7. What does Stargirl have to write after she goes on a field trip? _____
8. How does she find out where she will be going on her field trips? _____

Irony

- Verbal irony involves a contrast between what is said or written and what is meant. Example: if you call a really tall person, "Shorty"
- Situational irony occurs when what happens is very different from what is expected to happen. Example: A man who has been afraid to fly in a plane all of his life finally gets the courage to do it, and then the plane crashes.
- Dramatic irony occurs when the audience or the reader knows something a character does not know. Example: The reader knows who the criminal is, but the characters do not know.

...I climbed onto a picnic table and got into my meditation position. (OK, back up. . . I'm homeschooling again. Gee, I wonder why – my Mica High School experience went so well!)

After reading the definitions for the three types of irony, what type of irony is used in this passage?

_____ Explain your answer. _____

Stargirl's Poem

Reread the poem Stargirl wrote about her trip to the stone piles. Then answer each of the following questions.

1. What type of poem is this? (Check all that apply.)
 - a. _____ lyrical
 - b. _____ free verse
 - c. _____ narrative
 - d. _____ haiku
2. Find an example of alliteration in the poem and write it here. _____
3. Does the poem employ imagery? _____ If yes. Provide an example. _____

4. What is a refrain? _____
5. Does Stargirl's poem have a refrain? _____ If yes, write it here. _____

Love, Stargirl

January 16 – February 14

Name: _____ Date: _____

Comprehension

1. What is the condition of Stargirl's wagon and its pebbles? _____
2. Who does Stargirl see that wears a brilliant red and yellow plaid scarf? _____
3. Where does she see that person? _____
4. What surprises Stargirl about Grace? _____
5. What is unusual about the paint in Dootsie's room? _____
6. Who is Betty Lou? _____
7. What does she suffer from? _____
8. What can Dootsie do with her eye that is creepy? _____
9. What happens to Cinnamon in the snow? _____

Realistic Dialogue

In order to create characters that seem real, writers must sometimes stray away from Standard English when writing dialogue. The character, Dootsie, is a very young girl who does not speak "the correct way" all of the time. This makes her "sound" like a little kid.

On page 14, Dootsie says the following:

"No! I'm here! I'm here! I'm just imizable!" She came running. "Cimmamum!"

Underline the words that Dootsie uses that are not spoken correctly.

Find other examples of Dootsie's dialogue that do not use correct pronunciation. Use the following chart to help you find these examples.

Page #	Dialogue
15	
16	
16	

Discussion

How does Dootsie's dialogue add to the development of her character?

Text Interpretation

Reread the way Stargirl describes Dootsie's room (page 14-15). On a separate sheet of paper, draw what you think Dootsie's room looks like based on Stargirl's words. Make sure you use lots of color!

Fluency Practice

With a partner, read the conversation between Stargirl and Dootsie found on pages 15 through 16.

Love, Stargirl
February 18 – March 6

Name: _____ Date: _____

Comprehension

1. What anniversary is on February 18? _____
2. What is Margie's? _____
3. Who is Alvina? _____
4. Who bothers Alvina? _____
5. What is the topic of Stargirl's poem from her field trip to Maggie's? _____
6. Who does Stargirl miss most from Arizona? _____

Extended Metaphor

An extended metaphor is a metaphor (a comparison where one thing is called another) that continues into the sentences that follow. On page twenty-nine, there is an extended metaphor. Reread the following passage:

*...Is there anything uglier or sadder than a ten-day old snow dump? It's not even snow anymore. It's slush.
Was that beginning to be us, Leo? I'd rather never see you again than have that happen. **We were once so fresh, a dazzling snowfield.** Let's promise to each other that if we ever meet again **we will never plow and push our new-fallen snow. We will not become slush.** We will stay like this field and **melt away together only in the sun's good time.***

The metaphor begins with **We were once so fresh, a dazzling snowfield**. She is talking about her relationship with Leo, of course. Then, the author extends this metaphor by weaving in the bolded words that go along with snow. An extended metaphor does not just exist in prose (paragraphs). They are often found in poetry as well. The lines from the passage could be made to look like a poem.

We were once so fresh, a dazzling snowfield.
Let's promise to each other
that if we ever meet again
we will never
plow and push
our new-fallen snow.
We will not
become slush.
We will stay like this field
and
melt away
together
only in the sun's
good time.

You try it!

It is easy to create an extended metaphor. Let's try one as a poem.

Start with this metaphor: **Life is a snowflake.**

Now, write a list of things, sights, sounds, experiences that come to mind when you think of a **snowflake**.

Finally, write your poem. Let your first line be *Life is a snowflake*. Then, weave in the words that you listed throughout your poem.

Life is a snowflake

Sample Extended Metaphor Poem

Step one: Make a list of words that you associate with a snowflake.

Life is a snowflake

Cold
Beautiful
Unique
Unexpected
Fun
Delicate
Peaceful
Blizzard
Dusting

Step 2: Write the poem. Begin with the metaphor, and weave in the words you have listed.

Life

Life is a snowflake.
It has its share of unexpected events
but it is also
delicate and beautiful!
If you will just keep your
eye on what's important
and keep warm during the cold times,
those blizzards won't keep you down.
And the
uniqueness
is all that really counts
in each season
of life.

Love, Stargirl
March 10 – March 23

Name: _____ Date: _____

Comprehension

1. What happened to Stargirl during her bad dream? _____
2. To whom does Stargirl write a letter in this section? _____
3. What season begins in this section? _____
4. Why does Stargirl's father wake her up early? _____
5. Who are the Huffelmeyers? _____
6. What does Stargirl's dad say he's noticed about her? _____

Idioms

An idiom is a group of words used in a special way that may be different from their literal meaning (e.g., It's raining cats and dogs.)

Underline the idiom(s) in each of the following sentences from this section. Then, tell what each idiom means.

1. *Boyfriends are a dime a dozen.*

Meaning: _____

2. *Now look at you, sniveling like a baby over some immature kid in Arizona who didn't know what a prize he had, who tried to remake you into somebody else, who turned his back on you and left you to the wolves.*

Meaning: _____

Meaning: _____

Writing Opportunity - Friendly Letter

In this section, Stargirl writes a letter to herself. In her letter to herself, she gives herself advice in getting over her sadness of losing her boyfriend.

On a separate sheet of paper, write a friendly letter to yourself. Give yourself advice on dealing with a problem in your life, or tell yourself what your hopes are for your future.

Make sure you follow the correct friendly letter format.

Fluency Practice

With a partner, read the conversation between Stargirl and her dad found on page 39.

Love, Stargirl
Friendly Letter Rubric

Name: _____ Date: _____

Criteria	Possible Points	Points Earned
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The letter is written to yourself. 	20	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feelings, hopes, and/or advice are included in the letter. 	15	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The point of view used is consistent. 	15	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The letter is written in the correct friendly letter format. 	15	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The letter is written neatly. 	15	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grammatical and spelling errors, if any, do not interfere with the meaning. 	20	
TOTAL	100	

Comments:

Love, Stargirl
March 24 – April 1

Name: _____ Date: _____

Comprehension

1. Stargirl feels as if she is losing _____.
2. What did Stargirl do when she played homeschool hooky? _____
3. Who is Susan? _____
4. What April fools joke did Dootsie play on Stargirl? _____
5. How old is Dootsie? _____
6. What did Stargirl buy for Dootsie and herself? _____
7. What is the last item Stargirl had that Dootsie could give away? _____
8. Why did Stargirl resist giving it to her at first? _____

Haiku

Stargirl says that she writes three haiku. Haiku is a form of poetry from the Japanese culture. The poems follow simple rules. They are:

- Use exactly 17 syllables
- Be made of three lines (5 syllables- 7 syllables- 5 syllables)
- Avoid using big words
- Traditionally, a haiku refers to nature, feelings, and/or experiences.
- Use no rhyme

Flowers start to bloom.
Bright, tall, thin and proud they stand.
Spring becomes summer.

You try it!

Step 1: Complete this haiku by filling in line two (the seven syllable line).

Brown deer in the woods

Standing tall and proud

Step 2: Complete this haiku by filling in lines one and three (the five syllable lines).

Eagle plummets to the earth

Step 3: On a separate sheet of paper, write your own traditional, original Haiku. Then, write a non-traditional haiku about Stargirl. Finish by illustrating your poems.

Love, Stargirl
April 2 – May 26

Name: _____ Date: _____

Comprehension

1. Name three things Stargirl did to let her know she had found herself again.

2. What is the *Morning Lenape*? _____
3. What was wrong with Dootsie? _____
4. For what did Stargirl and Betty Lou decide to use a red sock? _____
5. What has Stargirl started doing on Tuesday mornings at sunrise? _____
6. Where does she go to do that? _____
7. What does Stargirl take to Charlie at the graveyard? _____
8. Who gets into a fight at the Dogwood Festival? _____
9. What does Alvina have that is new? _____
10. Name two things that were part of the Dootsie Festival.

Create a Classified Ad for a Special Person

Stargirl places a classified ad in the local paper for Dootsie.

Dootsie Pringle
Is the BEST April Fooler
In the world!

Now, you create an ad for someone special to you. Keep it short (15 words or less) and use no more than four lines. Use the space provided below for your ad.

Meet the Face From the Dumpster.

In this section, we are introduced to *the face from the Dumpster*. Let's take a closer look at him. Complete the following chart to begin analyzing him.

Two facts that you have learned about him	
Two descriptive words that seem right for <i>the face from the Dumpster</i>	
One or two quotes from the story so far that help show this character's personality	

Love, Stargirl

May 28 – June 16

Name: _____ Date: _____

Comprehension

1. The name of the lemon thief is _____.
2. Who took Dootsie's donut while she was in the donut shop? _____
3. When Stargirl tried to wash her mind on the 31st of May, what caused her to be unsuccessful?

4. What is Maiden's Leap? _____
5. Why did Stargirl order a strawberry-banana smoothie? _____
6. What does Stargirl do differently with the graveyard donuts to get Charlie to take them? _____

Figurative Language

Writers use figurative language to make their writing more interesting and effective. By using a simile, metaphor, or personification, the writer is able to paint a picture in the mind of the reader.

Simile – a comparison of two things using the words *like*, *as*, or *than*

Metaphor – calls one thing another

Personification- gives a nonhuman object human traits

Hyperbole – an extreme exaggeration

Idiom – a commonly used expression that means something totally different than what it says

Complete the following chart to examine the figurative language used in the first portion of the book.

Page #	Passage	Type of figurative language	What it means
9	. . .if he were a Snow White dwarf, he would be Droopy. .		
29	I saw the first flower of the year today. A crocus, peeking out from under a bush . . .		
33	. . . look at you, sniveling like a baby over some immature kid in Arizona. . .		
56	. . . If you start by hating one or two people, you won't be able to stop. Pretty soon you'll hate a hundred people...even a zillion.		
56	. . .hatred ...it grows and grows. . .it's hungry.		
63	His skin looked as if it had been toasted in the Arizona desert.		
72	. . .eyes gleaming like a surprised fox's. . .		

Love, Stargirl
June 18 – July 18

Name: _____ Date: _____

Comprehension

1. After reading the newest ad Stargirl put in the newspaper, you can tell it is for _____.
2. June 21st is the first day of _____.
3. How do Stargirl and Dootsie celebrate Summer Solstice? _____
4. What does Stargirl's mom do for a living? _____
5. With whom does Stargirl and her family celebrate the Fourth of July? _____
6. Stargirl decides to make a calendar. What tools does she use to make it? _____
7. How does Stargirl make money? _____
8. Who is Thomas? _____
9. Who is Arnold? _____

Imagery

Throughout this section and the entire novel, Jerry Spinelli uses **imagery** to help the readers feel like they are there. He describes the characters so that the reader has a complete picture of what the person is like. He describes the setting so that the reader has a complete picture of what the places are like. Read the following passage and underline the words that allow you to “see” the settings and people.

1. . . . *I saw a little girl in a wooden wagon, her dress spilling colors over its sides, staring at the rising sun as if it were the very dawn of creation. . . I could see the growing glint of the rising sun doubled in her eyes.*

I resumed my seat on the wagon behind her. Halfway born, the sun lost its edge and its orange and flooded the east with blinding yellow...

2. . . . *The house is beautiful, gray stone with a wraparound porch and yellow awnings, on a street shaded sycamores.*

I went right to the back, which is part brick patio, part grass, and the most beautiful garden I've worked so far. The flowers alone would have been enough, but there was more – elegant grasses taller than me, little stone sculptures) a child reading, a garden angel), a white birch and a pair of holly trees, a flagstone path winding through it all.

3. *Another scorcher. It's too hot here! And dry. We've had nine days over 90 degrees in July and hardly any rain.*

Grass looks like straw. *Not even weeds are growing. My Garden Groomer business is hurting.*

What type of figurative language is used in the bolded sentence in the third passage? _____

Discussion

Reread the events that took place at the swim club on July 18th (both at the pool and the pavilion) – pages 96-100.

What do you think about Stargirl and her feelings toward Perry? _____

What do you think will develop between the two characters? Will they become friends? _____

Love, Stargirl

Test One: January 1 – July 18

Name: _____ Date: _____

1. *Love, Stargirl* is a collection of _____.
 - a. poems about Stargirl's field trips
 - b. lists of reasons she likes and does not like Leo
 - c. letters written to Leo
 - d. directions on meditations and meeting new people
2. What is Enchanted Hill?
 - a. the place where Stargirl met Dootsie
 - b. the place Stargirl sees Charlie sitting with Grace
 - c. a place where Stargirl meditates
 - d. a place where Stargirl goes to talk to Perry
3. Who is Dootsie?
 - a. Stargirl's divorced neighbor.
 - b. A little girl that delivers donuts.
 - c. A little girl that lies near Stargirl.
 - d. A lady from the stone piles.
4. Where do Stargirl and her parents move when she leaves Mica High?
 - a. Pennsylvania
 - b. South Dakota
 - c. California
 - d. New York
5. Which of the following sentences contain realistic dialogue?
 - a. "I'm here! I'm here!"
 - b. "Uh-oh. The potatoes are ready to be smashed and Dootsie the Super Potato Smasher is nowhere to be seen."
 - c. "I wanna do a festible!"
 - d. "Do you think I will ever see another Dogwood Festival?"
6. Which of the following sentences contains verbal irony?
 - a. "That lady is getting wackier."
 - b. She shot me a disgusted look. "If you stop interrupting me I'll tell you."
 - c. Dootsie couldn't take the donuts in because she's been sick. I should have done it myself.
 - d. It was Alvina. Charming Alvina. I stopped. "Hi," I said. "Growled at anybody today?"
7. What does Stargirl's dad do for a living?
 - a. an engineering supervisor
 - b. a chef
 - c. a psychologist
 - d. a milkman

8. Dootsie is _____ years old.
- a. four
 - b. five
 - c. six
 - d. seven
9. Which of the following words describe Alvina?
- a. charming
 - b. surly
 - c. charming
 - d. phobic
10. Who is the lemon thief?
- a. Alvina
 - b. The boy Alvina fought with at the festival
 - c. Dootsie
 - d. Perry
11. Who was Grand Marshal of the Dootsie Festival Parade?
- a. Dootsie
 - b. Cinnamon
 - c. Stargirl
 - d. Alvina

I looked up and saw someone climbing the chain-link fence that borders the back of the club. He was far away and I couldn't see his face, but I knew instantly it was that boy. Perry. Quick as a monkey, he was up and over the fence, jumping to the ground, popping up from a forward roll, leaping over two sunbathers, and sprinting straight for the pool. He leaped over the NO RUNNING sign into the deep end.

12. What types of literary devices are found in this passage?
- a. a metaphor and imagery
 - b. a simile and imagery
 - c. a metaphor and a simile
 - d. personification and a simile
13. Based on this passage, we can infer that Perry is _____.
- a. timid and reserved
 - b. hateful and spiteful
 - c. defiant and bold
 - d. athletic and popular
14. Which character has been in boot camp?
- a. Alvina
 - b. Arnold
 - c. Perry
 - d. Thomas

*“Does he have girlfriends?” What did that pop out?
Her mouth twisted as if she had just bitten into a bug.
“How should I know?”*

15. What type of figurative language is employed in the passage?
- a. hyperbole
 - b. idiom
 - c. metaphor
 - d. simile
16. What does the figurative language reveal about Alvina in this passage?
- a. She likes to eat bugs for a joke around friends.
 - b. She does not like to talk to Stargirl.
 - c. She does not like to talk about boys being boyfriends.
 - d. She has a hard time pronouncing certain words.
17. Which character makes costumes to earn money?
- a. Stargirl
 - b. Stargirl’s mom
 - c. Stargirl’s dad
 - d. Betty Lou

I sat down in the dark and cradled Dootsie like a baby, swinging her gently, humming a lullaby accompanied by the swish of our dresses rubbing together.

18. What literary elements are used in this sentence?
- a. imagery and a smile
 - b. imagery, a smile, and personification
 - c. imagery, a smile, and onomatopoeia
 - d. imagery and onomatopoeia

And that’s what she was doing, not really sleeping but just nodding off in the chair, half hearing the TV sounds, when suddenly she heard a snippy little noise and felt a little tug on her little finger and she opened her eyes and there was Thomas with a mile-wide grin on his face, holding up a full half inch of pink, glittery fingernail that he had just clipped off.

19. What type of figurative language is found in the passage?
- a. hyperbole
 - b. idiom
 - c. metaphor
 - d. simile
20. Whose fingernail was Thomas holding?
- a. Stargirl’s
 - b. Dootsie’s
 - c. Betty Lou’s
 - d. Alvina’s

Love, Stargirl
Key One: January 1 – July 18
ARA = Accept Reasonable Responses

January 1 – January 15

Comprehension

1. Leo
2. A vacant field, Enchanted Hill ; Her daily meditation
3. For the first time she is crying not for others, but for herself.
4. that she did not sing for Leo
5. home schooling
6. a park near Stargirl's house; Dootsie, a young girl
7. a poem
8. Her mother slips a card under her bedroom door with the field trip location.

Irony

. . . I climbed onto a picnic table and got into my meditation position. (OK, back up. . . I'm homeschooling again. Gee, I wonder why – my Mica High School experience went so well!

After reading the definitions for the three types of irony, what type of irony is used in this passage? Verbal Explain your answer. ARA – possible response: Stargirl does not really mean that her experience at Mica High was a good one. It was really an awful experience for her.

Stargirl's Poem

Reread the poem Stargirl wrote about her trip to the stone piles. Then answer each of the following questions.

1. What type of poem is this? (Check all that apply.)
 - a. _____ narrative
 - b. _____ free verse
 - c. _____
 - d. _____
2. Find an example of alliteration in the poem and write it here. ARA – possible: perky pom-pom
3. Does the poem employ imagery? yes If yes, provide an example. ARA – possible response: navy peacoat, moss-green knit pullover cap with a perky pom-pom moss-green tassel, slow, slumpy -
4. What is a refrain? The repeated part of a poem
5. Does Stargirl's poem have a refrain? yes If yes, write one here. Green pom-pom bobbing bobbing bobbing

January 16 – February 14

Comprehension

1. It is almost empty – only five pebbles inside – meaning she is sad
2. a man that she calls Charlie; he goes to his wife's grave site daily
3. in the cemetery
4. She has been dead for four years and still Charlie comes daily.
5. She paints her room almost every day; it is painted in a variety of colors.
6. She is Dootsie's neighbor.
7. agoraphobia
8. Roll it up until it disappears out of sight.
9. He falls off of Stargirl's shoulder into the deep snow; they have to rub on him and breathe on him.

Realistic Dialogue

"No! I'm here! I'm here! I'm just imizable!" She came running. "Cimmamum!"

Page #	Dialogue
15	Is Leo a human bean?
16	I don't wanna talk about him anymore.
16	She's diborced.

Discussion

ARA

February 18 – March 6

Comprehension

1. Leo and Stargirl's first kiss
2. A donut shop
3. A homely girl that works at Margie's and delivers donuts to Betty Lou Fern
4. a group of boys
5. the mean boys running into the donut shop, stealing donuts, and making a mess
6. Leo, Archie, and Dori Dilson

March 10 – March 23

Comprehension

1. Senor Saguaro, from Arizona, spits his cactus needles at her and then they turn into little darts
2. to herself
3. spring
4. to go on a milk delivery with him
5. an elderly couple on her dad's milk route – they still leave the door unlocked and have in put the milk in the refrigerator
6. that she has been blue; that she is down to two pebbles

Idioms

1. *Boyfriends are a dime a dozen.*

Meaning: common, easy to get

2. *Now look at you, sniveling like a baby over some immature kid in Arizona who didn't know what a prize he had, who tried to remake you into somebody else, who turned his back on you and left you to the wolves.*

Meaning: didn't want to have anything else to do with

Meaning: left on your own; does not care what happens to you

March 24 – April 1

Comprehension

1. herself
2. She wrote three haiku and two lists.
3. Susan is the name Stargirl was given at birth.
4. She asked to see her earrings and then threw them into the sewer.
5. Dootsie is five.
6. Skittles
7. a tiny brown feather from an elf owl
8. The feather, she found in Arizona, had come to mean Leo – Leo and Stargirl.

You try it!

ARA – sample provided

Brown deer in the woods

Watching humans from afar

Standing tall and proud

A rabbit hops out

Eagle plummets to the earth

Rabbit dives and hides

April 2 – May 26

Comprehension

1. Put five pebbles in her wagon, tossed coins on the sidewalk
2. the local newspaper
3. she had the flu
4. If Betty Lou was having a bad day, she would hang a red sock on her door to alert Stargirl and Dootsie to come and check on her.
5. washing her mind
6. Enchanted Hill
7. a donut
8. a boy and Alvina
9. a long pink, glittery fingernail
10. a parade, rids, games, food

May 28 – June 16

Comprehension

1. Perry
2. Alvina
3. She could not stop thinking of Perry's blue eyes behind his sunglasses and the lemon seed bouncing off her shirt.
4. A bluff where legend says a 13 or 14 year-old Lenape jumped to her death because her father did not approve of her boyfriend.
5. It was Leo's favorite kind.
6. She puts them in a basket and covers them with clear wrap so he can see what they are.

Figurative Language

Page #	Passage	Type of figurative language	What it means
9	. . .if he were a Snow White dwarf, he would be Droopy.	metaphor	ARA
29	I saw the first flower of the year today. A crocus, peeking out from under a bush . . .	personification	ARA
33	. . . look at you, sniveling like a baby over some immature kid in Arizona. . .	simile	ARA
56	. . . If you start by hating one or two people, you won't be able to stop. Pretty soon you'll hate a hundred people...even a zillion.	hyperbole	ARA
56	. . .hatred ...it grows and grows. . .it's hungry.	personification	ARA
63	His skin looked as if it had been toasted in the Arizona desert.	simile	ARA
72	. . .eyes gleaming like a surprised fox's. . .	simile	ARA

June 18 – July 18

Comprehension

1. Charlie
2. summer
3. by getting all dressed up and getting to Enchanted Hill well before sunrise
4. sews costumes
5. the Pringles – Dootsie and her parents

6. rope, a croquet stake, a heavy hammer, and spatulas
7. she is the Garden Groomer – she does simple things in yards (weed, water, deadhead)
8. Thomas Klecko – Alvina’s younger brother
9. He is the man in the green watch hat that walks around at the stone piles at the old cement plant

Imagery

1. . . . I saw a little girl in a wooden wagon, her dress spilling colors over its sides, staring at the rising sun as if it were the very dawn of creation. . . I could see the growing glint of the rising sun doubled in her eyes.

I resumed my seat on the wagon behind her. Halfway born, the sun lost its edge and its orange and flooded the east with blinding yellow...

2. . . . The house is beautiful, gray stone with a wraparound porch and yellow awnings, on a street shaded sycamores.

I went right to the back, which is part brick patio, part grass, and the most beautiful garden I’ve worked so far. The flowers alone would have been enough, but there was more – elegant grasses taller than me, little stone sculptures (a child reading, a garden angel), a white birch and a pair of holly trees, a flagstone path winding through it all.

3. Another scorcher. It’s too hot here! And dry. We’ve had nine days over 90 degrees in July and hardly any rain.

Grass looks like straw. Not even weeds are growing. My Garden Groomer business is hurting.

What type of figurative language is used in the bolded sentence in the third passage? simile

Discussion

ARA

Test One: January 1 – July 18

1. c 2. c 3. c 4. a 5. c 6. d 7. d 8. b 9. b 10. d 11. b 12. b 13. c
14. c 15. d 16. c 17. b 18. c 19. a 20. d

Love, Stargirl
July 19 – August 3

Name: _____ Date: _____

Comprehension

1. Why did Stargirl miss planting a marker in her calendar? _____
2. Who danced in the rain (the rain that broke the heat wave)? _____
3. What type of plant does Betty Lou have that is her pride and joy? _____
4. This special plant has a bloom that smells like _____ and has _____ petals.
5. What is *The Blob*? _____
6. What is the “summer symphony” that Stargirl listens to outside her window? _____
7. How is Betty Lou able to see the bloom on her special plant? _____
8. How did Stargirl and Betty Lou celebrate the Queen of the Night? _____

Allusion

An allusion is a reference to a person, a historical event, or a fictional character or story. Writers usually expect the readers to recognize an allusion.

There is an allusion on page 111. Record the sentence the allusion is in on the lines below.

Babel is a reference to the Bible. The Tower of Babel (Genesis 11:1-11) was a tower built by Noah's descendants (probably in Babylon) who intended it to reach up to heaven. However, God disrupted the work of building the tower by confusing the language of the workers so that they could no longer understand one another. The tower was never completed.

Why is this allusion effective as Stargirl looks at the roof of Ike's Bike & Mower Repair where Perry is sleeping?

What two types of figurative language are found in the sentence you copied from page 111? (Be sure to include the words that form each example of figurative language.)

_____ and _____

Oxymoron

An oxymoron is a figure of speech that combines two apparently contradictory terms.

Examples: icy hot, living dead, pretty ugly, jumbo shrimp, plastic glasses

Which of the following sentences contains an oxymoron?

- a. The grass gave a standing ovation.
- b. Lightening flashed white in the kitchen.
- c. Such a wonderful scent. Like vanilla.
- d. It used to be the sweet center of my life. Now it's bittersweet.

To The Teacher:

Readers' Theater

Students build fluency through reading out loud, and at the middle school level, what better way to allow this than with readers' theater? The August 3rd portion of *Stargirl* is perfect for this activity because the parts are basically already written out on pages 111 through 124.

If you want to get your students' attention, read the beginning of this section with a monotone voice until they stop you and ask you why you are doing this. Tell them that when reading aloud, you should always read with expression. Next, read the section with expression, changing your voice to match each character.

This readers' theater will be for four people – two narrators, Stargirl, and Perry. So, you will need to place your students into groups of four. The script has been started. Have them work together to complete the script. (If the number of students in your class requires you to have a group of five, simply divide the narrator role into three parts.)

Most students greatly enjoy readers' theater. The key is making sure they feel comfortable with the part that they will be reading. If you have struggling readers, you may want to give them the script the day before the reading and let them practice reading it at home. Have fun!

Love, Stargirl
Readers' Theater – August 3

Name: _____ Role: _____

Narrator 1: Stargirl awoke in a sweat despite the whirring floor fan at the foot of her bed. She had been dreaming, but already the dream had fled. She got dressed and tiptoed downstairs. She rode through the night and the high moon, down the middle of empty streets, under the *Blob* banner, to the canal. She crossed the bridge and coasted to a stop in the dust in front of Ike's Bike & Mower Repair. A car was parked out front. She laid the bike down carefully and stood there, listening to the insects. She walked around back. When she saw the ladder she gasped. The roof was only one story high, but it seemed to scrape the moon and felt as forbidding as Babel. She took a deep breath and started climbing.

Narrator 2: Perry was in the middle of the roof, spread-eagle on a blanket, bare-skinned except for the ragged cutoffs he had worn at the pool, sheeted in the moonlight. Stargirl thought of Leo and how he had kept the shade of his bedroom window up so the moonlight could fall on him. Stargirl sat on the edge of the raised edge of the roof, watching, listening to Perry's breathing. She thought she could have been comfortable staying like that all night – watching, silent – but he was a person, not a backyard flower. At last she called from the edge.

Stargirl: Hi, Perry.

Narrator 1: Perry did not move.

Stargirl: (louder) Hi, Perry.

Narrator 2: Perry's eyes opened to the sky above. Then they began to move, through the rest of him did not. They finally landed on Stargirl.

Perry: (croaky) Who's that?

Narrator 1: The moon was now behind Stargirl. Her face was in shadow. His simple question stumped her. As far as she knew, he didn't even know her name. How should she identify herself? She thought over several possibilities.

Stargirl: I'm the girl you spat at.

Narrator 2: Perry laughed, or at least something that resembled laughter came out of his mouth. His head flopped back down. His eyes closed. Stargirl was afraid that was all.

Perry: What do you want?

Stargirl: Dootsie said you sleep on your roof on hot nights.

Perry: Didn't answer the question.

Narrator 1: He was right. His voice was straining, its tone saying leave me alone so I can go back to sleep.

Stargirl: I guess I don't know what I want. I woke up. It was hot. I couldn't sleep. I remembered what Dootsie said. And here I am.

Perry: You don't have your own roof?

Stargirl: Well, sure, but it's not flat like this one. Besides, you're not on my roof. You're on this one.

Perry: You want to sleep here?

Stargirl: No, no, I don't mean that.

Perry: What do you mean?

Narrator 2: Stargirl was very uncomfortable. Whatever had compelled her to come here was gone.

Stargirl: I don't know. I do things without thinking. (standing) I'll go. I am sorry I woke you up.

****Now, using notebook paper, work with your group to complete the script for the August 3rd letter.**

Love, Stargirl
August 8 – August 21

Name: _____ Date: _____

Comprehension

1. What moved into Stargirl's neighborhood? _____
2. Why does Mrs. Cantello leave her porch light on? _____
3. What does Stargirl talk to Archie about in her letter to him? _____
4. Why does Dootsie not like Leo? _____
5. Whose birthday is on August 14th? _____
6. What gift does Stargirl buy for this person? _____
7. On August 16th, Stargirl gets up earlier than usual to go watch the sunrise. Why? _____
8. What is Perry's last name? _____

Discussion

1. As Stargirl and Dootsie leave Charlie at the graveyard, Stargirl is thinking to herself. (August 14th - ...*I wondered why in the world I ever hesitated to bring Dootsie along.* – page 134) Why is she most likely feeling relief that Dootsie was with her on her trip to talk with Charlie? _____

How would things have likely turned out if Dootsie had not been with Stargirl?

2. When it first arrives, the mockingbird makes Stargirl happy. (August 8th - *It is impossible to be unhappy when listening to a mockingbird.* – page 124) However, several days later, she has changed her mind. (August 19th – *Today the mockingbird doesn't sound happy. It sounds as if it's coming apart. As if the very heart of itself – its song – is breaking into pieces and flying off in a hundred directions.* – page 136) Do you think the mockingbird really sounds differently? No! So, what happened to make Stargirl HEAR it differently?

Writing Opportunity - Friendly Letter

On a separate sheet of paper, write a friendly letter back to Stargirl from Archie. Be sure to tell how Archie feels about the boy she met, Perry. Give Stargirl advice on dealing with Perry as she has described him to you in her letter written to you on August 11th. Make sure you follow the correct friendly letter format.

Love, Stargirl
Friendly Letter Rubric

Name: _____ Date: _____

Criteria	Possible Points	Points Earned
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The letter is written from the perspective of Archie. 	20	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information in the letter is based on advice from Archie about the boy Stargirl met, Perry. 	25	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Archie's feelings are included in the letter. 	15	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The point of view used is consistent. 	10	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The letter is written in the correct friendly letter format. 	10	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The letter is written neatly. 	10	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grammatical and spelling errors, if any, do not interfere with the meaning. 	10	
TOTAL	100	

Comments:

Love, Stargirl

August 23 – 24

Name: _____ Date: _____

Comprehension

1. Why did a TV crew come to Bridge Street? _____
2. What did Stargirl's mom make for Dootsie's Mrs. Blob costume to show she was a girl? _____
3. Who was the winner in the little-kid section of the Blob contest? _____
4. What was Perry doing when Dootsie spotted him on her back to the theater? _____
5. What word did Perry use to describe Stargirl to Stephanie (the red-haired girl)? _____
6. Whose nick name is Dandy? _____
7. Why is this his nickname? _____
8. What does Dootsie do just before she and Stargirl leave the restaurant? _____

Strong Verbs

Verbs are words that describe the action in a sentence. Some verbs are said to be stronger than others, and these are the ones that tend to make your writing more effective. Here's how it works: take a verb like fall and another verb with a similar meaning like plunge. Now, compare these two sentences: (1) I watched the rock fall into the water. (2) I watched the rock plunge into the water. In the first sentence, you learn that the rock fell, but in the second sentence you also learn *how* the rock fell. The word plunge means "to enter quickly and forcibly into something". So, when I say plunge, I get all the meaning of the verb fall, plus the additional meaning that explains *how* the rock fell as well. That is what makes it stronger! Strong verbs **SHOW**, not just **TELL**!

Reread the letters about the Blob activities (August 23 and 24). Then complete the chart by listing the strong verbs you find. Underline the strong verbs. Please also include the noun performing the action as well as any significant adjectives/adverbs. The chart has been started for you.

<i>The Blob <u>crawled</u>.</i>	
two hidden arms <u>punched</u> upward	
We were <u>swept</u> through the doors.	
	A dozen tiny gray Babars <u>shimmied</u> in our faces.

Love, Stargirl
August 25 – September 1

Name: _____ Date: _____

Comprehension

1. What does Stargirl feel is her second language? _____
2. What happens on August 29th? _____
3. Where does Stargirl go on her first field trip of the new year? _____
4. How many more porch lights have been turned on early on Thursday mornings? _____
5. What does Stargirl do with an orange that is somewhat strange? _____

Poetry Elements

Stargirl's letters to Leo include many poems – some are written on purpose – others are written by accident. For example, reread the beginning of her August 25 letter. The first paragraph sounds like a poem! Look at it here rewritten to look like a poem.

The mockingbird does not dump me.
The mockingbird has no harem.
The mockingbird takes nothing,
Demands nothing.
The mockingbird does nothing
But give –
Give its song.

Here, Stargirl is really depending on the mockingbird to make herself feel better. She reveals to us that even with her troubles with Leo and Perry, she can find happiness in something as simple and common as a mockingbird. Think about your own world. What is something simple that gives you comfort when you feel down? _____
On a separate sheet of paper, or in your journal, write a poem about this simple thing that brings you joy.

On August 29th, Stargirl writes a poem about her trip to the clock on the *Morning Lenape* building. Carefully reread the poem. Then, answer the following questions.

1. What is the theme of the poem? _____
2. Alliteration is a device that consists of repeating the same consonant sound at the beginning of two or more words that are close to one another. Find an example of alliteration in her poem and record it here.

3. Why does Stargirl most likely include questions in her poem? _____
4. Find a metaphor in the poem and record it here. _____
5. Find a strong verb. Record the line/sentence that includes the strong verb here.

6. Is this a free verse poem? _____ Why or why not? _____
7. Explain each of the following lines as they relate to characters in the novel.
 - a. 15 Minutes till Found _____
 - b. Half Past Grace _____
 - c. As if a swarm of stinging minutes waits for Betty Lou _____
 - d. as if love does not tell all the time the Huffelmeyers need to know _____

Love, Stargirl

September 3 – September 7

Name: _____ Date: _____

Comprehension

1. What job is Stargirl offered? _____
2. Why is this job available at this time? _____
3. Who will take donuts to Betty Lou each Monday? _____
4. What does Stargirl do with the orange half on September 6th? _____
5. Who takes a trip to the mall together? _____
6. What did they eat for lunch in the mall? _____

Non-Fiction Passage Analysis

Stargirl tells Alvina to “count coup”. Read the following article about “counting coup”. Then, answer the questions below it.

Among Native North Americans of the Plains culture, during battle, an honor was awarded for striking an enemy in specific ways. These strikes, coups as they were called, were considered an extreme act of bravery. Generally, coups were awarded according to the degree of difficulty and danger involved. Any blow struck against the enemy counted as a coup, but the most prestigious acts included touching an enemy warrior, with the hand or with a coup stick, then escaping unharmed. Counting coup could also involve stealing from the enemy. Risk of injury or death was required to count coup. Coups were recorded by notches in a coup stick or by feathers in the headdress of a warrior. Headdresses were not as common as Hollywood has made them out to be; they were burdensome in battle, so they were primarily used in ceremonies. Native Americans who were rewarded with notches or feathers were known for bravery by their peers.

Counting coup was an important social function in Native American culture. The most extreme example of counting coup in Indian wars would be when a warrior would hit his enemy with a stick. This would change the enemy's energy, by just letting him know that you are not frightened and if you had really wanted to hurt him you could have. This act of physically touching your enemy without seriously hurting him could **take away** the enemy's anger. It created an opportunity for the enemy to think about and consider what he was doing and gave him a chance to “cool down”.

1. What genre is this passage? _____
2. What is the main idea of the first paragraph?
 - a. Feathers were given as a reward for counting coup.
 - b. Counting coup was an act of extreme bravery in Native American culture.
 - c. Touching an enemy with a coup stick is counting coup.
 - d. There was a risk of danger or death when counting coup.
3. Which of the following sentences is not related to the main idea of the first paragraph?
 - a. Counting coup could also involve stealing from the enemy.
 - b. Coups were recorded by notches in a coup stick or by feathers in the headdress of a warrior.
 - c. Headdresses were not as common as Hollywood has made them out to be; they were burdensome in battle, so they were primarily used in ceremonies.
 - d. Native Americans who were rewarded with notches or feathers were known for bravery by their peers.
4. Which of the following transition words would **best** enhance meaning if it were added to the last sentence in paragraph two?
 - a. However,
 - b. In addition,
 - c. Since,
 - d. Certainly,
5. Which of the following words could **best** be used in place of the underlined words in paragraph two?
 - a. disarm
 - b. remove
 - c. restart
 - d. create

Love, Stargirl
Test Two: July 19 – September 29

Name: _____

Date: _____

1. Perry's last name is _____.
 - a. Pringle
 - b. Klecko
 - c. Caraway
 - d. Delloplane

We approached him from the side. If he could see us out of the corner of his eye, he didn't show it. My kneecaps were Jell-O. If Dootsie hadn't been there, I think I would have turned and run.

2. What type of figurative language is used in this passage?
 - a. hyperbole
 - b. idiom
 - c. metaphor
 - d. simile
3. What does this figurative language reveal about Stargirl?
 - a. She does not like Jell-O.
 - b. She was mad at Dootsie.
 - c. She was sad.
 - d. She was nervous.
4. Charlie, the man that visits his wife's grave, is _____.
 - a. hard of hearing
 - b. blind
 - c. very hateful
 - d. thin and dying himself

...The sound of a name. It is a grape in my mouth. I roll it over and over on my tongue - perrydelloplane perrydelloplane perrydelloplane perrydelloplane – but when I try to crush it with my teeth, it slips away.

5. What literary device is found in this passage?
 - a. hyperbole
 - b. allusion
 - c. extended metaphor
 - d. imagery
6. Which of the following sentences has the **strongest** verb?
 - a. I walked about the field.
 - b. I joined the singing insects.
 - c. The moon rose higher and higher.
 - d. I scanned the horizon for shadows.

"Perry's a rolling stone," said Zombie. "He belongs to nobody. Right, Per?"

7. What type of figurative language is used in the passage?
 - a. hyperbole
 - b. metaphor
 - c. personification
 - d. simile
8. What does this use of figurative language tell the reader about Perry's character?
 - a. Perry is very careful with other people's feelings.
 - b. Perry does not like to settle down with any one person.
 - c. Perry likes to collect rocks.
 - d. Perry is a very angry and mean person.

...She came back out with her wristwatch and a hammer. We went out back...

I laid the watch on the bottom step. I hit it with the hammer. The crystal cracked, that was all.

"Here," she said, taking the hammer from me. She wound up like Paul Bunyan and down came the hammer and to pieces went the watch. Minutes flew off like fleas.

I did the same to my watch. We got a garden trowel and buried the pieces. We took all the clocks in the house and dumped them in the trash.

9. What two literary devices are used in the passage?
- realistic dialogue and two similes
 - realistic dialogue and personification
 - an allusion and two similes
 - an allusion and personification
10. Which word **best** describes the mood of the passage?
- violent
 - relaxed
 - restless
 - empowered

...were wondering if you would be willing to take Alvina under your wing, so to speak.

11. What type of figurative language is employed in the passage?
- hyperbole
 - idiom
 - metaphor
 - personification

coup: \kōp\ - verb: to strike noun: **1** : a brilliant, sudden, and usually highly successful stroke or act; **2** : a blow, a stroke
plural: coups \küz\ Etymology: French

...a tradition from Native Americans...If you killed a member of a tribe and you're at war, that would be a big honor for you...But there was an even greater honor that would live forever...you would not kill that other warrior...you would sneak up on him and just touch him...for the rest of your life you get to tell the story of how brave you were to get that close to your enemy...that is called counting coup.

12. Which definition of the word **coup** matches the meaning of **counting coup**?
- to strike
 - a brilliant and usually successful stroke or act
 - a blow
 - a strike
13. What does O=(BY)1334Cranberry(F) mean?
- Stargirl put a cranberry on a fence in her backyard.
 - Stargirl put a cranberry and a sliced orange in the back yard of 1334 First Street.
 - Stargirl put a sliced orange by the yard at 1334 Cranberry Street.
 - Stargirl put a sliced orange on a fence in the back yard of the house at 1334 Cranberry Street.
14. Which of the following **best** describes Stargirl's attitude toward Perry?
- critical and hateful
 - obedient and submissive
 - admiring yet doubtful
 - disrespectful yet understanding
15. Why does Stargirl call Alvina her new little sister?
- Alvina is her stepsister.
 - Alvina's become so close and open with Stargirl, they seem like sisters.
 - Alvina's mom has asked Stargirl to spend time with Alvina to help her behavior improve.
 - Thomas has a crush on Stargirl so he calls Stargirl Alvina's sister-in-law.

Love, Stargirl

Key Two: July 19 – September 29

ARA = Accept Reasonable Responses

July 19 – August 3

Comprehension

1. she had a bad dream
2. Stargirl and Dootsie
3. a night-blooming cereus
4. smells like vanilla and has white petals
5. a science-fiction movie from the 1950s
6. insects
7. Stargirl moved the potted plant from the yard all the way to the back door
8. They toasted the flower, held hands through the open door and sang soft songs.

Allusion

There is an allusion on page 111. Record the sentence the allusion is in on the lines below.
The roof was only one story high, but it seemed to scrape the moon and felt as forbidding as Babel.

Why is this allusion effective as Stargirl looks at the roof of Ike's Bike & Mower Repair where Perry is sleeping?

It shows both the height of the building and it shows that Stargirl was unsure of how successful she would be with Perry there just as God made the Tower of Babel unsuccessful.

What two types of figurative language are found in the sentence you copied from page 111? (Be sure to include the words that form each example of figurative language.)

one story high, but it seemed to scrape the moon - hyperbole and felt as forbidding as Babel - simile

Oxymoron

Which of the following sentences contains an oxymoron?

- d. It used to be the sweet center of my life. Now it's bittersweet.

Readers' Theater

ARA – make sure each group's script is complete

August 8 – August 21

Comprehension

1. a mockingbird
2. to light the way for Stargirl as she goes to Calendar Hill on Thursday mornings
3. Perry and her feelings towards him
4. he "dumped" Stargirl
5. Charlie – the man who sits by his deceased wife's grave
6. a water mister
7. She is hoping that Perry will be there
8. Delloplane

Discussion

1. ARA
2. ARA

Writing Opportunity - Friendly Letter

Score using the provided rubric

August 23 – 24

Comprehension

1. to film the Blob banner and the front of the Colonial Theatre and to interview the mayor
2. a cute little thimble-shaped hat
3. Dootsie
4. eating pizza at a restaurant with Stephanie (the red-haired girl)
5. interesting
6. Perry
7. after a dandelion flower – a flower that attracts lots of honeybees
8. she stands on a table, hikes up her toga, and shakes her booty in front of everyone

Strong Verbs ***These are samples – you and your students may find others.

<u>The Blob crawled.</u>	She <u>chucked.</u>
The hem <u>crumpled</u> about her feet...	and <u>pitched</u> it across the table
...and <u>oozed</u> across the floor	was about to <u>chomp</u> into it
two hidden arms <u>punched</u> upward	Alvina <u>snatched</u> it from his hand.
Blobs – all came <u>slogging</u> down the sidewalks.	<u>plucked</u> the last pepperoni disk
The Blob <u>oozing</u> out of the projection room...	laughing and <u>swatting</u> playfully
The rows <u>funneled</u> into the aisles.	folded her arms and <u>glared</u> at the smoochers
The bedlam from outside <u>was backwashing</u> over us.	Dootsie <u>snarled.</u>
She broke away from me and <u>plunged</u> into the crowd.	Zombie <u>snickered.</u>
We were <u>swept</u> through the doors.	She <u>clamped</u> Perry's nose.
I <u>grabbed</u> the top of her.	Dootsie <u>wagged</u> her finger.
The after-panic crowd <u>milling</u> outside the theater...	Zombie <u>smirked.</u>
Dootsie <u>burst</u> into the restaurant...	Zombie <u>pinched</u> his cheek.
...and <u>leaped</u> into Perry's lap	Ponytail <u>snapped</u> her fingers.
Dootsie <u>was jabbering</u> in Perry's face.	A dozen tiny gray Babars <u>shimmied</u> in our faces.

August 25 – September 1

Comprehension

1. mockingbird
2. school opens back up – Dootsie starts first grade
3. to the clock on the Morning Lenape Building
4. two
5. She slices it in half and placed half of it – sliced side up – on the top of their brick barbecue pit.

Poetry Elements

1. What is the theme of the poem? ARA – A possible theme is "If people are not careful, time can steal their happiness".
2. Alliteration is a device that consists of repeating the same consonant sound at the beginning of two or more words that are close to one another.

Find an example of alliteration in her poem and record it here. ARA – possible response = measure misery

3. Why does Stargirl most likely include questions in her poem? ARA – possible response = to make the readers think about how time intrudes upon our lives

4. Find a metaphor in the poem and record it here. Every clock is a nest of minutes and hours.

5. Find a strong verb. Record the line/sentence that includes the strong verb here. (ARA)

ARA – possible response = lug us round and round; dice the time of our lives into tiny bits

6. Is this a free verse poem? no Why or why not? The poem does not include rhyme or rhythm

7. Explain each of the following lines as they relate to characters in the novel.

a. This is in reference to Arnold. He is a man that is called “crazy” by people in the town. He is always walking around the old cement plant. Little kids sneak up behind him, poke him, and say, “Gotcha!”

b. This is in reference to Charlie; he visits the grave of his dead wife everyday. He takes a lunch and a chair.

c. Betty Lou is afraid to leave her house. She has agoraphobia.

d. The Huffelmeyers are an old couple on Stargirl’s dad’s milk route. They still leave their house unlocked and leave the milkman’s note inside. They are still sleeping when the milk is delivered.

September 3 – September 7

Comprehension

1. Alvina’s job at the donut shop

2. Margie fired her for fighting with the boys again.

3. Alvina has agreed to come each Monday and take her the donuts.

4. She placed it three houses down the back alley on the roof of a tool shed.

5. Stargirl, Dootsie, and Alvina

6. cheesecake and ice cream sodas

Passage Analysis

1. What genre is this passage? **non-fiction**

2. What is the main idea of the first paragraph?

b. Counting coup was an act of extreme bravery in Native American culture.

6. Which of the following sentences is not related to the main idea of the first paragraph?

c. Headdresses were not as common as Hollywood has made them out to be; they were burdensome in battle, so they were primarily used in ceremonies.

6. Which of the following transition words would enhance meaning if it were added to the last sentence in paragraph two?

b. In addition,

7. Which of the following words could **best** be used in place of the underlined words in paragraph two?

a. disarm

September 8 – September 29

Comprehension

1. It is the two year anniversary of the day she and Leo first saw each other.

2. She had to go get buttons for her mother.

3. He threw his trash away on the sidewalk and in a gutter.

4. The location of Leo’s college.

5. Today, Stargirl put an Orange on a pole in the backyard of the house at 303 Rapps Dam Road.

6. She is not quite used to living without clocks.

7. Alvina and Stargirl and her dad

Mood

Accept reasonable answers for the words, phrases and sentences that create the mood. Possible answers are provided in the list.

September 12th letter	September 28th letter
Mood: d)distressed	Mood: a) optimistic
He gulped his drink...tossed his cup into the gutter. I could hear him belch.	Plopped herself down on my lap
I was fuming.	...quick grin...breezed off
His smile disappeared.	Probing for a soft spot
...so maybe it is my business.	I wanted to stand and applaud
"You're crapping up my world."	Something remarkable had just been uttered.....be framed in silence
crappy habits	I fought off tears.
"The world is crappy already."	placed his hand over hers
Mockingly	You are <i>not</i> a rotten kid.
I stared at him some more. I didn't know where to start.	she surprised me for the second time this morning
You're wrong.	seemed proud
getting on my case	efforts to make her smile
I felt as if I were on roller skates.	whispered in my ear

Test Two: July 19 – September 29

1. d
2. c
3. d
4. a
5. c
6. d
7. b
8. b
9. c
10. d
11. b
12. d
13. d
14. c
15. c

Love, Stargirl

October 5 – October 8

Name: _____ Date: _____

Comprehension

1. Where does Stargirl meditate on October 5th? _____
2. What was she having a hard time forgetting as she tried to meditate? _____
3. After her meditation, who does she find sitting beside her? _____
4. What color are Perry's eyes? _____
5. Perry has counted Stargirl's _____. She has _____ of them.
6. What word does Perry use to describe Stargirl? _____
7. Stargirl prefers that Perry use the word _____ to describe her.
8. Stargirl learns that she and Perry both live in a house without _____.
9. What surprises Stargirl as she and Perry get up off of the picnic table? _____
10. Where does Stargirl take Alvina when they meet after school on October 8th? _____
11. What happens to upset Alvina while there with Stargirl? _____

Perry Explains Why He Thinks That Stargirl Is Interesting

While in the park on October 5th, Perry gives Stargirl five specific reasons why he finds her not to be a typical girl. Complete the following chart to analyze his reasons.

	Specific Reason	Perry's Explanation	Your Thoughts of His Reason
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			

Love, Stargirl
October 9 – October 18

Name: _____ Date: _____

Comprehension

1. Who is Neva? _____
2. What makes Stargirl so angry? _____
3. Where does she turn for advice and support when she is angry? _____
4. What does this person do to make Stargirl laugh even though she is so mad?

5. What advice do the Buddhists give that is helpful even in modern day times?

6. Why do Dootsie and Stargirl both play hooky from school on October 16th?

7. Who goes to Calendar Hill with Stargirl on October 18th? _____
8. At the end of Route 113, what does Stargirl see when she turns around?

Meet the new employee.

In this section, we are introduced to Neva, the new employee at Margie's donut shop. Let's take a closer look at her. Complete the following chart based on Stargirl's description.

	Neva
Two facts that you have learned about Neva	
Two descriptive words that seem right for Neva	
One or two quotes from the letter so far that help show more about her personality	

Love, Stargirl
October 9 – October 18

Silent Passage Analysis

Teacher Directions: Write each of these passages in the center of a separate sheet of paper or on the center of a sheet of chart paper. Then, have students (one at a time) silently read each passage and make a comment about them individually. (You could either pass around a sheet of paper or have students move around the room if you decide to use chart paper.) The comment may be their interpretation of the passage or what the passage means to them personally. Some students may comment on another student's comment. You may find other passages in the book you would like to add to this activity.

. . . maybe you're merely uncomfortable with uncertainty. Like the rest of the human race.

Live today. Not yesterday. Not tomorrow. Just today. Inhabit your moments. Don't rent them out to tomorrow.

... I think I've been pretty much a flop. . .

Welcome to Floptown! We're all flops. None of us get it right all of the time.

You're cheating yourself out of today. Today is calling to you, trying to get your attention, but you're stuck on tomorrow, and today trickles away like water down a drain. You wake up the next morning and that today you wasted is gone forever. It's now yesterday. Some of those moments may have had wonderful things in store for you, but now you'll never know.

"Embrace the mystery!"

"I usually love mysteries. When I'm not in them."

"Let's hear it for mystery!"

Love, Stargirl
October 20 – November 1

Name: _____ Date: _____

Comprehension

1. What is Dootsie planning to be for Halloween? _____
2. From whom does Stargirl hide when she is in the donut shop? _____
3. Who is angry with Stargirl? _____ Why? _____

4. What does O=(BY)422Birch(SE) mean? _____
5. What is one of the most popular Halloween spots in Stargirl's town? _____
6. Why is this spot so popular? _____
7. What will Cinnamon be for Halloween? _____

Review: What type of figurative language is this: *taking her under my wing*? _____

Writing Opportunity – Create a Comic Strip

Create a comic strip for the November 1 letter. Use this sheet to help you plan it. Your final draft will be done on white paper provided by your teacher. Draw pictures of the main events described in this letter, and use captions to help describe the action. Think of scenes and actions that occur, the characters that are present, the landscape/setting and props, and make sure you pay attention to Jerry Spinelli's imagery as you draw each scene. You may not need all of the boxes on these pages. Your comic strip will be scored using the rubric at the bottom.

Comic Strip Rubric

Criteria	Possible Points	Points Earned
Scene selection: Includes all of the most important events from the letter	15	
Captions: Captions are clearly related to both the scenes drawn and to the important events from the chapter. The captions are well written with few spelling, punctuation or grammar errors.	35	
Characters: Main characters from the chapter are included and their actions and dialogue in the comic strip match those from the letter.	25	
Background illustrations: The illustrations are directly related to the imaginary provided by the author and help the reader understand the scene.	25	
TOTAL	100	

Love, Stargirl
November 5 – November 13

Name: _____ Date: _____

Comprehension

1. Who came to Stargirl's house on November 5th? _____
2. What is hurting Stargirl physically? _____
3. Why is Stargirl's heart hurting? _____
4. With whom does Stargirl fight? _____ Why? _____

5. Who came to see Stargirl on the morning of November 9th? _____
6. What was the reason for the visit? _____
7. How was Stargirl able to go to Margie's, Betty Lou's, and to see Charlie at the cemetery on November 13th?

8. Who had forgotten Stargirl's name but knew she had to be the one that helped with the fire? _____

Flashback

Flashback – When a character remembers something from the past

Find the flashback on page two-hundred eighteen.

1. Who has a flashback on this page? _____
2. What is the flashback about? _____
3. What causes this character to have this flashback? _____
4. What words signal the flashback? _____
5. Summarize this flashback.

Love, Stargirl
November 15 – November 24

Name: _____ Date: _____

Comprehension

1. What surprise did Stargirl have when she arrived at Calendar Hill on November 15th?

2. What was different about these newest spatulas? _____
3. Who has Stargirl realized she loves? _____
4. What were Stargirl's names before she began to call herself Stargirl?

5. What does O = (A)335Ringgold(F) mean? _____
6. Who goes with Stargirl to Calendar Hill on November 22? _____
Why? _____

Fluency Practice

With a partner, read the conversation between Stargirl and Leo found on pages 224 through 226.

Alliteration Review

What is alliteration? _____

Place a check next to the sentence that contains alliteration.

- _____ I was gagging on chuckleballs.
- _____ "So," said Betty Lou, sitting down, "you can go upstairs if you want, see the body."
- _____ Okay, Donut Damsel, here's the deal.
- _____ You agree to eat one sticky bun – and I'll spill the beans.

Symbolism

A symbol is something that stands for something else, like our flag stands for our country. It is any object, person, place, or experience that means more than what it is.

A literary symbol has literal meaning in a story but stands for something else.

Remember, if something is symbolic, it will most likely

- *be repeated in the book*
- *be written in a memorable or vivid way*
- *be emphasized with imagery*
- *mean something else than what it is*

Reread the August 8th (pages 124-125) and November 24th (pages 234-235) letters.

Which of the following does the mockingbird symbolize in general?

- | | |
|-------------|--------------|
| a. surprise | c. happiness |
| b. sadness | d. relief |

Explain this answer: _____

Love, Stargirl
November 25 – November 29

Name: _____ Date: _____

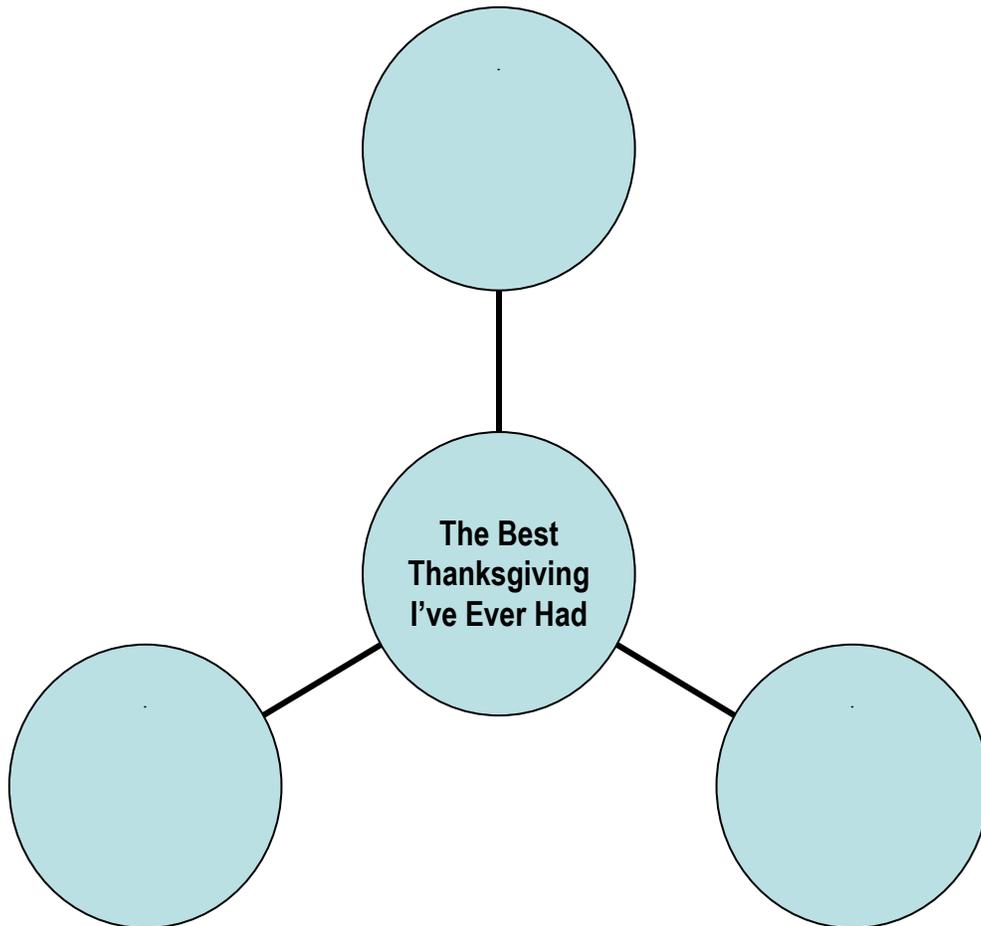
Comprehension

1. What does Archie say is the most important part of celebrating Solstice? _____
2. After spending time looking for Perry on November 26th, where does Stargirl end up finding him? _____
3. What was Grace's Thanksgiving masterpiece? _____
4. Who has a new pet rat? _____
5. Where did Stargirl and her family spend Thanksgiving? _____

Writing Opportunity – Prompt: describe the best Thanksgiving you've ever had

In her November 29th letter, Stargirl describes her best Thanksgiving. Now, you do the same. Make sure you include the people that were with you, what you ate for your meal, and what happened before, during and after the meal.

Brainstorm about your best Thanksgiving ever.



Write a rough draft of your essay on notebook paper.

Edit and revise your rough draft.

Write a neat final draft on notebook paper.

Love, Stargirl
Best Thanksgiving

Name: _____

Date: _____

Criteria	Possible Points	Points Earned
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The barnstorming web is complete. 	5	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the people that were at the meal are included 	15	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The contents of the meal are included. 	15	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What happened before, during and after the meal is included. 	15	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The point of view used is consistent. 	10	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The essay is written in the correct format. (five indented paragraphs – each with a topic sentence, details, and a concluding sentence) (essay has an introduction, body, and a conclusion) 	15	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The essay is written neatly. 	5	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A rough draft was completed and shows evidence of editing and revising. 	10	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grammatical and spelling errors, if any, do not interfere with the essay. 	10	
TOTAL	100	

Love, Stargirl
December 3 – December 20

Name: _____ Date: _____

Comprehension

1. Who is Tom? _____
2. How does Stargirl relive her past? _____
3. What does DTS=11 mean? _____
4. Who does Stargirl see pushing a baby carriage? _____
5. What is unusual about the blanket in the carriage with the baby? _____
6. Who is Roy? _____
7. Who helped Stargirl construct the tent for the Solstice celebration? _____
8. Who has made a surprise visit to see Stargirl? _____

Conflict

A conflict is a struggle or clash between opposing characters or forces (external conflict) or the character's emotions (internal conflict)

Complete the following chart to analyze the conflicts that are present in the novel. Stargirl's conflict in this section has been listed first. After analyzing it, list other conflicts that Stargirl and/or her friends have faced in previous sections.

Conflict	Passage from the book that proves or supports that conflict	Type of conflict (internal or external)
Stargirl is worried that no one will show up to her Solstice celebration.		

Love, Stargirl
December 23 – January 2

Name: _____ Date: _____

Comprehension

1. What caused Betty Lou to come to the Solstice celebration? _____
2. Where does Cinnamon spend the Solstice celebration? _____
3. Who attends the celebration with Perry? _____
4. How did Stargirl allow “nature to speak for itself”? _____
5. What did Archie give Stargirl on the day he left Pennsylvania? _____

Theme

Theme is the stories central message; a life lesson

Some things to remember about theme are:

- Theme is what the author wants you to remember most.
- Occasionally the theme is stated directly in the novel/passage.
- Most often, the theme is unstated and is revealed to the reader gradually throughout the novel/passage.
- Theme is written as a statement, not just a word.
- Different readers can have completely different theme statements. This is fine as long as each reader can support his/her idea with evidence from the novel/passage.

Plan for understanding theme in Love, Stargirl:

Step 1: List words from the novel that express the big ideas or topics from the novel.

Step 2: Think about what the characters in the novel do and say that relate to the topics you listed above.

Step 3: Come up with a statement of the author’s point or message based on one or more of your big ideas. *Remember, you should be able to be support your statement with things the characters do and say.*

Step 4: List evidence from the novel to support your theme statement. (This should be things the characters did and said.)

Love, Stargirl
Discussion Questions

Name: _____ Date: _____

Directions: Write your answers in complete sentences.

1. Explain what the title of this novel means.

2. What will you remember most vividly from this novel? Explain your answer.

3. List three characteristics of Jerry Spinelli's writing style or craft. Explain how each of these contributes to the story, and provide evidence from the text to support your answers.

4. Identify a theme of this novel. Give at least three examples from the novel to support your answer.

5. Describe Stargirl. Include both physical and personality traits in your description.

Love, Stargirl
Literary Element Scavenger Hunt

Name _____

Date _____

Use the novel to find an example of each of the following.

Find a simile.

Page number: _____

Find an example of personification.

Page number: _____

Find a flashback. Write the first several words that begin the flashback.

Page number: _____

Find a passage that supports that Stargirl is caring.

Page number: _____

Find one example of imagery.

Page number: _____

Find four strong verbs.

1. _____ (page number _____)

2. _____ (page number _____)

3. _____ (page number _____)

4. _____ (page number _____)

Love, Stargirl
Character Analysis

Character	Traits	Round/Flat	Static/Dynamic
Stargirl			
Dootsie			
Alvina			
Perry			
Margie			
Betty Lou			
Thomas			
Arnold			

Love, Stargirl
Silent Passage Analysis

Teacher Directions: Write each of these passages in the center of a separate sheet of paper or on the center of a sheet of chart paper. Then, have students (one at a time) silently read each passage and make a comment about them individually. (You could either pass around a sheet of paper or have students move around the room if you decide to use chart paper.) The comment may be their interpretation of the passage or what the passage means to them personally. Some students may comment on another student's comment. You may find other passages in the book you would like to add to this activity.

My anger was no longer flaming. It had hardened to a scab over my wound. It was protecting me from being hurt again, and I wasn't about to let him rip it away, not even with an apology.

. . .he was doing more than talking, more than simply remembering. He was reliving, in a way that can only be done by sharing with someone else.

... love makes its own magic.

It's about rejoicing. It's about people together.

Ordinary, usual, everyday life - and yet it all seems so special now, the commonest gestures flecked with glitter. . .

You be you and I'll be me, today and today and today, and let's trust the future to tomorrow. Let the stars keep track of us. Let us ride our own orbits and trust that they will meet. May our reunion be not a finding but a sweet collision of destinies!

Love, Stargirl

Test Three: October 5 – January 2

Name: _____ Date: _____

- The novel is set in the state of _____.
 - South Carolina
 - Florida
 - Pennsylvania
 - Arizona
- Which of the following days of the week is “Calendar Hill Day”?
 - Monday
 - Tuesday
 - Wednesday
 - Thursday
- Stargirl's pet is a(n) _____.
 - turtle
 - cat
 - rat
 - snake
- Her pet's name is _____.
 - Cinnamon
 - Ponytail
 - Dandy
 - Thomas
- When Stargirl decides to start a business to earn some money, she starts _____.
 - a babysitting service
 - a delivery service
 - a garden grooming service
 - a pet walking service

A conversation with Perry Delloplane is about as straightforward as the path of a soccer ball.

- What does this sentence reveal about Perry?
 - Perry likes to play soccer.
 - Perry is slow and has a difficult time moving out of the way of balls.
 - Perry is hard to keep up with when talking to him.
 - Perry is getting a soccer scholarship, and it has gone to his head.
- What type of figurative language does the sentence contain?
 - hyperbole
 - metaphor
 - personification
 - simile
- What does Stargirl have to do after she goes on a field trip?
 - Provide her mother and father with a detailed list of the things she did and things she saw.
 - Write an ad for the newspaper.
 - Write a poem.
 - Sit with her mom, then Betty Lou, and explain the best parts of the trip.

I gave up. I blobbed out of bed. I put on my robe. I slunk downstairs. I drooped at the kitchen table while my mother laughed and told me how Dootsie....

- Which of the following lists contains the strongest verbs in this passage?
 - gave, blobbed, slunk
 - blobbed, slunk, drooped
 - blobbed, put, slunk
 - gave, put, laughed

10. Which character had to be hospitalized?
- Stargirl
 - Betty Lou
 - Margie
 - Dootsie
11. Which of the following words best describes the tone when Stargirl's father tells her that Cinnamon is missing?
- embarrassed
 - melancholic
 - enraged
 - nightmarish

I had a fight with my mother last night. (Surprised?) When she found out I intended to go to Calendar Hill this morning, she blew her stack.

12. What words in the passage form an idiom?
- I had a fight with my mother.
 - Surprised?
 - She found out.
 - She blew her stack.
13. What does this idiom mean?
- They had a disagreement.
 - She let the secret be known.
 - She lost her cool – became angry.
 - She was rude to her daughter – was hateful.
14. ***It's a twenty-pebble day.*** What does this mean for Stargirl?
- She has been to the old cement factory collecting rock samples.
 - She is very happy.
 - She is very sad.
 - She is mad enough to spit rocks.
15. Who found Cinnamon after the fire?
- Dootsie
 - Rita Wishart
 - Perry
 - Arnold
16. What does Stargirl's mother call her when she is really upset?
- Miss Stargirl
 - Susan
 - Starbrat
 - Daughter
17. Stargirl and her family spend Thanksgiving eating turkey and cheese-and-garlic smashed potatoes with _____.
- Margie at the donut shop
 - Dootsie and her parents
 - Perry and Dootsie at their home
 - Betty Lou at her house

... I ... reached for my crutches – they were not there. They weren't anywhere in my room. I opened my door, turned on the light, peeked down the hallway, limped to the bathroom. Nowhere. And then it hit me. I limped down to my parents' room, opened the door. There they were, the crutches, snuggled under the covers with my mother. My laughter woke her up. "I'll bet Dad loved this," I said. I climbed in with her, the crutches between us, and we both slept through the sunrise.

18. What is the tone of this passage?
- hateful yet relived and happy
 - shocked yet lighthearted and loving
 - frantic yet humorous and silly
 - gentle yet sad and unyielding
19. What type of irony is found in the underlined portion of the passage?
- dramatic
 - situational
 - verbal
 - none of these

Margie forced a dozen donuts on me. Free.

20. What does this strong verb imply?
- Margie's donuts are not very tasty.
 - Stargirl does not want the donuts, but Margie wants her to have them.
 - Stargirl really wants the donuts but does not have enough money to pay for them.
 - Stargirl is in a hurry and has to grab the donuts as she runs out of the door.
21. Which characters meet in a fish market?
- Perry and Stargirl
 - Perry and Dootsie
 - Charlie and Stargirl
 - Charlie and Grace

The grizzle on his face sparkled like angel fleece. Leo, I have never been smiled at so.

22. What type of figurative language is used in the sentence?
- hyperbole
 - idiom
 - metaphor
 - simile
23. What does this figurative language allow the reader to see in his mind?
- The happiness on Charlie's face even though he is a rough looking man.
 - That Charlie's face as a fuzzy mess.
 - That Charlie's face is as white as an angel wing.
 - The reflection in Charlie's eyes as he talks.

... She sees me grow dimmer and dimmer until I almost vanish into the darkness beyond the last pool of light – almost. . . The flicker swings in her daughter's hand as she crosses Route 113 and onto the field. And then the flicker too disappears as she heads for the calendar . . . then the walkie-talkie comes suddenly to life and it's her daughter's voice . . .

24. What type of literary device is used in the passage?
- figurative language
 - a flashback
 - irony
 - imagery

25. Why did Stargirl place oranges around town?
- Simply because she loves birds.
 - She knows that the oranges will bring mockingbirds to the town and make others happy.
 - So that the mockingbird will follow the trail of oranges to Betty Lou's house.
 - So that Dootsie can enjoy the birds the orange halves bring.
26. Which of the following sentences contains alliteration?
- I call myself the Garden Groomer.
 - The first thing I did was pick up the plastic toys and toss them onto the grass.
 - "No, she sneered. "I'm Goldilocks. . ."
 - I peeled the boy off and made him face me.
27. Who is Tom?
- Betty Lou's ex-husband
 - Arnold's new pet rat
 - Perry's bother
 - Stargirl's friend from Arizona
28. Neva is _____.
- Perry's mother
 - Stargirl's neighbor
 - Dootsie's mother
 - Betty Lou's neighbor
29. Which of the following characters has a gambling problem?
- Perry
 - Roy
 - Arnold
 - Charlie
30. Which of the following best describes Perry's relationship with his father?
- They are very close and have a loving relationship.
 - Even though they live far apart, they stay in close contact.
 - Perry really loves his dad.
 - Perry hates his father.
31. How does Stargirl first discover that Archie has come to her house to visit?
- She sees his truck in her driveway.
 - She sees his coat on the chair by the door.
 - She hears him talking to her mother in the kitchen.
 - She smells his cherry pipe tobacco.
32. Which of the following attended the Solstice celebration?
- the Huffelmeyers
 - a reporter from the *Morning Lenape*
 - the honeybees
 - all of the above

Do I seem like I'm rambling? I am. For three days now I've been rambling, tumbling, skittering, like the leaf I'm watching gust along the street. The gust has been my feelings, and they've been blowing me every which way, and now I think, at last, they have let up and let me settle down to earth and find the words to tell it all. Which, really and simply and finally, is this: I still love you. I don't love Perry.

33. What type of conflict is found in this passage?

- a. internal
- b. external
- c. there is no conflict

34. What is being compared in the simile in the passage?

- a. Stargirl and her feelings to a leaf
- b. Stargirl and her feelings to a gust
- c. Stargirl's love for Leo and a gust
- d. a leaf and a street

35. Which of the following is the strongest, most vivid verb from the passage?

- a. skittering
- b. watching
- c. blowing
- d. settle

36. What type of figurative language is found in the underlined portion of the passage?

- a. hyperbole
- b. idiom
- c. metaphor
- d. simile

For numbers 37-40, use the letters in the box to match each character's name to the quotes.

- | |
|---|
| a. Stargirl
b. Dootsie
c. Alvina
d. Perry
e. Arnold |
|---|

37. . . . played with her Pooh Bear necklace. "Yeah. I got him back for taking the donuts from Mrs. Wacko's porch."

38. "Are you looking for me?"

39. "I'm gonna be a waffle! Your mommy's gonna make me a costume for Halloween."

40. My father wasn't too happy that day when he came home to a house without clocks.

Love, Stargirl
Key Three: October 5 – January 2
 ARA = Accept Reasonable Responses

October 5 – October 8
Comprehension

1. in the park on a picnic table
2. She could not stop thinking about Alvina calling herself a rotten kid.
3. Perry
4. blue
5. freckles; eleven
6. interesting
7. fascinating
8. clocks
9. she is chewing gum
10. for pizza at Pizza Dee-Lite
11. a mushroom from Stargirl's half was on her pepperoni half

Perry Explains Why He Thinks That Stargirl Is Interesting

	Specific Reason	Perry's Explanation	Your Thoughts of His Reason
1	She has freckles across her nose.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ They spill onto her cheeks. ▪ She has eleven of them. 	ARA
2	She does not wear designer labels.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ She hates labels. 	ARA
3	She is not stuck on herself.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ She doesn't touch her hair a lot. ▪ She does not look in a mirror all of the time. ▪ She does not wear make-up. 	ARA
4	Stargirl does not act like she is gorgeous.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ He tells her she is not gorgeous, but he also says that neither are most girls. 	ARA
5	Her calendar is not typical.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ He is "sort of" impressed that she plants spatulas in a field so she will end up with a huge sundial. 	ARA

October 9 – October 18

Comprehension

1. The new employee at Margie's donut shop
2. Perry does not show up at Calendar Hill on Thursday morning like he said he would.
3. Betty Lou
4. She covers Stargirl's ears with her cupped hands, then releases, then covers, release, etc. – She says she is making smoke signals from the steam coming out of Stargirl's ears.
5. Live today. Not yesterday. Not tomorrow. Just today.
6. There is a red slipper sock in the window at Betty Lou's house. That means she is having a bad day; they go to cheer her up.
7. Cinnamon
8. Every porch light was on; her neighbors were lighting the way for her to Calendar Hill.

Meet the new employee.

In this section, we are introduced to Neva, the new employee at Margie's donut shop. Let's take a closer look at her. Complete the following chart based on Stargirl's description.

	Neva
Two facts that you have learned about Neva	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Her hair is brown, long and curly.▪ She wears lots of make-up.▪ She is shy.▪ She is pregnant.
Two descriptive words that seem right for Neva	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ timid▪ pretty▪ unconfident
One or two quotes from the letter so far that help show more about her personality	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ <i>She doesn't speak. She doesn't look at Margie when Margie speaks to her.</i>▪ <i>She's glamorous, but you hardly notice her because she's so shy.</i>

October 20 – November 1

Comprehension

1. a waffle
2. Perry and two girls
3. Alvina; she hears her mother and father talking about Stargirl having an "assignment" of taking her under her wing
4. Today I put an orange on something else (other than a pole or fence) in the backyard of 422 Birch Street.
5. Betty Lou's house
6. Her agoraphobia draws trick-or-treaters.
7. a fork

Review: What type of figurative language is this: *taking her under my wing*? an idiom

Writing Opportunity

Use the rubric to score students' final drafts.

November 5 – November 13

Comprehension

1. a reporter from the *Morning Lenape*
2. her armpits, her legs itch, she is not able to sleep, she cannot take a deep breath
3. She misses Cinnamon badly.
4. Her mother. Why? Her mother is worried about her and does not want her to go back to Calendar Hill early in the morning alone.
5. Arnold and his mother, Rita Wishart
6. Arnold found Cinnamon; as soon as they figured out where he belonged, they wanted to return him.
7. She's finally off her crutches.
8. Charlie

Flashback

1. Who has a flashback on this page? Charlie
2. What is the flashback about? He remembers the day he met Grace for the very first time.
3. What causes this character to have this flashback? He is talking to Stargirl at the gravesite and tells her about Grace.
4. What words signal the flashback? met when they were six. . . and In those days...
5. Summarize this flashback. Grace and Charlie are both with their mothers at a fish market. Both mothers reach for the same Alaskan halibut. They were each so polite that they insisted the other take it. After a time of the mothers insisting the other take it, Grace shouted, "I'll take it!" So, Grace's mom got the fish, and as Stargirl said, Charlie got the girl.

November 15 – November 24

Comprehension

1. She was expecting to see spatula number 15 and then a gap because she had been gone for three weeks.
2. They did not have numbers on them.
3. Leo
4. Susan, Julia, Pocket Mouse, Mudpie, Hullygully
5. Stargirl put half of an orange on a fence in the ally behind the house at 335 Ringgold.
6. Alvina went with Stargirl so she'd make things better for Stargirl if Perry was at Calendar Hill.

Alliteration Review

What is alliteration? a device that consists of repeating the same consonant sound at the beginning of two or more words that are close to one another

Place a check next to the sentence that contains alliteration.

- ✓ Okay, Donut Damsel, here's the deal.

Symbolism

Reread the August 8th (pages 124-125) and November 24th (pages 234-235) letters.

Which of the following does the mockingbird symbolize in general?

c. happiness

Explain this answer: The mockingbird makes Stargirl happy to hear it on that first morning, August 8th. When she tells Betty Lou about the mockingbird, Betty Lou wishes for a mockingbird outside of her window. Stargirl then uses orange halves to get a mockingbird to come to Betty Lou's yard. She wants Betty Lou to be as happy as possible.

November 25 – November 29

Comprehension

1. Time turning a corner, rejoicing, and people being together.
2. On her front porch. He was with Dootsie.
3. sweet potato casserole with marshmallow topping
4. Arnold
5. with Betty Lou – Betty Lou's house

Writing Opportunity – Prompt: describe the best Thanksgiving you've ever had

Use the provided rubric to score the essay.

December 3 – December 20

Comprehension

1. Arnold's pet rat
2. She tells her story to Arnold.
3. eleven days until solstice
4. Perry
5. It's blue – the same color of blue as the one taken from the manager – and the baby is a girl
6. Perry's father
7. her dad
8. Archie

Conflict

Conflict	Passage from the book that proves or supports that conflict	Type of conflict (internal or external)
Stargirl is worried that no one will show up to her Solstice celebration.	<i>I'm afraid nobody will show up. Well, not exactly nobody. I know Dootsie and Alvina will be there. And my parents. And Margie. And Cinnamon. But I'm not sure about anybody else.</i>	internal
ARA	ARA	ARA
ARA	ARA	ARA
ARA	ARA	ARA

December 23 – January 2**Comprehension**

1. Dootsie barged into her house the morning of the Solstice celebration and made her come.
2. In Archie's pocket with his pet rat, Tom.
3. his mom, Neva, and his baby sister
4. she did not sing, wear special clothes, played no music, read no poem – nothing – she simply allowed the sun to rise
5. a letter from Leo

Theme

ARA

Discussion Questions

ARA

Test 3 – October 5 – January 2

1. c 2. d 3. c 4. a 5. c 6. c 7. d 8. c 9. b 10. a 11. b 12. d
13. c 14. b 15. d 16. b 17. d 18. b 19. c 20. b 21. d 22. d 23. a 24. d
25. c 26. a 27. b 28. a 29. b 30. d 31. d 32. d 33. a 34. a 35. a 36. b
37. c 38. b 39. b 40. a

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