



## **KIDS BOOK CLUB**

*January 2020 Selection*

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### ***Stargirl* by Jerry Spinelli**

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.

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#### **Discussion Questions:**

1. “Star people are rare,” Archie tells Leo at the end of *Stargirl*. “You’ll be lucky to meet another.” What is Archie telling Leo both about the nature of his relationship with Stargirl and about Stargirl herself?
2. When Stargirl decides to use her given name, Susan Caraway, how else does she change? How can the simple act of using a different name cause a change in behavior and personality? How does this refute the old saying, “Sticks and stones may break my bones, but names will never hurt me”?
3. Peer pressure plays a significant role in the story of *Stargirl*. Discuss how the students of Mica High try to change Stargirl to suit their idea of what a “normal” person is. How does peer pressure change other characters in the story, most notably Leo?
4. Two scenes offset one another in the story. Both involve Stargirl. One scene is Stargirl’s debut as a cheerleader; the other has Stargirl competing in the oratory contest. How are these two scenes alike and different? How does each serve to show the different facets of Stargirl’s personality?
5. How do the pebbles in Stargirl’s wagon help reveal the true nature of her feelings over the course of the novel?



6. Setting the novel in the desert area around Mic Arizona, allows Spinelli the chance to have Leo and Stargirl explore this arid world. Additionally, Archie and Senor Saguaro provide important life lessons. How would this story be different if it were set in another place, particularly one with a different climate?
7. Stargirl and Leo both fall in love for the first time over the course of the novel. What will they take away from this experience? Is love indeed “blind” or does love filter what they see in one another and in the world around them?

**Review or Comment about this book:**

- Help others with their decision to read this book by simply leaving your comments and reviews online at <https://www.booksamillion.com/p/9780375822339>

**Recommendations:**

- If you liked *Stargirl*, you might like [\*Loser\*](#)
- You might also enjoy [\*The Running Dream\*](#)