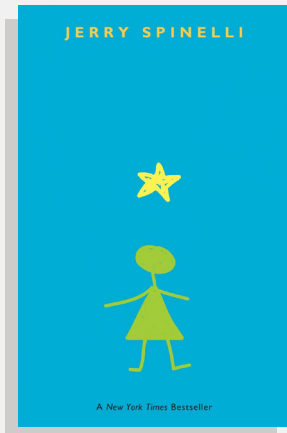


Book Club for Kids



Stargirl

by Jerry Spinelli

Recommended Ages:
10 and up



helenplum.org

Summary: When Stargirl enrolls at Mica High, all of the students are in awe, but she especially captures the attention of junior Leo Borlock. With her long, flowing hair, plain face, and eccentric outfits, her classmates don't know whether to love Stargirl for daring to be different, or hate her for breaking the rules of high school. At first, they embrace her uniqueness by imitating her, and then, just as quickly, they turn on her for being unusual. Despite her status as outcast, Leo and Stargirl become a couple, and he experiences what it's like to be shunned. In hopes of gaining acceptance, Leo encourages her to become normal. Together, both Leo and Stargirl learn a lesson about conforming to the will of the group versus being yourself.

Discussion Questions: Spoiler alert! Some of the questions contain key elements of the plot. Do not read if you don't want to know what happens!

1. Do you think it is important to Stargirl to be liked? To Leo? How important is it for you to fit in?
2. Though Stargirl seems to ignore the shunning, how do you think she really feels? Do you think it hurts her? How would you feel if you were in her place?
3. Do you think it was a selfish act for Leo to ask Stargirl to try to become normal? If you were in his place, would you do the same thing?
4. Do you know anyone whose persona resembles that of Stargirl? How are they treated? Are they welcomed? Avoided?
5. Do you think it was a smart idea to put Stargirl in the "Hot Seat"? Do you think it further increased the dislike the students at Mica High felt towards her?
6. What does Leo learn from Archie?
7. Describe Kevin. Do you think he is a supportive friend?
8. Stargirl's attempt at normalcy doesn't work very well. Do you think it is easy to reinvent yourself?
9. What do you think of Leo and Stargirl's relationship? Do you think he is a good boyfriend?
10. What do you think of Hillari Kimble? Why do you think she disliked Stargirl more than anyone else?

Adapted from Multnomah County Library.