
Loser By Jerry Spinelli

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By Jerry Spinelli

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FINAL THOUGHT

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Loser Harper Collins

From renowned Newbery-winning author Jerry Spinelli comes a powerful story about how not fitting in just might lead to an incredible life. This classic book is perfect for fans of Gordon Korman and Carl Hiaasen. Just like other kids, Zinkoff rides his bike, hopes for snow days, and wants to be like his dad when he grows up. But Zinkoff also raises his hand with all the wrong answers, trips over his own feet, and falls down with laughter over a word like "Jabip." Other kids have their own word to describe him, but Zinkoff is too busy to hear it. He doesn't know he's not like everyone else. And one winter night, Zinkoff's differences show that any name can someday become "hero." With some of his finest writing to date and great wit and humor, Jerry Spinelli creates a story about a boy's individuality surpassing the need to fit in and the genuine importance of failure. As readers follow Zinkoff from first through sixth grade, it becomes

impossible not to identify with and root for him through failures and triumphs. The perfect classroom read.

Loser - Literature Kit Gr. 5-6 *Classroom Complete Press*

In this State Standards-aligned Literature Kit™, we divide the novel by chapters or sections and feature reading comprehension and vocabulary questions. In every chapter, we include Before You Read and After You Read questions. The Before You Read activities prepare students for reading by setting a purpose for reading. They stimulate background knowledge and experience, and guide students to make connections between what they know and what they will learn. The After You Read activities check students' comprehension and extend their learning. Students are asked to give thoughtful consideration of the text through creative and evaluative short-answer questions and journal prompts. Also included are writing tasks, graphic organizers, comprehension quiz, test prep, word search, and crossword to further develop students' critical thinking and writing skills, and analysis of the text. About the Novel: *Loser* chronicles the childhood of Donald Zinkoff who is one of the most unusual, endearing characters ever to grace the pages of a novel for young readers. No matter what the game, Donald never wins. He trips over his own feet, constantly raises his hand without ever knowing the correct answer, and falls down laughing at the mention of any unusual word. The novel traces Donald's journey from first to sixth grade. It details his important friendships, marks his relationships with different teachers, and describes how he copes with various shortcomings that everyone but Donald and his parents

deem terribly important. "Loser" is an excellent novel which deals sensitively with the human spirit and the importance of failure. All of our content is aligned to your State Standards and are written to Bloom's Taxonomy.

Eggs *Little, Brown Books for Young Readers*

Nine-year-old David has recently lost his mother to a freak accident, his salesman father is constantly on the road, and he is letting his anger out on his grandmother. Sarcastic and bossy 13-year-old Primrose lives with her childlike, fortuneteller mother, and a framed picture is the only evidence of the father she never knew. Despite their differences, David and Primrose forge a tight yet tumultuous friendship, eventually helping each other deal with what is missing in their lives. This powerful, quirky novel about two very complicated, damaged children has much to say about friendship, loss, and recovery.

Maniac Magee by Jerry Spinelli

Jason and Marceline *Little, Brown Books for Young Readers*

Jason and Marceline have been friends since the end of seventh grade. Now in ninth grade, Jason's starting to think that they could be more than friends, and Marceline's starting to think so, too. But does the beginning of romance mean the end of their friendship?

Who Put That Hair in My Toothbrush? *Little, Brown Books for Young Readers*

Who Put That Hair in My Toothbrush? Sibling rivalry at its finest! Whether it's on the hockey ice, at school, or at home, Greg and Megyn just can't seem to get

along. She calls him Grosso, he calls her Megamouth. They battle with donuts, cockroaches, and hair. Will it take a tragedy for them to realize how much they actually care for each other?

Stargirl *Laurel Leaf*

ONE OF TIME MAGAZINE'S 100 BEST YA BOOKS OF ALL TIME • NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER A modern-day classic from Newbery Medalist Jerry Spinelli, this beloved celebration of individuality is now an original movie on Disney+! And don't miss the author's highly anticipated new novel, *Dead Wednesday!* *Stargirl*. From the day she arrives at quiet Mica High in a burst of color and sound, the hallways hum with the murmur of "Stargirl, Stargirl." She captures Leo Borlock's heart with just one smile. She sparks a school-spirit revolution with just one cheer. The students of Mica High are enchanted. At first. Then they turn on her. Stargirl is suddenly shunned for everything that makes her different, and Leo, panicked and desperate with love, urges her to become the very thing that can destroy her: normal. In this celebration of nonconformity, Newbery Medalist Jerry Spinelli weaves a tense, emotional tale about the perils of popularity and the thrill and inspiration of first love. Don't miss the sequel, *Love, Stargirl*, as well as *The Warden's Daughter*, a novel about another girl who can't help but stand out. "Spinelli is a poet of the prepubescent. . . . No writer guides his young characters, and his readers, past these pitfalls and challenges and toward their futures with more compassion." —The New York Times

Wringer *Harper Collins*

Newbery Honor Book * ALA Notable Children's Book "Deeply felt. Presents a

moral question with great care and sensitivity." —The New York Times "A spellbinding story about rites of passage." —Publishers Weekly (starred review) "A realistic story with the intensity of a fable." —The Horn Book (starred review) "Thought-provoking." —School Library Journal (starred review) In Palmer LaRue's hometown of Waymer, turning ten is the biggest event of a boy's life. But for Palmer, his tenth birthday is not something to look forward to, but something to dread. Then one day, a visitor appears on his windowsill, and Palmer knows that this, more than anything else, is a sign that his time is up. Somehow, he must learn how to stop being afraid and stand up for what he believes in. *Wringer* is a powerful tour de force from Newbery Medal winner Jerry Spinelli.

The Library Card *Scholastic Inc.*

The lives of four young people in very different circumstances are changed by their encounters with a mysterious library card that introduces them to the world of books and reading. Reprint.

Smiles to Go *Harper Collins*

What is stargazer, skateboarder, chess champ, pepperoni pizza eater, older brother, sister hater, best friend, first kisser, science geek, control freak Will Tuppence so afraid of in this great big universe? Jerry Spinelli knows.

Jangles: A Big Fish Story *Scholastic Inc.*

Breathtaking oil paintings bursting with energy pull readers along into Big Lake, the home of Jangles, the biggest fish anyone has seen. Fishing alone at dusk, a boy feels a tug on his line and comes face-to-face with the gigantic trout--whose enormous jaw is covered with so

many lures and fish hooks that he jingles and jangles when he swims. Terrified by the sight, the boy is shocked when Jangles befriends him and takes him on an adventure to the bottom of the lake. A surprise ending will leave readers laughing and shaking their heads. Here is Shannon at his very best in a wild and witty story that begs repeated reading.

Jake and Lily *Harper Collins*

Beloved Newbery Medalist Jerry Spinelli, author of *Maniac Magee* and *Wringer*, addresses issues of identity, belonging, family, and bullying in this humorous and heartfelt novel about twins. Jake and Lily are twins. Despite their slightly different interests and temperaments, they feel exactly the same—like two halves of one person. But the year they turn eleven, everything changes. Their parents announce it's time for separate bedrooms. Jake starts hanging out with a pack of boys on the block. And Lily is devastated, not to mention angry. Who is she without Jake? And as her brother falls under the influence of the neighborhood bully, he also must ask himself—who is the real Jake? This is an often funny, poignant, and profound story of growing up, growing apart, and the difficult process of figuring out who you really are.

Space Station Seventh Grade *Little, Brown Books for Young Readers*

Now a seventh grader, Jason finds out the hard way just how different things are where ninth graders are the kings.

Loser [by] Jerry Spinelli

A study guide to use along with Jerry Spinelli's book *Loser*.

Loser Learning Links

Use Novel-Ties® study guides as your

total guided reading program. Reproducible pages in chapter-by-chapter format provide you with the right questions to ask, the important issues to discuss, and the organizational aids that help students get the most out of each book they read.

Maniac Magee *Little, Brown Books for Young Readers*

A Newbery Medal winning modern classic about a racially divided small town and a boy who runs. Jeffrey Lionel "Maniac" Magee might have lived a normal life if a freak accident hadn't made him an orphan. After living with his unhappy and uptight aunt and uncle for eight years, he decides to run--and not just run away, but run. This is where the myth of Maniac Magee begins, as he changes the lives of a racially divided small town with his amazing and legendary feats.

Love, Stargirl *Knopf Books for Young Readers*

The New York Times bestselling sequel to Newbery Medalist Jerry Spinelli's modern-day classic *Stargirl*, now an original film on Disney+! And don't miss the author's highly anticipated new novel, *Dead Wednesday*! *Love, Stargirl* picks up a year after *Stargirl* ends and reveals the new life of the beloved character who moved away so suddenly at the end of *Stargirl*. The novel takes the form of "the world's longest letter," in diary form, going from date to date through a little more than a year's time. In her writing, *Stargirl* mixes memories of her bittersweet time in Mica, Arizona, with involvements with new people in her life. In *Love, Stargirl*, we hear the voice of *Stargirl* herself as she reflects on time, life, Leo, and - of course - love. "Spinelli is a poet of the prepubescent. .

. . No writer guides his young characters, and his readers, past these pitfalls and challenges and toward their futures with more compassion." —The New York Times

Dogs Don't Tell Jokes *A&C Black*

'Why did the guy eat two dead skunks for breakfast?' 'Because dead ones squeal when you stick the fork in.' Gary W. Boone knows he was born to be a stand-up comedian. It is the rest of the kids in the class who think he is a fool. Then the Floyd Hicks Junior High School Talent Show is announced, and he starts practising his routine non-stop to get it just right. Gary's sure that this will be his big break - he'll make everyone laugh and will win the \$100 prize money. But when an outrageous surprise threatens to turn his debut into a disaster, it looks as if the biggest joke of all may be on Gary himself.

Crash Ember

Take a look behind the bully in this modern classic from Newbery medalist Jerry Spinelli that packs a punch. And don't miss the highly anticipated new novel, *Dead Wednesday*. Cocky seventh-grade super-jock Crash Coogan got his nickname the day he used his first football helmet to knock his cousin Bridget flat on her backside. And he has been running over people ever since, especially Penn Webb, the dweeby, vegetarian Quaker kid who lives down the block. Through the eyes of Crash, readers get a rare glimpse into the life of a bully in this unforgettable and beloved story about stereotypes and the surprises life can bring. "Readers will devour this humorous glimpse of what jocks are made of." --School Library Journal, starred review

A Guide for Using *Loser* in the Classroom

Teacher Created Resources
Each book in this series is a guide for using a well-known piece of literature in the classroom. Included are sample plans, author information, vocabulary-building ideas, and cross-curricular activities. At the Intermediate and Challenging levels, sectional activities and quizzes, unit tests, and ideas for culminating and extending the novel are also included.

A Literature Kit for *Loser* by Jerry Spinelli

Classroom Complete Press
A Literature Kit. *Loser* chronicles the childhood of Donald Zinkoff who is one of the most unusual, endearing characters ever to grace the pages of a novel for young readers. No matter what the game, Donald never wins. He trips over his own feet, constantly raises his hand without ever knowing the correct answer, and falls down laughing at the mention of any unusual word. The novel traces Donald's journey from first to sixth grade. It details his important friendships, marks his relationships with different teachers, and describes how he copes with various shortcomings that everyone but Donald and his parents deem terribly important. *Loser* is an excellent novel which deals sensitively with the human spirit and the importance of failure.

My Daddy and Me

Knopf Books for Young Readers
This Father's Day show dad how much you care with this gift-book celebrating the moments you share! I can't wait for my daddy to come home from work. There are so many things to do! In a loving tribute to fathers and sons, Newbery Medalist Jerry Spinelli and New Yorker artist Seymour Chwast join

talents to celebrate the very best moment of the day: when daddy comes home.

Loser by Jerry Spinelli

Milkweed

Ember
A stunning novel of the Holocaust from Newbery Medalist, Jerry Spinelli. And don't miss the author's highly anticipated new novel, *Dead Wednesday!* He's a boy called Jew. Gypsy. Stopthief. Filthy son of Abraham. He's a boy who lives in the streets of Warsaw. He's a boy who steals food for himself, and the other orphans. He's a boy who believes in bread, and mothers, and angels. He's a boy who wants to be a Nazi, with tall, shiny jackboots of his own-until the day that suddenly makes him change his mind. And when the trains come to empty the Jews from the ghetto of the damned, he's a boy who realizes it's safest of all to be nobody. Newbery Medalist Jerry Spinelli takes us to one of the most devastating settings imaginable-Nazi-occupied Warsaw during World War II-and tells a tale of heartbreak, hope, and survival through the bright eyes of a young Holocaust orphan.

Fly Guy Presents: Dogs

Scholastic Inc.
Fly Guy is buzzing to learn all about dogs! While visiting a dog show, Buzz and Fly Guy learn all about man's best friend! From exploring different breeds, to famous dogs throughout history, to learning all about working dogs and more, there's plenty for the best friends to explore. Award-winning author-illustrator Tedd Arnold brings nonfiction to life for beginning readers in the next book in the kid-favorite Fly Guy Presents series. There are humorous illustrations and engaging photographs throughout.

And the front cover features eye-catching holographic foil!

There's a Girl in My Hammerlock
Simon and Schuster

Thirteen-year-old Maisie Potter joins her school's formerly all-male wrestling team and tries to last through the season, despite opposition from other students, her best friend, and her own teammates. An ALA Best Book for Young Adults. Reissue.

Dragons in a Bag *Yearling*

The dragon's out of the bag in this diverse, young urban fantasy from an award-winning author! When Jaxon is sent to spend the day with a mean old lady his mother calls Ma, he finds out she's not his grandmother--but she is a witch! She needs his help delivering baby dragons to a magical world where they'll be safe. There are two rules when it comes to the dragons: don't let them out of the bag, and don't feed them anything sweet. Before he knows it, Jax and his friends Vikram and Kavita have broken both rules! Will Jax get the baby dragons delivered safe and sound? Or will they be lost in Brooklyn forever? AN ALA-ALSC NOTABLE CHILDREN'S BOOK AN NPR BEST BOOK OF THE YEAR A CHICAGO PUBLIC LIBRARY BEST BOOK OF THE YEAR A KIRKUS REVIEWS BEST BOOK OF THE YEAR The Dragons in a Bag series continues! Don't miss The Dragon Thief, and The Witch's Apprentice.

Dead Wednesday *Knopf Books for Young Readers*

Can playing dead bring you back to life? Maybe on Dead Wednesday... On this day the worlds of a shy boy and a gone girl collide, and the connection they make will change them both forever. A

brilliant new novel from the Newbery Medal winner and author of the New York Times bestseller *Stargirl*. "Jerry Spinelli has created another middle grade masterpiece." —BookPage, starred review On Dead Wednesday, every eighth grader in Amber Springs is assigned the name and identity of a teenager who died a preventable death in the past year. The kids don black shirts and for the whole day everyone in town pretends they're invisible—as if they weren't even there. The adults think it will make them contemplate their mortality. The kids know it's a free pass to get away with anything. Worm Tarnauer feels invisible every day. He's perfectly happy being the unnoticed sidekick of his friend Eddie. So he's not expecting Dead Wednesday to feel that different. But he didn't count on being assigned Becca Finch (17, car crash). And he certainly didn't count on Becca showing up to boss him around! Letting this girl into his head is about to change everything. This is the story of the unexpected, heartbreaking, hilarious, truly epic day when Worm Tarnauer discovers his own life.

Donavan's Word Jar *HarperCollins*

The classic story about the power of words. Donovan Allen doesn't collect coins, comics, or trading cards like most kids. He collects words—big words, little words, soft words, and silly words. Whenever Donovan finds a new word, he writes it on a slip of paper and puts it in his word jar. But one day, Donovan discovers that his word jar is full. He can't put any new words in without taking some of the old words out—and he wants to keep all his words. Donovan doesn't know what to do, until a visit to his grandma provides him with the perfect solution.

The Beautiful Lost *Scholastic Inc.*

From NY Times bestselling author Luanne Rice, a sweeping story of a girl and boy, both troubled in different ways, who take off on a whirlwind road trip.

Hokey Pokey *Alfred A. Knopf Books for Young Readers*

Ever since they were Snotsippers, Jack and the girl have fought, until one day she steals his bike and as he and the Amigos try to recover it, Jack realizes that he is growing up and must eventually leave the "goodlands and badlands of Hokey Pokey."

If You Were a Kid During the Civil Rights Movement *Children's Press*

Joyce Jenkins has recently moved to a new town with her family, and she will soon be attending a segregated school for the first time. Meanwhile, Connie Underwood is trying to figure out what her twin brothers are planning in secret. Follow along with

Freak the Mighty *Usborne Publishing Ltd*

Max is used to being called Stupid. And he is used to everyone being scared of him. On account of his size and looking like his dad. Kevin is used to being called Dwarf. On account of his size and being some cripple kid. But greatness comes in all sizes, and together Max and Kevin become Freak The Mighty and walk high above the world. An inspiring, heartbreaking, multi-award winning international bestseller.

Fourth Grade Rats *Scholastic Inc.*

A fast, fun, friendship read from the Newbery-award winning author of Maniac Magee. Fourth graders are tough. They aren't afraid of spiders. They say no to their moms. They push first

graders off the swings. And they never, ever cry. Suds knows that now that he's in fourth grade, he's supposed to be a rat. But whenever he tries to act like one, something goes wrong. Can Suds's friend Joey teach him to toughen up...or will Suds remain a fourth grade wimp?

The Secret Files of Fairday Morrow *Yearling*

Fans of classic detective stories, The Mysterious Benedict Society, and the Secret Series will devour this illustrated middle-grade adventure that follows three curious sleuths as they investigate a mysterious, old house with some hidden secrets. Eleven-year-old Fairday Morrow is less than thrilled that her family is moving thousands of miles from civilization to the quiet country town of Ashpot, Connecticut, where she's absolutely certain she'll die of boredom. As if leaving New York City and her best friend, Lizzy, the only other member of the elite Detective Mystery Squad (DMS), weren't bad enough, Fairday is stuck living in the infamous Begonia House, a creepy old Victorian with dark passageways, a gigantic dead willow tree, and a mysterious past. Before she can even unpack, strange music coming from behind a padlocked door leads Fairday up a spiral staircase and into a secret room, where an ancient mirror, a brass key, and a strange picture of a red-haired lady are the first in a series of clues that takes the members of the Detective Mystery Squad on an amazing adventure. "The novel builds to an exciting climax that takes magic in stride and suggests that further mysteries await the DMS trio."-Publishers Weekly "This paranormal mystery will be of interest to young readers looking for something spooky but not violent or scary."-Booklist

Loser by Jerry Spinelli

Everything you need for a novel study on *Loser* by Jerry Spinelli! There are many ways that you can use these resources. You can copy as an entire packet or you can copy pages individually! This can be for a small book club, or for the whole class! Inside you will find: About the Author Research Activity Story Summary: Characters/Plot/Setting: Graphic Organizer Comparing Two Characters: Graphic Organizer Character Change Throughout Story: Graphic Organizer Character Action/Motivation: Graphic Organizer Setting: Time and Place: Graphic Organizer Plot: Problem/Solution: Graphic Organizer Plot: Determining Importance of Events: Graphic Organizer Questions I Had in *Loser*: Before/During/After Reading Graphic Organizer Text-to-Text Connection Graphic Organizer Text-to-Self Connection Graphic Organizer Text-to-World Connection Graphic Organizer Text-to-Self Connection with Specific Characters Graphic Organizer My Important Thoughts While Reading Graphic Organizer New Words I Found/My Thinking/Dictionary Definition Graphic Organizer Sensory Images in *Loser*: Graphic Organizer Describing the Setting in *Loser*: Graphic Organizer Inferring Character Feelings Graphic Organizer My Inference Picture Cause and Effect Graphic Organizer Inferring Graphic Organizer Four Deep Question Response Activities Two Quote from Book Response Activities Book Commercial Activity Letter to the Author Activity Lesson/Theme of *Loser* Response Enjoy! Visit my shop, School Rules, at Teacher's Notebook.Or view this product, *Loser* by Jerry Spinelli: Thinking Strategies for Characters, Plot, and Setting.

Knots in My Yo-Yo String *Knopf Books for Young Readers*

Newbery medalist Jerry Spinelli has penned his early autobiography with all the warmth, humor, and drama of his best-selling fiction. And don't miss the author's highly anticipated new novel, *Dead Wednesday*! "A master of those embarrassing, gloppy, painful, and suddenly wonderful things that happen on the razor's edge between childhood and full-fledged adolescence" --The Washington Post From first memories through high school, including first kiss, first punch, first trip to the principal's office, and first humiliating sports experience, this is not merely an account of a highly unusual childhood. Rather, like Spinelli's fiction, its appeal lies in the accessibility and universality of his life. Entertaining and fast-paced, this is a highly readable memoir-- a must-have for Spinelli fans of all ages.

Someday Angeline *Harper Collins*

Nobody understands why Angeline is so smart. She could read the first time she picked up a book, she can play the piano without ever having had a lesson, and she even knows what the weather is going to be. But being smart is causing Angeline nothing but trouble. The mean kids in school call her a freak, her teacher finds her troublesome, and even her own father doesn't know what to do with an eight-year-old girl who seems to be a genius. Angeline doesn't want to be either a genius or a freak. She just wants the chance to be herself and be happy. But it's only when she makes friends with a boy the kids call "Goon" and the teacher they call "Mr. Bone" that Angeline gets that chance.

Third Grade Angels *Scholastic Inc.*

The long-awaited prequel to the

bestseller *FOURTH GRADE RATS* George, aka "Suds," has just entered third grade, and he's heard the rhyme about "first grade babies/second grade cats/third grade angels/fourth grade rats," but what does this mean for his school year? It means that his teacher, Mrs. Simms, will hold a competition every month to see which student deserves to be awarded "the halo" - which student is best-behaved, kindest to others, and, in short, perfect. Suds is determined to be

the first to earn the halo, but he's finding the challenge of always being good to be more stressful than he had anticipated. Does he have to be good even outside of school? (Does he have to be nice to his annoying little sister?) And if Mrs. Simms doesn't actually see him doing a good deed, does it even count? A warm, funny return to elementary school from master storyteller Spinelli.

Loser Lit Link Gr. 4-6 *On The Mark Press*