

A Teaching Unit **For** ***Stargirl***



ELA Core Plans
Teacher-Written Standards-Based Lesson Plans

A Teaching Unit For

Stargirl
Jerry Spinelli

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(Except for your own classroom)



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Stargirl Teaching Unit

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Stargirl

Pre-Reading Activity

Name _____

Date _____

Anticipation Guide

Directions: Read each statement. Next, mark either agree or disagree for each statement. (before reading) After reading the novel, reread the statements and again mark agree or disagree (after reading).

We will discuss the anticipation guide responses as a class.

Before Reading			After Reading	
Agree	Disagree		Agree	Disagree
		If you feel in your gut something is wrong, you should just ignore it. Then, do the wrong thing anyway.		
		When a friend is being treated badly by others, you should ignore it.		
		You should never change your personality to try and "fit in" or be popular.		
		If you love someone, they can never embarrass you.		
		Most of the lessons we learn in our life come from the people in it.		

Chapter Titles for *Stargirl*

Jerry Spinelli does not include chapter titles in this novel. After you read a chapter, create a title for it using the following chart.

Chapter	Title
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	
8	
9	
10	
11	
12	
13	
14	
15	
16	

17	
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27	
28	
29	
30	
31	
32	
33	

Stargirl

Porcupine Necktie & Chapter One – Point of View and Meet Stargirl

Name _____

Date _____

Point of view is the relationship of the narrator or storyteller to the story.

- In a story with first person point of view, the story is told by one of the characters, referred to as “I”.
- In a story with a limited third-person point of view, an unseen narrator is telling the story, and this narrator reveals the thoughts of only one character. The narrator refers to that character as “he” or “she”.
- In a story with an omniscient point of view, an unseen narrator is telling the story, and the narrator reveals the thoughts of several characters.

Let’s examine the point of view in this novel. Complete the following questions.

Who is telling the story?

Is the point of view

- **First person (a character is telling the story)**
- **Third-person limited (an unseen narrator, not a character, is telling the story and this narrator reveals the thoughts and feelings of only one character)**
- **Third person omniscient (an unseen narrator- not a character- is telling the story and this narrator reveals the thoughts and feelings of several characters)**

Choose and write some words and phrases that helped you to figure out the point of view of this novel.

Meet Stargirl.

In this first chapter, we are introduced to Stargirl. Let’s take a closer look at her. Complete the following chart to begin analyzing her.

two facts that you have learned about her	
two descriptive words that seem right for Stargirl	
one or two quotes from the story so far that help show this character’s personality	

Stargirl

Chapter Two – Hyperbole and Imagery

Name _____

Date _____

Hyperbole

Figurative language allows writers to make their writing more interesting and effective. Hyperbole is an extreme exaggeration.

Read this passage:

He grinned ear to ear. "Absolutely. Our ratings will go sky high."

Which words form hyperbole? _____ and _____

Why would these be considered hyperbole? _____

Imagery

Imagery consists of words and phrases that appeal to readers' senses. Writers use sensory details to help readers imagine how things look, feel, smell, sound, and taste. In this chapter, Spinelli uses imagery to allow the reader to "see" Stargirl. Read the following excerpt from page eight, and notice the imagery.

I had to admit, the more I saw of her, the easier it was to believe she was a plant, a joke, anything but real. On that second day, she wore bright-red baggy shorts with a bib and shoulder strap — overall shorts. Her sandy hair was pulled back into twin plaited pigtails, each tied with a bright-red ribbon. A rouge smudge applied each cheek and she had even dabbed some oversized freckles on her face. She looked like Heidi. Or Bo Peep.

Underline the imagery in the above passage. Draw a circle around the simile.

What picture is in your head as you read this? Draw a picture on the back of this page of the image in your head.

Find another example of imagery in this chapter. Page # _____ Does this example contain a simile? _____

For Discussion

On page eleven, the narrator says that the word HUH? seems to hover above the school. What is the purpose of this question? _____

Stargirl

Chapters Three and Four – Figurative Language

Name _____

Date _____

Figurative Language- Writers use figurative language to make their writing more interesting and effective. By using a simile, metaphor, idiom, or personification, the writer is able to paint a picture in the mind of the reader. Chapters three and four of the novel contains several examples of figurative language.

Idiom- an expression that means something totally different than what it says

Page 14 – *The rat she brought to school was only the tip of the iceberg.*

What does the underlined idiom mean?

Simile – compares two things using the words *like* or *as*

Pages 13-14 – *We both thought the prickly pear cactus looked like ping-pong paddles with whiskers, and that saguaros looked like dinosaur mittens.*

What things are being compared with these similes?

_____ and _____

_____ and _____

Why are these similes effective?

Metaphor - compares two things by calling one thing another

Page 15 – *She was the faintest scent of a cactus flower, the flitting shadow of an elf owl.*

Underline the metaphors.

What is being compared with these metaphors?

Personification - nonhumans are given human traits or attributes

Page 18- *The sun lay down behind the mountains.*

What is being personified in this sentence? _____

Oxymoron - putting two contradictory words together **Examples:** hot ice, wise fool

Read the following passage.

What could I say? That Parr was a worthy subject precisely because he did nothing, because he was so monumentally good at doing nothing? I had only vague insight, not the words. I just shrugged.

Underline the words in the passage that form an oxymoron.

Write a sentence about one of the characters from the novel using an oxymoron.

Complete the following chart to examine other examples of figurative language in these chapters.

Page #	Passage	Type of figurative language	What it means
15	In our minds we tried to pin her to a corkboard like a butterfly, but the pin merely went through and away she flew.		
16			He watches her but does not interact with her.
17		personification	
18		personification	
19	... I did not realize this until years later; he was grand marshal of our daily parade.		

Stargirl
Chapter Five – Strong Verbs

Name _____

Date _____

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 drop and another verb with a similar meaning like plummet. Now, compare these two sentences: (1) I watched the stick drop into the river. (2) I watched the stick plummet into the river. In the first sentence, you learn that the stick dropped, but in the second sentence you also learn *how* the stick dropped. The word plummet means “to drop sharply and abruptly”. So, when I say plummet, I get all the meaning of the verb drop, plus the additional meaning that explains *how* the stick dropped as well. That is what makes it stronger! Strong verbs SHOW, not just TELL!

Read the following passage. Circle each strong verb, and then use the chart to record other strong verbs you find in chapter five.

But Kevin was screaming on the phone. I jumped in the family pickup and raced to the stadium.

I bolted from the truck. Kevin was at the gate, windmilling his arm: “Hurry!” I threw the two dollar admission at the ticket window and we raced for the field. “See better up here,” he said, yanking me into the stands.

Strong Verb Used	Page number	Explain why this is an effective verb choice

Stargirl

Chapter Six – Dashes and Predictions

Name _____

Date _____

Dash - a mark of separation; can add "flavor" to your writing.

Some uses of a dash:

- to indicate an abrupt stop or a change in thought or tone
- to insert an extra thought
- to add emphasis or a pause
- to replace a colon or parentheses

Read the following sentences:

Stargirl began strumming and humming. She stood. She strolled between the tables, humming, strumming. Three hundred pairs of eyes followed her. She came to Hillari Kimble’s table — and kept on walking, right up to the table where Kevin and I sat with the Hot Seat crew. (page 28)

Why does Spinelli use this dash?

I was feeling nine ways at once, and they all ended up at the touch of her hand on my ear — until Kevin reached over and yanked the same earlobe. (page 29)

Why does Spinelli use this dash?

Find another place in the novel where Spinelli uses a dash. Record it here:

Why does Spinelli use this dash?

Making Predictions

1. Who do you think Archie is going to be?

2. What led you to this prediction?

3. What do you think will happen between Stargirl and the narrator?

Stargirl

Chapter Seven – Characterization

Name _____

Date _____

1. **DIRECT CHARACTERIZATION** - The writer makes direct statements about a character's personality and tells what the character is like.
2. **INDIRECT CHARACTERIZATION** - The writer reveals information about a character and his personality through that character's thoughts, words, and actions, along with how other characters respond to that character, including what they think and say about him.

Reread pages 30-35. Complete the following charts with as many personality traits as you can about Archie, and then decide if the author used direct characterization or if you concluded something about a character through indirect characterization.

<i>Archie's Traits</i>	<i>Evidence (Quote from the book)</i>	<i>Type of characterization</i>
Unique	Some people have stone cats on their roofs; on his roof Archie Brubaker had a skeleton of Monroe, his deceased Siamese.	Indirect

He stared at Kevin. "On the contrary, she is one of us. Most decidedly. She is us more than we are us. She is, I think, who we really are. Or were."

What do you think Archie means in the above passage as he discusses Stargirl with Kevin and Leo.

Underline the words in the sentence below that form an example of figurative language.

As the sun dipped below the mountains, it fired a final dart at Archie's flashing eyebrows.

The underlined words form a(n) _____.

- A. hyperbole
- B. idiom
- C. simile
- D. personification

Stargirl

Chapter Eight – Author's Writing Style & Colons

Name _____

Date _____

A style is a way of writing. It involves how something is said, not what is said. Many elements contribute to style, including word choice, questioning the reader, tone, and figurative language. Two elements that Jerry Spinelli uses are very evident in this chapter: questioning the reader and the use of figurative language.

Read the following passage that is written on page 36. Notice the question.

The change began around Thanksgiving. By December first, Stargirl Caraway had become the most popular person in school.

How did it happen?

Find one other place in chapter eight where the author uses a question. Write the page number and paragraph number. Page _____ Paragraph _____

Why is this question effective? _____

Figurative Language- Writers use figurative language to make their writing more interesting and effective. By using a simile, metaphor, idiom, or personification, the writer is able to paint a picture in the mind of the reader. Chapter eight of the novel contains several examples of figurative language.

Simile – compares two things using the words *like* or *as*

Page 37 – *Its tiny unblinking eyes were bulging, black as cloves.*

What two things are being compared with this simile? _____ and _____

Why is this simile effective? _____

Colons (:) – This is a list of when to correctly use colons:

- to signal the reader that a series of words, phrases, or clauses follows a complete sentence
- to signal the reader that a name or description follows a complete sentence when you want to put a lot of emphasis on that item
- to introduce a long quotation after a complete sentence
- to separate titles and subtitles
- to express time
- to cite a law or Biblical passage
- to end a salutation (in a business letter)
- to separate the place of publication and the publisher in a bibliographic entry

Where should a colon be placed in this sentence?

The grandstand was packed students, parents, and alumni.

Which rule in the list does this sentence use? _____

Stargirl

Chapter Nine – Writing Opportunity

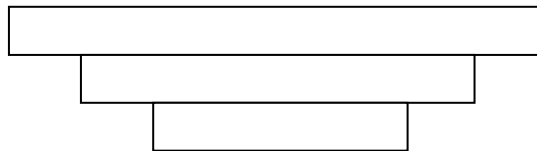
Name_____

Date_____

In this chapter, the narrator mentions a headline that will **not** show up in the *Mica Times*, so you will write the article for the mentioned headline. Use the details given in the book to write your news report.

Read the following information on writing a news report before you start.

- A news report is based on facts. Do not include your opinions.
- The first paragraph contains the most important information: Who? What? When? Where? Why? And How?
- It is arranged in an “inverted pyramid” style:



This means that facts are arranged from most important to least important. It allows you to see a lot of information quickly in the first couple of paragraphs. The least important facts are nearer the end.

Answer these questions in the lead of your news report:

1. Who is it about?
2. What happened?
3. When did it happen?
4. Where did it happen?
5. Why did it happen?
6. How did it happen?

Write only what would appear in the *Mica Times*. (facts only, no opinions)

HeadLine:

MAHS Students Astir: Individuality Erupts

Stargirl
Newspaper Article Rubric

Name: _____

Date: _____

Criteria	Possible Points	Points Earned
article is about changes taking place at MAHS	10	
article gives facts and not opinions	15	
article tells: Who _____ What _____ When _____ Why _____ Where _____	50	
organized; article "makes sense"	15	
neat; well written with few (if any) spelling or grammatical errors	10	
Bonus: pictures, made to look like a "real" newspaper article, dateline/byline used correctly	10	
TOTAL	110	

Stargirl
Chapters Ten & Eleven – Discussion

Name _____

Date _____

Discussion Questions

1. Do you think that it is meaningful that Stargirl's appearance on the *Hot Seat* is planned for the day before Valentine's Day? _____ Why or why not?

2. Based on what you know so far about Stargirl, do you feel that she is altering the pledge of allegiance as a sign of disrespect? _____ Why or why not?

3. Why do you think that Mrs. Grisdale became so angry with Stargirl?

4. Who do you think bought Danny Pike his new bike? _____
5. How would you have felt if you were a student at MAHS and Stargirl started to cheer for you in the halls one day?

6. At this point in the novel, is Stargirl someone you would want as a friend? _____
Why or why not? _____

7. What trick did the other cheerleaders and the basketball players play on Stargirl?
_____ How do you
think this trick will affect her? _____
_____ Do you feel
that she will try to seek any type of revenge for this trick? _____ Why or why not?

8. The narrator tells us that Stargirl has no ego. Why is this so unusual?

9. What do you think will happen on the *Hot Seat* with Stargirl as the scheduled guest?

Stargirl

Test One: Chapters One – Eleven

Name _____

Date _____

- Who is the narrator of the novel?
 - Kevin
 - Leo
 - Stargirl
 - An unseen narrator
- Read the following sentence. *She wore no makeup, and her eyes were the biggest I had ever seen, like deer's eyes caught in headlights.*
What type of figurative language is employed in the sentence?
 - metaphor
 - personification
 - simile
 - idiom
- Which of the following sentences contains a strong verb that shows rather than just tells?
 - Hillari gave a satisfied smirk and walked off.
 - In the food line, she smacked items onto her tray.
 - A kitchen staffer stuck her head out over the conveyer belt and called: "Trays!"
 - We stopped breathing.
- Which of the following would Archie most likely have in his house?
 - a ladybug
 - a neck bone
 - a chemical equation
 - a drill bit
- Stargirl has a pet _____ named _____.
 - cat, Clover
 - rat, Cinnamon
 - bird, Electron
 - snake, Saguaro
- What type of figurative language is found in the following sentence?
With my resistance now gone, I jumped in with both feet.
 - metaphor
 - personification
 - simile
 - idiom
- Who is Archie?
 - the principal at their school, MAHS
 - Kevin's father
 - a retired professor many of the local kids have befriended
 - Stargirl's grandfather and Leo's next door neighbor

8. Read the following passage.

Archie cocked his head, as if he had just caught the sound of a rare bird. The pipe stem anchored a wry grin. A sweet scent filled the air about our rocking chairs. He stared at Kevin.

The passage contains _____.

- a. personification, simile and imagery
 - b. simile, metaphor and imagery
 - c. idiom, imagery and personification
 - d. simile, personification and metaphor
9. There is a bulletin board in the school's courtyard. It is in the shape of ____.
- a. Mickey Mouse
 - b. a snake
 - c. a cactus
 - d. a roadrunner
10. Stargirl was home-schooled before coming to Mica High.
- a. true
 - b. false
 - c. this is not included in the novel
11. All of the following changes were seen around Mica High as a result of Stargirl's "rebellion" **except** _____.
- a. fights broke out among the girls
 - b. many students wrote "letters to the editor"
 - c. a shy girl painted her toenails Kelly green
 - d. over a hundred students tried out for the Spring Revue

Read the following passage and answer questions 13-15.

....I heard a shout down the hallway: "Don't!" I ran. A crowd was gathered at the top of the stairwell. They were all staring at something. I pushed my way through. Hillari Kimble was standing at the upper landing, grinning. She was holding Cinnamon, dangling by its tail over the railing, nothing but space between it and the first floor...

The scene froze...Don't Hillari!" Suddenly Hillari dropped it. Someone screamed... She sent Stargirl a final sneer and left.

12. Spinelli uses a colon in this passage to _____.
- a. express time passing
 - b. separate a title and a subtitle
 - c. introduce a long quotation after a complete sentence
 - d. place emphasis on dialogue
13. Based on the passage, which of the following words best describes Hillari?
- a. timid
 - b. sympathetic
 - c. hateful
 - d. brave
14. Spinelli used _____ characterization to allow the reader to make this conclusion about Hillari.
- a. indirect
 - b. direct
 - c. internal
 - d. external

Stargirl

Answer Key Test Chapters 1-11

Question #	Answer
1	b
2	c
3	b
4	b
5	b
6	d
7	c
8	a
9	d
10	a
11	a
12	d
13	c
14	a

Stargirl

Chapters Twelve & Thirteen– Discussion & Prediction

Name_____

Date_____

1. Draw an illustration of the scene described on page sixty after Leo calls, "Ready one. One!" Be sure to include as many of the details provided as possible.

2. List two examples of imagery used by Spinelli that helped you include details in your description.

3. Explain what happened while Stargirl was on *Hot Seat*.

4. What do you think of how the jurors treated Stargirl on *Hot Seat*? _____

5. Do you agree with Mr. Robineau flipping the master toggle? _____ Why or why not?

6. What do you think was going through Stargirl's mind as she was on *Hot Seat*? _____

7. What do you think Stargirl will do next? _____

Stargirl
Chapter Fourteen – Allusion

Name _____

Date _____

Allusion - a literary device that provides a brief reference to a person, event, place, or phrase. The writer assumes the reader will recognize the reference. Allusions in writing help the reader to visualize what's happening by providing a mental picture. They are commonly made to the Bible, nursery rhymes, myths, famous fictional or historical characters or events, and Shakespeare. They can be used in both prose and poetry.

Here are some examples:

A. *The insurance adjuster was as reliable as George Washington.*

The allusion in sentence A is to George Washington. The reader is expected to recognize the reference to George Washington and his honesty.

B. *She was a Scrooge and never spent money on gifts for her friends or family.*

This allusion is to Scrooge, a character in *A Christmas Carol* by Charles Dickens. He was a stingy man who did not like to spend any money.

Read the following passage:

...While Sun Valley's team was not as good as ours, they did have one thing we did not: a superstar. A kid named Ron Kovac. He stood six-foot-eight and averaged thirty points per game. Our players looked like Davids flailing against Goliath.

What is the allusion to in this passage? _____

The allusion is made to _____.

- a. the Bible
- b. a nursery rhyme
- c. Shakespeare
- d. a myth

This allusion also contains _____.

- a. a simile
- b. a metaphor
- c. personification
- d. an idiom

The allusions in the example sentences (both A and B) contain figurative language.

What type of figurative language is used in sentence A? _____

What type of figurative language is used in sentence B? _____

Write a sentence of your own that contains an allusion. _____

Stargirl
Chapters Fifteen & Sixteen – Author’s Craft

Name _____

Date _____

I turned. I felt heavy, as if I were moving through water, as if I were confronting much more than a tenth-grade girl with an unusual name. I face the gaudy sunflower on her canvas bag — it looked hand-painted — and at last my eyes fell into hers. I said, "Thanks for the card." Her smile put the sunflower to shame. She walked off. Kevin was grinning, wagging his head. "She's in love." "Bull," I said. "She is mucho in love." "She's goofy, that's all." The bell rang. We gathered our stuff and left. I wobbled through the rest of the day. A baseball bat could not have hit me harder than that smile did. I was sixteen years old. In that time, how many thousands of smiles had been aimed at me? So why did this one feel like the first?

Spinelli uses a great deal of figurative language, questions, strong, descriptive verbs, and imagery throughout the novel. In the passage above, each of these elements are very evident. Examine the passage by completing each of the following.

1. Underline each example of figurative language.
2. Circle the examples of imagery.
3. Place a box around each strong, descriptive verb.
4. What effect do the questions have? What do they make you think about?

After reading the passage and analyzing the author’s craft, what do you think now about Leo and his feelings for Stargirl?

How do you think Stargirl feels about Leo?

Stargirl

Chapter Seventeen – Figurative Language / Extended Metaphor

Name _____

Date _____

Read each sentence below. Then, identify the figurative language used in each one.

1. *I could feel a million reasons, but there were no words to express them.*
 - a. hyperbole
 - b. simile
 - c. idiom
 - d. metaphor
2. I tried to imagine I was ... dissolving away like *Alka-Seltzer*.
 - a. hyperbole
 - b. simile
 - c. idiom
 - d. metaphor

Extended Metaphor- a metaphor that is continued over multiple lines/sentences; often by multiple comparisons of unlike objects or ideas

On page eighty-five, there is an extended metaphor. Reread the following passage:

In school, I was a yellow balloon, smiling and lazy, floating above the classrooms. I felt a faint tug on my string. Far below, Kevin was calling, "You're in love, dude!" I merely smiled and rolled over and drifted dreamily out a window.

The metaphor begins with *I was a yellow balloon*. Then, the author extends this metaphor by weaving in the bolded words that go a balloon. If it were written like a poem, here is how it would look:

*I was a yellow balloon,
Lazy and floating.
Then, a faint tug on my string from
Far below.
I rolled over and drifted
dreamily out a window.*

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 baseball game.**

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

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

Life is a baseball game

Sample Extended Metaphor Poem

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

Life is a baseball game

Crowd
Peanuts
Popcorn
Strike outs
Homeruns
Dust
Slide
You're out
Scoreboard

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

Life

Life is a baseball game.
It has its share of dust and crowds
but also has peanuts and popcorn!
If you will just keep your eye on what's important
and keep swinging,
those strike outs won't keep you down
And the homeruns
are all that really count
on the scoreboard of life.

Stargirl

Chapters Eighteen & Nineteen – Conflict

Name _____

Date _____

Conflict – 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.

Character	Conflict	Passage from the book that proves or supports that conflict	Type of conflict (internal or external)
Stargirl			
Leo			
Students at Mica High School			
Hillary Kimble			

Discussion

1. Do you think that the “silent treatment” is affecting Stargirl? _____ Why or why not?

2. Read the passage: *A small pipe cloud left the corner of his mouth. He smiled sadly. “Poor dolphin. Caught in a net.”* To whom is Archie referring? _____ Why is this an appropriate comparison? _____

3. Whose affection will Leo value more? _____ Why do you feel this way?

Stargirl

Chapters Twenty and Twenty-one – Writing Opportunity

Name _____

Date _____

Stargirl makes up headlines she would include if she were the editor of the Mica Times and she explains a filler article found in newspapers.

First, review the headlines Stargirl says she would write.

**Ants Haul Monster Load
Across Vast, Barren Walk**

**Mystery Smile: Old Man
Nods Off At Tudor Village**

Door Begg: Knock Me!

Now, you will come up with a headline (“Stargirl style”) first. Think of something unusual that you have seen before that perhaps went unnoticed by others. (a baby’s toothless smile, a butterfly resting on a bright green leaf, a duck floating on the bright lake water....) Write your headline here:

Next, you will write a filler article. Remember the guidelines that Stargirl provided: no headline; not more that one column wide, never more than an inch or two deep; most often found at the bottoms of inside pages; often not “news”, not “important”; topics are anything – how many pounds of rice a typical Chinese person eats in a lifetime, a missing cat, a collection of antique marbles – Think of some unusual topic that you could write a filler about – use the guidelines above and write your article here.

Stargirl

Chapters Twenty-one & Twenty-two – Understanding Stargirl & Meeting Her Family

Name _____

Date _____

In this chapter we learn a great deal about Stargirl and her habits. She learns about people using some unusual methods.

What are some of the unique ways she learns about the people around her?

Describe the game she plays while “people watching”. _____

What does Stargirl do with her change that is special? _____

How does Stargirl’s room surprise Leo? _____

Describe Stargirl’s mom. _____

Describe her father. _____

How does Stargirl help the birds with their nests? _____

How does Stargirl feel about Archie? _____

Explain the wagon Leo sees on Stargirl’s shelf. _____

Who is Peter Sinkowitz? _____

What is Stargirl doing for him?

What does she plan to do with this?

Prediction

Based on what happens between Leo and Stargirl at the end of chapter twenty-two, what do you think will happen next in their relationship? _____

Will their relationship move forward? _____ Why or why not? _____

Stargirl

Test Two: Chapters Twelve – Twenty-two

Name _____

Date _____

1. What was thrown at Stargirl while she cheered at a basketball game?
 - a. a tomato
 - b. a banana
 - c. rotten potatoes
 - d. rose petals

2. What type of figurative language is used in the following sentence?

They pumped their arms and shouted and did everything that cheerleaders are supposed to do, but their gestures were empty, their hearts were not in to it.

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

Cacti should be placed under adequate sunlight and sowed in pots having good drainage. It is helpful to have gravel around the top of the pot. The soil used to plant a cactus needs to be a mixture of sand, peat, and perlite.

3. If an article included the information above, it would be most likely found under which of the following headings?
 - a. Growing Regions of Cacti
 - b. Cactus Appearance
 - c. How to Care for a Cactus
 - d. Types of Cacti

4. The novel is set in the state of _____.
 - a. South Carolina
 - b. Florida
 - c. Nevada
 - d. Arizona

5. Who gave Leo the porcupine tie at the start of the novel?
 - a. Kevin
 - b. Archie
 - c. Stargirl
 - d. Hillari

6. Which of the following characters dislikes Stargirl?
 - a. Leo
 - b. Kevin
 - c. Archie
 - d. Hillari

7. Which of the following words best describes Archie?
 - a. lazy
 - b. hostile
 - c. wise
 - d. stubborn

Like so many of Archie's words, they seemed not to enter through my ears but to settle there on my skin, there to burrow like tiny eggs awaiting the rain of my maturity, when they would hatch and I at last would understand.

8. What is being compared in the sentence?
- Leo's thoughts and a burrowing egg
 - Archie's words and a burrowing egg
 - Maturity and rain
 - Ears and skin
9. The sentence uses which type of figurative language?
- hyperbole
 - idiom
 - simile
 - metaphor

Look at the dictionary entry below.

raucous \ˈrō-kəs\ *adj.* Latin

1 : disagreeably harsh or strident : 2 : boisterously disorderly < **synonyms** see **LOUD**

— **rau·cous·ly** *adverb*

— **rau·cous·ness** *noun*

10. Which meaning best fits the way raucous is used in this sentence?
*Except for Stargirl jabbering in my ear, the usual **raucous** chatter was absent.*
- meaning one
 - meaning two
 - neither of these
11. From what language does the word originate?
- \ˈrō-kəs\
b. Latin
 - loud
d. Greek

... I looked at Archie. "Why can't she be..."

He finished for me: "...like everybody else?"

...My thoughts and feelings were a wild, conflicting jumble.

12. This passage reflects Leo's _____ conflict.
- internal
 - external
 - both a and b
 - neither a nor b
13. What is Leo's conflict at this point in the novel?
- He wants Stargirl to stop cheering for the school.
 - He wants Kevin to like Stargirl more.
 - He wants Stargirl to blend in with the other students.
 - He wants Stargirl to leave him alone.
14. Which of the following **best** describes Leo's attitude toward Stargirl?
- critical and hateful
 - obedient and submissive
 - admiring yet uncertain
 - disrespectful yet understanding
15. Before changing her name to Stargirl, her name was _____.
- Pocket Mouse
 - Mudpie
 - Hullygully
 - all of the above

Stargirl
Answer Key Test Chapters 12-22

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

Stargirl

Chapters Twenty-three & Twenty-four – Internal Conflict

Name _____

Date _____

An **internal conflict** takes place within a character's mind. It is a conflict that a character has within him/herself.

- man vs. himself (character vs. him/herself)

Leo has had several conflicts so far throughout the novel. Use the chart below to summarize and make predictions about his conflicts.

Page #	Summary of Conflict	Prediction of how you think the conflict will be resolved
126-127	Leo is describing the shunning that he and Stargirl are being subjected to.	
128	Leo is angry and resentful over his feelings about Stargirl and his doubts about himself for wanting the other students to be a part of his life.	
129		
132		

Discussion

Explain how Leo is being treated by his peers at his school. _____

_____ How would you feel if you were being treated in a similar manner? _____

Stargirl
Chapter Twenty-five – Symbolism

Name _____

Date _____

A symbol is something that stands for or represents something else, like a dove represents peace. 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.

Leo mentions Stargirl's eyes in this chapter as he has done in previous chapters. Read what he has said about her eyes, and discuss the possible symbolism in each.

Page 124: *Maybe it was the angle, but her fawn's eyes, looking up at me, seemed larger than ever. I had to make an effort to keep my balance lest I fall into them.*

What do her eyes most likely symbolize in these sentences? _____

Page 128: *But then I would see her smile and take a swan dive into her eyes, and the bad moment would be gone.*

What do her eyes most likely symbolize in this sentence? _____

Page 130: *She ran up to me, breathless, bursting, her eyes sparkling in the sun. "Did you see it?"*

What do her eyes most likely symbolize in this sentence? _____

Discussion

Two days later Stargirl vanished. Why do you think Stargirl "vanished"? _____

Where do you think she went? _____

What do you think she should have done in this situation? _____

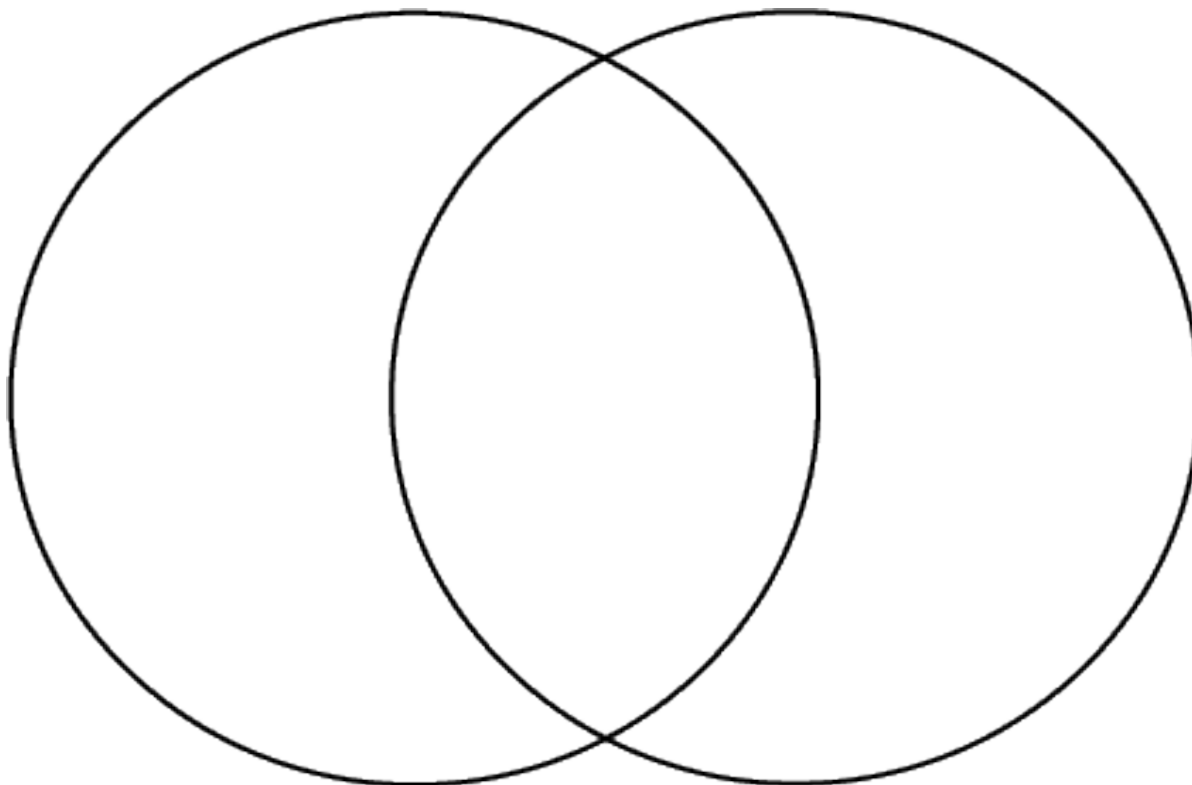
Stargirl

Chapters Twenty-six – Compare/Contrast & Tone

Name _____

Date _____

Use the Venn diagram to compare and contrast Stargirl and her life with Susan. Be sure to label it.



There is huge change in this chapter for Stargirl/Susan. Explain this change. Be sure to give your opinion on it. _____

Tone - the writer's or speaker's attitude toward a subject, character, or audience conveyed through the choice of words and details

I heard laughter behind me. And then a voice, Stargirl's . . .

I turned, but it wasn't here. The girl standing, grinning in front of me wore jeans and sandals, had burnt-red nails and lipstick, painted eyes, finger rings, toe rings, hoop earrings I could've put my hand through, hair...

... Tentatively I whispered, "Stargirl?"

She batted her chocolaty eyelashes. "Stargirl? What kind of name is that? My name is Susan."

Which word best describes the tone used as Leo discovers "Susan"?

- a. sorrowful b. loving c. amazement d. angry**

Who is Evelyn Everybody? _____

Stargirl
Chapter Twenty-seven – Mottos

Name _____

Date _____

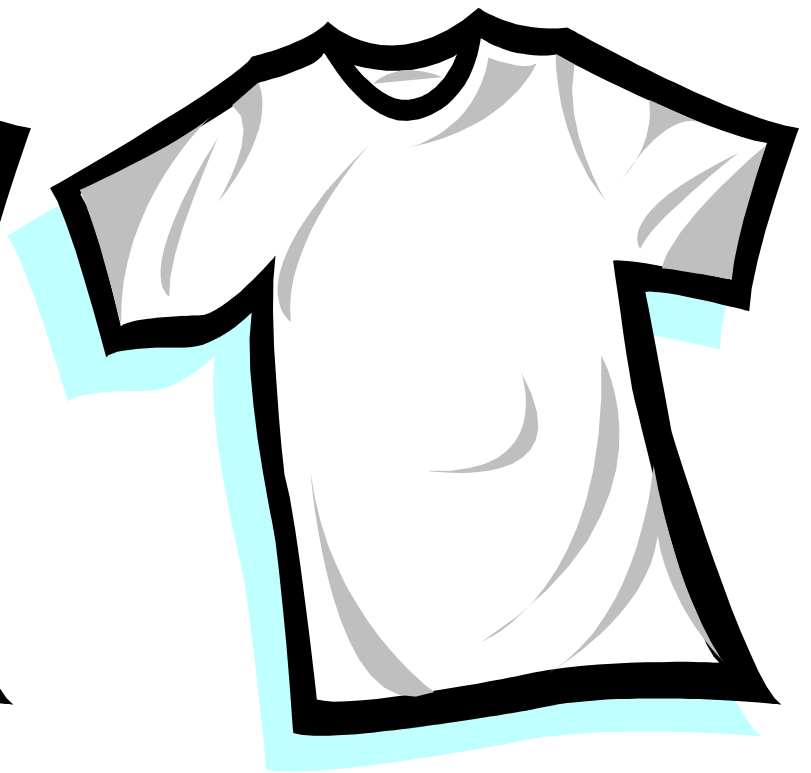
A motto is a word or saying that describes a principle or moral that someone lives by. Some examples are:

- The apple doesn't fall far from the tree.
- Never judge someone until you have walked a mile in his/her flip flops!

Create a T-shirt for the mottos the characters reveal for themselves in this chapter. In the center of each shirt, write the motto then illustrate it.



Susan



Leo

Stargirl

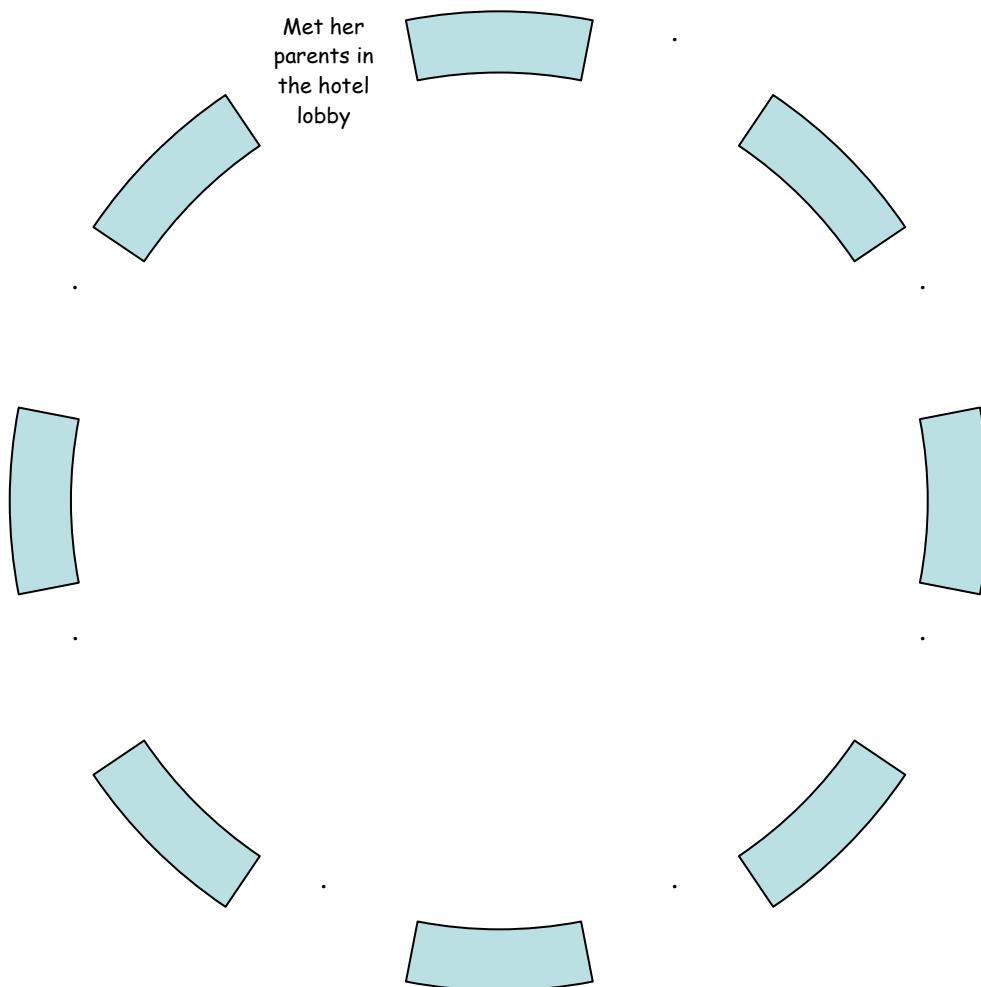
Chapters Twenty-eight & Twenty-nine – Sequence

Name _____

Date _____

Sequence of Events

Use the following graphic organizer to sequence the events of the state oratorical contest.



Surprises!

This chapter has several surprises for both the characters and us! Explain the surprise element of each of the following:

- Susan's speeches at the oratorical contest: _____

- The crowd at the school after the contest: _____

Stargirl

Chapters Thirty & Thirty-one – Discussion / Comic Strip

Name _____

Date _____

Explain your interpretation of Susan's transformation back into Stargirl. Include any symbolism that you think is there. Be sure to include the falling of the silver plate. (pages 161-162)

Should Stargirl have hit Hillari back at the dance? Complete the following charts listing reasons she should have and reasons she should not have.

Reasons she should	Reasons she should not
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

Read the following passage (page 162).

Walking with her after school that day, I said, "I guess you're giving up, huh?"

She looked at me. "Giving up? On what?"

"On being popular. On being..." How could I say it?

She smiled. "Normal?"

I shrugged.

"Yes," she said firmly.

"Yes?"

"I'm answering your question. The answer is yes. I'm giving up on trying to be popular and normal." Her face and body language did not seem to match her words. She looked cheery, perky.

What do you think Leo means by "popular" and "normal"?

Are his definitions of those terms different than those of Stargirl? _____ Why do you feel this way? _____

How does she seem to feel about being Stargirl again? _____

Go back and reread the passage that describes the Ocotillo Ball (pages 167-175). Then, **create a comic strip** illustrating the events. When you are finished with the comic strip, try to interpret the events. What could they all mean?

Use the boxes below to illustrate your comic strip. Pay attention to Spinelli's imagery as you draw each scene. You may use captions or dialogue. You may add boxes (on the back of this page) or delete boxes as needed.

Stargirl
Comic Strip Rubric

Name: _____

Date: _____

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

Stargirl
Chapter Thirty-two – Discussion

Name _____

Date _____

1. As this chapter begins, we learn that fifteen years has passed since Stargirl left. What does it say about Leo that he can remember all of the events with her so clearly?

2. What do you think this tells us, the reader, about his feelings for her?

3. Archie has this to say about Stargirl: *"...Though I think she had simpler things in mind. Star people are rare. You'll be lucky to meet another...They supplied the ingredients that became us, the primordial elements. We are star stuff, yes? ... And I think every once and a while, someone comes along who is a little more primitive than the rest of us, a little closer to our beginnings, a little more in touch with the stuff we're made of."*

What do you think of the way Archie describes Stargirl? Do you think he is right?

_____ What made her "rare"?

4. *"She liked you boy."*

"Yes," I said.

"She did it for you, you know?"

"What?"

"Gave up her self, for a while there. She loved you that much. What an incredibly lucky kid you were."

"I know."

He shook his head with a wistful sadness. "No, you don't. You can't yet. Maybe someday..."

What did Archie mean when said that she "gave up her self"?

Do you agree with Archie that Leo was lucky? _____ Why or why not?

Stargirl

Chapter Thirty-three & *More Than Stars*

Name _____

Date _____

Elaborate on a Description

Choose one of the following descriptions about Stargirl from chapter thirty-three to write about. On a separate sheet of paper, explain how the description that you choose is relevant to Stargirl. You may write your response as prose or as poetry.

- She's better than bones.
- When Stargirl cries, she does not shed tears, but light.
- She is the rabbit in the hat.
- She is the universal solvent.
- Stargirl is the recycler of our garbage.

Discussion

1. Archie buries Barney inside of a rock. Do you think this is symbolic of anything?

_____ What? _____

2. Why do you think the author had Archie bury Barney with a piece of paper?

3. What do you think is written on the paper?

4. What impacts has Stargirl had on Leo's life?

Predict

Jerry Spinelli uses "cliffhanger" endings in many of his chapters. At the end of the novel, a little suspense has been created. Reread the last lines.

Last month, one day before my birthday, I received a gift-wrapped package in the mail. It was a porcupine necktie.

The reader is left thinking that Stargirl has kept track of Leo. Predict what will happen after he receives this special gift.

Stargirl
Character Analysis

Character	Traits	Round/flat	Static/dynamic
Stargirl			
Leo			
Hillari Kimble			
Archie			
Kevin			
Wayne Parr			

Stargirl Theme

Theme: the story's 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 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.

Step 4: Find passages and/or quotes from the novel that support your theme statement.

Stargirl
Writing Opportunity

Cinquain: a poem containing five lines

Write a cinquain poem using a character or object found in the novel as the basis of your poem. The cinquain format and topic suggestions are listed.

Cinquain Poem Format

Line 1: a noun

Line 2: two adjectives to describe the noun in line one

Line 3: three -ing verbs

Line 4: a phrase describing the noun in line one

Line 5: a synonym for the noun in line one

Possible Topics:

Stargirl

Susan

Leo

Hillari Kimble

Archie

Cinnamon

Hot Seat

Dori Dilson

Stargirl
"I Am" Poem

Directions: Follow the pattern of the "I Am" poem to write a poem about one of the characters from *Stargirl*.

I Am

I am (choose a character from the novel...Stargirl, Leo, Hillari, Archie, etc.)
I wonder (something you would be curious about if you were that person or thing)
I hear (a sound (real or imaginary) you would hear if you were that person or thing)
I see (a sight (real or imaginary) you would see if you were that person or thing)
I want (an actual desire that you would want if you were that person or thing)
I am (the first line of the poem restated)

I pretend (something you would actually pretend to do)
I feel (a feeling you would have about something imaginary)
I touch (if you were this person, what is something you imaginarily touch)
I worry (something that would really bother you)
I cry (something that would make you very sad)
I am (the first line of the poem repeated)

I understand (something you would know is true)
I say (something you would believe in)
I dream (something you would actually dream about)
I try (something you would really make an effort about)
I hope (something you would actually hope for)
I am (the first line of the poem repeated)

Stargirl
The ABCs of Stargirl

Name(s): _____

Directions: Think of words that are important to *Stargirl*. Then, place the word in the appropriate box. Make sure you are able to explain why each word relates to the novel.

A	B	C	D
E	F	G	H
I	J	K	L
M	N	O	P
Q	R	S	T
U	V	WX	YZ

Stargirl
Book Review

Name: _____ Date: _____

My overall opinion of the book was:

- This was an excellent book.
- This book was pretty interesting.
- This was just an OK book.
- This book was not great.

Explain your opinion. Why do you feel this way about the book? Make sure you use specific details to support your opinion.

I think _____ would enjoy this book because _____

Stargirl

Final Test

Name _____

Date _____

1. In which of the following genres would *Stargirl* belong?
- a. fairy tale
 - b. drama
 - c. historical Fiction
 - d. realistic Fiction

"...When they hear about it, they're going to go bananas. And when they get a gander at me and that trophy —" She rolled her eyes and whistled. "I just hope they don't get out of hand." The police will keep them in line," I said. "Maybe they'll call out the National Guard."

2. Which words form an idiom in the passage?
- a. when they hear about it
 - b. they're going to go bananas
 - c. they get a gander at me
 - d. maybe they'll call out the National Guard
3. Which of the following best describes the reason Spinelli most likely used the dash in the passage?
- a. to indicate an abrupt stop in thought
 - b. to insert an extra thought
 - c. to add a pause for emphasis
 - d. to replace a colon

"...He says he believes that mockingbirds may do more than imitate other birds. I mean other living birds. He thinks they may also imitate the sounds of birds that are no longer around. He thinks the sounds of extinct birds are passed down from mockingbird to mockingbird."

4. Which of the following might the mockingbird in the passage symbolize?
- a. Leo because he feels uncomfortable speaking up for Stargirl
 - b. Cinnamon and the other animals
 - c. Stargirl because she is pretending to be a typical girl, like all of the others
 - d. Dori because she plays the ukulele like Stargirl

He looked off to the west. The sun was melting butter over the Maricopas.

5. What figurative language is used in the sentence?
- a. hyperbole
 - b. idiom
 - c. metaphor
 - d. simile
6. How many people were waiting on Susan when she arrived back from the contest in Phoenix?
- a. hundreds of people
 - b. around fifty people
 - c. between ten and twenty people
 - d. less than ten people
7. All of the following are things Stargirl did EXCEPT
- a. gave Leo a tie
 - b. slapped Hillari
 - c. left her hair around for birds to build nests
 - d. created her own office space

8. Which word BEST describes Hillari Kimble's attitude toward Stargirl in the novel?
- a. caring
 - b. resentful
 - c. tolerant
 - d. nonchalant
9. Which of the following is the best overall tone of this novel?
- a. eloquent and encouraging
 - b. profound and serious
 - c. thought provoking and touching
 - d. sarcastic and stern
10. Which of the following is the BEST theme for this novel?
- a. Prejudice is based on ignorance.
 - b. Speed is the key to life.
 - c. People would be much better off if it weren't for judgments.
 - d. Everyone needs a place to call home.
11. The character of Stargirl would best be described as _____.
- a. dynamic, flat
 - b. static, flat
 - c. static, round
 - d. dynamic, round
12. Which of the following words best describe Leo?
- a. soft spoken and gentle
 - b. timid and a follower
 - c. stubborn and fierce tempered
 - d. outgoing and bubbly
13. In the novel, the use of the first-person point of view allows the author to _____
- a. share the inner thoughts and feelings of one character.
 - b. concentrate on creating unusual characters.
 - c. create imagery throughout the book.
 - d. describe the story's setting in vivid details
14. In the end, we find out that Stargirl _____.
- a. became sick and had to move away
 - b. had files on many people
 - c. was using Leo to get to Kevin
 - d. is really Archie's granddaughter
15. Which statement best expresses Archie's attitude toward Stargirl?
- a. He admires her because she is more real than most people.
 - b. He feels that she should have changed to fit in with the others.
 - c. Instead of avoiding leaving, she should have stayed and been herself.
 - d. He admires her sense of style.

16. Which of the following best describes the relationship between Leo and Stargirl?
- Loving and private
 - turbulent and resentful
 - unsupportive and dangerous
 - one-sided and unsafe
17. Which of the following is most LIKELY the reason Stargirl "returns to normal"?
- Dori decided not to go with Stargirl to the oratorical contest.
 - She returns home after the oratorical contest and was shocked there was not a big crowd.
 - The sign Dori holds up at her return from the oratorical contest said "Nice job, Susan!"
 - She finds out Leo is not going to the Ocotillo Ball with her.
18. In the novel, the use of the first person point of view allows the author to –
- share only Leo's inner thoughts and feelings.
 - concentrate on creating unusual characters.
 - share what many of the characters are thinking and feeling.
 - describe the story's setting in vivid details.
19. Which of the following best describes Stargirl?
- kind and determined
 - playful and energetic
 - smart and fun-loving
 - all of the above
20. Which of the following describes an external conflict from the novel?
- Leo's shame of Stargirl's personality
 - Stargirl struggles to fit in as "Susan".
 - Hillari slaps Stargirl at the Ocotillo Ball.
 - none of these

Stargirl
Answer Key - Final Test

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

Stargirl Answer Keys

Porcupine Necktie & Chapter One – Point of View and Meet Stargirl

Let's examine the point of view in this novel. Complete the following questions.

Who is telling the story?

Is the point of view

- **First person (a character is telling the story)**
- **Third-person limited (an unseen narrator, not a character, is telling the story and this narrator reveals the thoughts and feelings of only one character)**
- **Third person omniscient (an unseen narrator- not a character- is telling the story and this narrator reveals the thoughts and feelings of several characters)**

Choose and write some words and phrases that helped you to figure out the point of view of this novel.

Examples: *When I was little...*

...when we moved from...

...Kevin said to me...

Meet Stargirl.

In this first chapter, we are introduced to Stargirl. Let's take a closer look at her. Complete the following chart to begin analyzing her.

Samples Provided

two facts that you have learned about her	Hair is the color of sand She carries a ukulele and a large canvas bag with a sunflower on it.
two descriptive words that seem right for Stargirl	Eccentric Brave Oblivious
one or two quotes from the story so far that help show this character's personality	<i>No one sat with her, but at the tables next to hers, kids were cramming two to a seat. She didn't seem to notice. (oblivious)</i>

Chapter Two – Hyperbole and Imagery

Which words form hyperbole? *He grinned ear to ear.* and *Our ratings will go sky high.*

Why would these be considered hyperbole? They are both a figure of speech (a form of irony) in which exaggeration is used for emphasis or effect; exaggerated statements.

Imagery

I had to admit, the more I saw of her, the easier it was to believe she was a plant, a joke, anything but real. On that second day, she wore bright-red baggy shorts with a bib and shoulder strap — overall shorts. Her sandy hair was pulled back into twin plaited pigtails, each tied with a bright-red ribbon. A rouge smudge appled each cheek and she had even dabbed some oversized freckles on her face. She looked like Heidi. Or Bo Peep.

For Discussion

On page eleven, the narrator says that the word HUH? seems to hover above the school. What is the purpose of this question? Accept reasonable responses.

Chapters Three and Four – Figurative Language

Idiom- an expression that means something totally different than what it says

Page 14 – *The rat she brought to school was only the tip of the iceberg.*

What does the underlined idiom mean? Stargirl bringing the rat to school was just the beginning of her troubles. There are numerous disasters waiting to happen.

Simile – compares two things using the words *like* or *as*

Pages 13-14 – *We both thought the prickly pear cactus looked like ping-pong paddles with whiskers, and that saguaros looked like dinosaur mittens.*

What things are being compared with these similes?

The prickly pear cactus and ping-pong paddles

Saguaros and dinosaur mittens

Why are these similes effective? Accept reasonable responses

Metaphor - compares two things by calling one thing another

Page 15 – *She was the faintest scent of a cactus flower, the flitting shadow of an elf owl.*

Underline the metaphors.

What is being compared with these metaphors? Stargirl to a faint scent of a cactus flower and the shadow of an elf owl

Personification - nonhumans are given human traits or attributes

Page 18- *The sun lay down behind the mountains.*

What is being personified in this sentence? The sun

Oxymoron - putting two contradictory words together **Examples:** hot ice, wise fool

Read the following passage.

What could I say? That Parr was a worthy subject precisely because he did nothing, because he was so monumentally good at doing nothing? I had only vague insight, not the words. I just shrugged.

Underline the words in the passage that form an oxymoron.

Write a sentence about one of the characters from the novel using an oxymoron. Accept reasonable responses.

Complete the following chart to examine other examples of figurative language in these chapters.

ARA = Accept reasonable responses.

Page #	Passage	Type of figurative language	What it means
15	In our minds we tried to pin her to a corkboard like a butterfly, but the pin merely went through and away she flew.	simile	They can't get Stargirl "figured out" and she is unique and can't be forced to conform.
16	I observed her as if she were a bird in an aviary.	metaphor	He watches her but does not interact with her.
17	Shadows crossed the streets.	personification	They are creating shadows as they move along the streets.
18	The sun lay down behind the mountains.	personification	The sun was setting.
19	... I did not realize this until years later; he was grand marshal of our daily parade.	metaphor	The others follow Wayne Parr – they dress like him, act like him, etc.

Chapter Five – Strong Verbs

Strong Verbs

Read the following passage. Circle each strong verb, and then use the chart to record other strong verbs you find in chapter five.

But Kevin was screaming on the phone. I jumped in the family pickup and raced to the stadium.

I bolted from the truck. Kevin was at the gate, windmilling his arm: "Hurry!" I threw the two dollar admission at the ticket window and we raced for the field. "See better up here," he said, yanking me into the stands.

Examples provided

ARA = Accept reasonable responses.

Strong Verb Used	Page number	Explain why this is an effective verb choice
Yanking	22	ARA
Roamed	22	ARA
Stared	23	ARA
Glancing	4	ARA

Chapter Six – Dashes and Predictions

Read the following sentences:

Stargirl began strumming and humming. She stood. She strolled between the tables, humming, strumming. Three hundred pairs of eyes followed her. She came to Hillari Kimble's table — and kept on walking, right up to the table where Kevin and I sat with the Hot Seat crew. (page 28)

Why does Spinelli use this dash? to add emphasis or a pause

I was feeling nine ways at once, and they all ended up at the touch of her hand on my ear — until Kevin reached over and yanked the same earlobe. (page 29)

Why does Spinelli use this dash? to indicate an abrupt stop or a change in thought or tone

Find another place in the novel where Spinelli uses a dash. Record it here: In class she was always...asking questions, though the question often had nothing to do with the subject. One day she asked a question about trolls – in US history class. (pgs 10-11)

Why does Spinelli use this dash? to insert an extra thought

Making Predictions

1. Who do you think Archie is going to be? Accept reasonable responses.
2. What led you to this prediction? Accept reasonable responses.
3. What do you think will happen between Stargirl and the narrator? Accept reasonable responses.

Chapter Seven – Characterization

Name_____

Date_____

1. **DIRECT CHARACTERIZATION** - The writer makes direct statements about a character's personality and tells what the character is like.
2. **INDIRECT CHARACTERIZATION** - The writer reveals information about a character and his personality through that character's thoughts, words, and actions, along with how other characters respond to that character, including what they think and say about him.

Reread pages 30-35. Complete the following charts with as many personality traits as you can about Archie, and then decide if the author used direct characterization or if you concluded something about a character through indirect characterization.

Samples Provided

<i>Archie's Traits</i>	<i>Evidence (Quote from the book)</i>	<i>Type of characterization</i>
unique	Some people have stone cats on their roofs; on his roof Archie Brubaker had a skeleton of Monroe, his deceased Siamese.	Indirect
hospitable	We found him...reading...The moment he saw us, he put his book down. "Students! Welcome!"	Indirect
profound	Archie talked that way sometimes – in riddles. We didn't always know what he was saying.	Indirect

He stared at Kevin. "On the contrary, she is one of us. Most decidedly. She is us more than we are us. She is, I think, who we really are. Or were."

What do you think Archie means in the above passage as he discusses Stargirl with Kevin and Leo.

Accept reasonable responses.

Underline the words in the sentence below that form an example of figurative language.

As the sun dipped below the mountains, it fired a final dart at Archie's flashing eyebrows.

The underlined words form a(n) _____.

C. hyperbole

C. simile

D. idiom

D. personification

Chapter Eight – Author's Writing Style & Colons

Read the following passage that is written on page 36. Notice the question.

The change began around Thanksgiving. By December first, Stargirl Caraway had become the most popular person in school.

How did it happen? Answers may vary – Stargirl has become more accepted – her peers even copy her behaviors.

Find one other place in chapter eight where the author uses a question. Write the page number and paragraph number. Page _____ Paragraph _____

Why is this question effective? Answers will vary.

Figurative Language- Writers use figurative language to make their writing more interesting and effective. By using a simile, metaphor, idiom, or personification, the writer is able to paint a picture in the mind of the reader. Chapter eight of the novel contains several examples of figurative language.

Simile – compares two things using the words *like* or *as*

Page 37 – *Its tiny unblinking eyes were bulging, black as cloves.*

What two things are being compared with this simile? Cinnamon's eyes and cloves

Why is this simile effective? It illustrates how large the rat's eyes grew and just how very black in color they were.

Colons (:) – This is a list of when to correctly use colons:
Where should a colon be placed in this sentence?

The grandstand was packed: students, parents, and alumni.

Which rule in the list does this sentence use? to signal the reader that a series of words, phrases, or clauses follows a complete sentence

Chapter Nine – Writing Opportunity

Use rubric to score article.

Chapters Ten & Eleven – Discussion

Discussion Questions

Answers will vary

Chapters Twelve & Thirteen– Discussion & Prediction

ARA= Accept Reasonable Responses

1. Draw an illustration of the scene described on page sixty after Leo calls, "Ready one. One!"
Be sure to include as many of the details provided as possible.

Illustrations will vary

2. List two examples of imagery used by Spinelli that helped you include details in your description.

Answers will vary based on individual illustrations – possible imagery may include

Her scream bent instrument dials like...

Tipping out of his chair, on his knees on the stage...

3. Explain what happened while Stargirl was on *Hot Seat*. ARA – Stargirl pantomimed her hiney being on fire, and Cinnamon escaped and frightened the cameramen and the jury.

5. What do you think of how the jurors treated Stargirl on *Hot Seat*? ARA

5. Do you agree with Mr. Robineau flipping the master toggle? _____ Why or why not? ARA

6. What do you think was going through Stargirl's mind as she was on *Hot Seat*? ARA

8. What do you think Stargirl will do next? ARA

Chapter Fourteen – Allusion

Read the following passage:

...While Sun Valley's team was not as good as ours, they did have one thing we did not: a superstar. A kid named Ron Kovac. He stood six-foot-eight and averaged thirty points per game. Our players looked like Davids flailing against Goliath.

What is the allusion to in this passage? the Bible passage about David and Goliath

The allusion is made to _____.

- a. the Bible
- b. a nursery rhyme
- c. Shakespeare
- d. a myth

This allusion also contains _____.

- a. a simile
- b. a metaphor
- c. personification
- d. an idiom

The allusions in the example sentences (both A and B) contain figurative language.

What type of figurative language is used in sentence A? simile

What type of figurative language is used in sentence B? metaphor

Write a sentence of your own that contains an allusion. ARA

Chapters Fifteen & Sixteen – Author's Craft

I turned. I felt heavy, as if I were moving through water, as if I were confronting much more than a tenth-grade girl with an unusual name. I face the gaudy sunflower on her canvas bag — it looked hand-painted — and at last my eyes fell into hers. I said, "Thanks for the card."

Her smile put the sunflower to shame. She walked off.

Kevin was grinning, wagging his head. "She's in love."

"Bull," I said.

"She is mucho in love."

"She's goofy, that's all."

The bell rang. We gathered our stuff and left.

I wobbled through the rest of the day. A baseball bat could not have hit me harder than that smile did. I was sixteen years old. In that time, how many thousands of smiles had been aimed at me? So why did this one feel like the first?

Spinelli uses a great deal of figurative language, questions, strong, descriptive verbs, and imagery throughout the novel. In the passage above, each of these elements are very evident. Examine the passage by completing each of the following.

1. Underline each example of figurative language.
2. Circle the examples of imagery.
3. Place a box around each strong, descriptive verb.
4. What effect do the questions have? What do they make you think about? ARA

After reading the passage and analyzing the author's craft, what do you think now about Leo and his feelings for Stargirl? ARA

How do you think Stargirl feels about Leo? ARA

Stargirl

Chapter Seventeen – Figurative Language / Extended Metaphor

Name _____

Date _____

Read each sentence below. Then, identify the figurative language used in each one.

1. *I could feel a million reasons, but there were no words to express them.*
 - a. hyperbole
 - b. simile
 - c. idiom
 - d. metaphor
2. I tried to imagine I was ... dissolving away like *Alka-Seltzer*.
 - a. hyperbole
 - b. simile
 - c. idiom
 - d. metaphor

Extended Metaphor- ARA

Chapters Eighteen & Nineteen – Conflict

Conflict – 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.

Character	Conflict	Passage from the book that proves or supports that conflict	Type of conflict (internal or external)
Stargirl	anger	<i>Her eyes blazed with a ferocity...She flung her defiance at our gloom.</i>	Internal
Leo	self-conscious and embarrassed	<i>...I grew increasingly paranoid. I was intensely aware that our aloneness had changed...It...was a chilling isolation.</i>	Internal
Students at Mica High School	angry with Stargirl for cheering for the other team at the basketball game	<i>After the basketball stuff, I guess. That really ticked a lot of people off.</i>	External and Internal
Hillari Kimble	meanness/hatred	<i>...Hillari dropped it...she sent Stargirl a final sneer and left.</i>	External and Internal

Discussion

1. Do you think that the “silent treatment” is affecting Stargirl? _____ Why or why not?

ARA

2. Read the passage: *A small pipe cloud left the corner of his mouth. He smiled sadly. “Poor dolphin. Caught in a net.”* To whom is Archie referring? Stargirl Why is this an appropriate comparison? ARA – but students may likely include that Stargirl is innocent and helpless like a dolphin.

3. Whose affection will Leo value more? _____ Why do you feel this way?

ARA

Chapters Twenty and Twenty-one – Writing Opportunity

Stargirl makes up headlines she would include if she were the editor of the Mica Times and she explains a filler article found in newspapers.

First, review the headlines Stargirl says she would write.

**Ants Haul Monster Load
Across Vast, Barren Walk**

**Mystery Smile: Old Man
Nods Off At Tudor Village**

Door Begs: Knock Me!

Now, you will come up with a headline (“Stargirl style”) first. Think of something unusual that you have seen before that perhaps went unnoticed by others. (a baby’s toothless smile, a butterfly resting on a bright green leaf, a duck floating on the bright lake water....) Write your headline here:

Accept reasonable headlines.

Next, you will write a filler article. Remember the guidelines that Stargirl provided: no headline; not more than one column wide, never more than an inch or two deep; most often found at the bottoms of inside pages; often not “news”, not “important”; topics are anything – how many pounds of rice a typical Chinese person eats in a lifetime, a missing cat, a collection of antique marbles – Think of some unusual topic that you could write a filler about – use the guidelines above and write your article here.

Accept reasonable articles –
students should follow the ones
written by Stargirl.

Chapters Twenty-one & Twenty-two – Understanding Stargirl & Meeting Her Family

In this chapter we learn a great deal about Stargirl and her habits. She learns about people using some unusual methods.

What are some of the unique ways she learns about the people around her? Reading the back pages of the newspaper – the fillers, listening to people talk in the place she gets her haircut, looking on bulletin boards around town, etc.

Describe the game she plays while “people watching”. She follows a person for exactly 15 minutes, and then she decides what type of card they need and what is going on in his/her life.

What does Stargirl do with her change that is special? She drops it all over town for people to find.

How does Stargirl’s room surprise Leo? It is “normal” looking.

Describe Stargirl’s mom. She looks like a “regular mom” – in shorts and a tank top. She sews costumes for a living.

Describe her father. _____

How does Stargirl help the birds with their nests? She saves her hair as it falls out and places it outside in the spring.

How does Stargirl feel about Archie? She has a lot of respect for him.

Explain the wagon Leo sees on Stargirl’s shelf. It is her happy wagon – she places a pebble in the wagon if something makes her happy and takes one out if something makes her sad.

Who is Peter Sinkowitz? Stargirl’s neighbor; He is five years old.

What is Stargirl doing for him? Stargirl is making a biography of his life.

What does she plan to do with this? She plans to give it to his parents when he’s older and can appreciate it.

Prediction

Based on what happens between Leo and Stargirl at the end of chapter twenty-two, what do you think will happen next in their relationship? ARA

Will their relationship move forward? _____ Why or why not? ARA

Chapters Twenty-three & Twenty-four – Internal Conflict

Page #	Summary of Conflict	Prediction of how you think the conflict will be resolved
126-127	Leo is describing the shunning that he and Stargirl are being subjected to.	ARA
128	Leo is angry and resentful over his feelings about Stargirl and his doubts about himself for wanting the other students to be a part of his life.	ARA
129	He is embarrassed that Stargirl publicly displayed her love for him.	ARA
132	He is upset that he is being ignored by his peers.	ARA

Discussion

Explain how Leo is being treated by his peers at his school. He is being ignored – shunned. How would you feel if you were being treated in a similar manner? ARA

Chapter Twenty-five – Symbolism

A symbol is something that stands for or represents something else, like a dove represents peace. 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.

Leo mentions Stargirl's eyes in this chapter as he has done in previous chapters. Read what he has said about her eyes, and discuss the possible symbolism in each.

Page 124: *Maybe it was the angle, but her fawn's eyes, looking up at me, seemed larger than ever. I had to make an effort to keep my balance lest I fall into them.*

What do her eyes most likely symbolize in these sentences? Possible response - innocence

Page 128: *But then I would see her smile and take a swan dive into her eyes, and the bad moment would be gone.*

What do her eyes most likely symbolize in this sentence? Possible response – a body of water

Page 130: *She ran up to me, breathless, bursting, her eyes sparkling in the sun. “Did you see it?”*

What do her eyes most likely symbolize in this sentence? Possible response - light

Discussion

Two days later Stargirl vanished. Why do you think Stargirl “vanished”? Possible answers may include *she is upset about Leo and his telling her no one likes her.*

Where do you think she went? Accept reasonable predictions.

What do you think she should have done in this situation? ARA

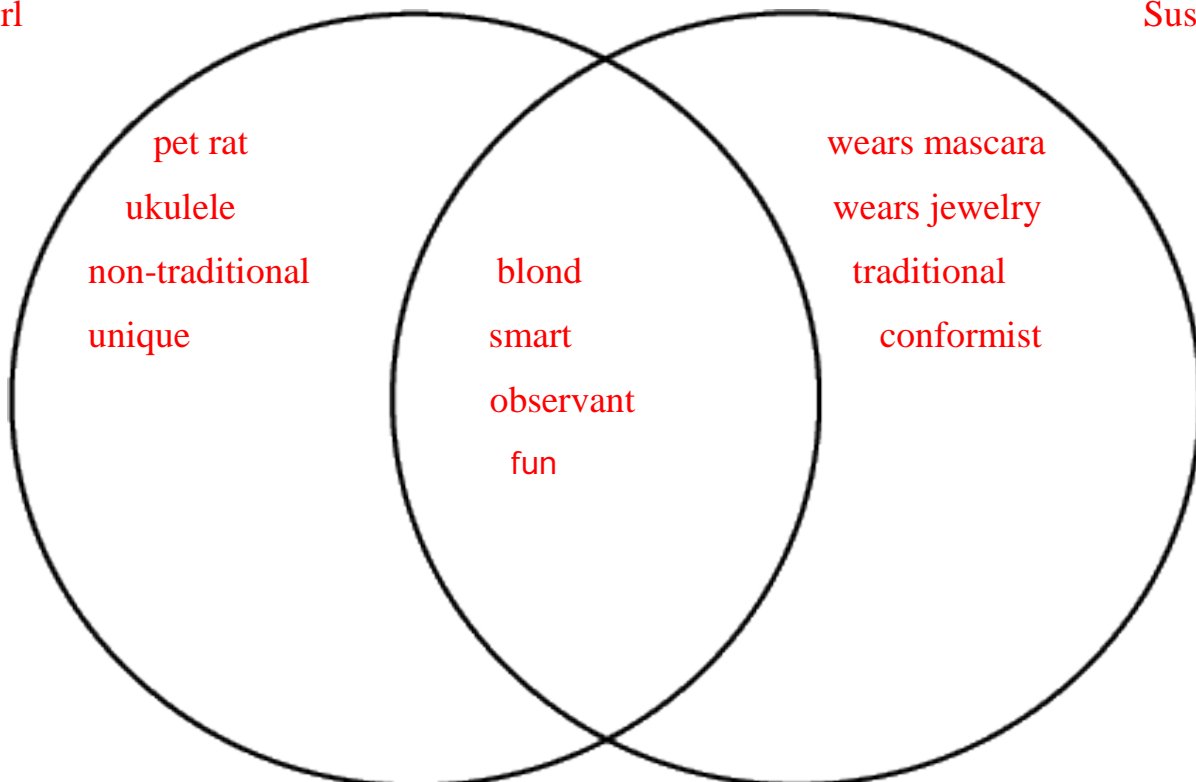
Chapters Twenty-six – Compare/Contrast & Tone

Use the Venn diagram to compare and contrast Stargirl and her life with Susan. Be sure to label it.

Samples provided

Stargirl

Susan



There is huge change in this chapter for Stargirl/Susan. Explain this change. Be sure to give your opinion on it. Students should include that Stargirl is now a girl like the others – no longer unique.

Tone - the writer's or speaker's attitude toward a subject, character, or audience conveyed through the choice of words and details

I heard laughter behind me. And then a voice, Stargirl's . . .

I turned, but it wasn't here. The girl standing, grinning in front of me wore jeans and sandals, had burnt-red nails and lipstick, painted eyes, finger rings, toe rings, hoop earrings I could've put my hand through, hair...

... Tentatively I whispered, "Stargirl?"

She batted her chocolaty eyelashes. "Stargirl? What kind of name is that? My name is Susan."

Which word best describes the tone used as Leo discovers "Susan"?

- a. sorrowful b. loving c. **amazement** d. angry

Who is Evelyn Everybody? _____

Chapter Twenty-seven – Mottos

ARA

Chapters Twenty-eight & Twenty-nine – Sequence

Sequence of Events

Use the following graphic organizer to sequence the events of the state oratorical contest.

Meet her parents in the library.

Ate a buffet lunch

Susan boarded a bus that would take her to where the contest would be held.

Susan made the cut of the top ten speeches.

She gave her speech – it was a new one.

She returns to the hotel.

She tells Leo she made the speech up on the spot.

She ate dinner at the hotel.

She gave her speech.

Audience cheered loudly.

She won.

Surprises!

This chapter has several surprises for both the characters and us! Explain the surprise element of each of the following:

- Susan's speeches at the oratorical contest: She made them up as she went along.
- The crowd at the school after the contest: There were only three people – two teachers and Dori.

Chapters Thirty & Thirty-one – Discussion / Comic Strip

Explain your interpretation of Susan's transformation back into Stargirl. Include any symbolism that you think is there. Be sure to include the falling of the silver plate. (pages 161-162)

ARA

Should Stargirl have hit Hillari back at the dance? Complete the following charts listing reasons she should have and reasons she should not have. ARA

Read the following passage (page 162).

Walking with her after school that day, I said, "I guess you're giving up, huh?"

She looked at me. "Giving up? On what?"

"On being popular. On being..." How could I say it?

She smiled. "Normal?"

I shrugged.

"Yes," she said firmly.

"Yes?"

"I'm answering your question. The answer is yes. I'm giving up on trying to be popular and normal." Her face and body language did not seem to match her words. She looked cheery, perky.

What do you think Leo means by "popular" and "normal"? He means that Susan is gone forever – that Stargirl is no longer like the other girls ; she is herself.

Are his definitions of those terms different than those of Stargirl? _____ Why do you feel this way? ARA

How does she seem to feel about being Stargirl again? ARA

Go back and reread the passage that describes the Ocotillo Ball (pages 167-175). Then, **create a comic strip** illustrating the events. When you are finished with the comic strip, try to interpret the events. What could they all mean?

Use the boxes below to illustrate your comic strip. Pay attention to Spinelli's imagery as you draw each scene. You may use captions or dialogue. You may add boxes (on the back of this page) or delete boxes as needed. **Use the rubric to score comic strips.**

Chapter Thirty-two – Discussion

1. As this chapter begins, we learn that fifteen years has passed since Stargirl left. What does it say about Leo that he can remember all of the events with her so clearly?

ARA – possibly that he was truly in love with her

2. What do you think this tells us, the reader, about his feelings for her? ARA

3. Archie has this to say about Stargirl: *"...Though I think she had simpler things in mind. Star people are rare. You'll be lucky to meet another...They supplied the ingredients that became us, the primordial elements. We are star stuff, yes? ... And I think every once and a while, someone comes along who is a little more primitive than the rest of us, a little closer to our beginnings, a little more in touch with the stuff we're made of."*

What do you think of the way Archie describes Stargirl? Do you think he is right? ARA What made her "rare"? ARA – her uniqueness

4. *"She liked you boy."*

"Yes," I said.

"She did it for you, you know?"

"What?"

"Gave up her self, for a while there. She loved you that much. What an incredibly lucky kid you were."

"I know."

He shook his head with a wistful sadness. "No, you don't. You can't yet. Maybe someday..."

What did Archie mean when said that she "gave up her self"? ARA – she changed herself

for Leo

Do you agree with Archie that Leo was lucky? _____ Why or why not? ARA

Chapter Thirty-three & *More Than Stars*

Elaborate on a Description

Choose one of the following descriptions about Stargirl from chapter thirty-three to write about. On a separate sheet of paper, explain how the description that you choose is relevant to Stargirl. You may write your response as prose or as poetry.

- She's better than bones.
- When Stargirl cries, she does not shed tears, but light.
- She is the rabbit in the hat.
- She is the universal solvent.
- Stargirl is the recycler of our garbage.

Discussion

ARA

Predict

ARA

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