

Name _____ Date _____

STARGIRL by Jerry Spinelli

Questions from Scholastic Literature Circle

1. When Stargirl arrives at Mica High School, people notice her. Name three ways in which her appearance or behavior differs from that of other students.

2. By December 1st of the year, Stargirl has become the most popular person in school. Describe what other students do to show their admiration for her.

3. Think about the setting of the story, which takes place in an Arizona desert community. Identify passages that help you “see” the plants, animals, terrain, and climate in Leo’s town.

4. Archie is a mentor and friend to Leo and other kids in the neighborhoods. Cite examples from the book that show how Archie helps one of the main Characters.

5. Identify a character in the story that shows courage. Explain how the character is brave.

6. What does Archie mean when he says, "When Stargirl cries, she does not shed tears, but light"?

9. Over the course of the book, Leo changes. Compare and contrast Leo's appreciation of "little things" in life at the beginning of the novel and at the end.

10. When Archie and Leo drive out to the desert, Archie writes a single word on a scrap of paper and stuffs it in a hole. What do you think is written on the paper? Make sure you consider what you know about Archie and his character.

11. When Leo returns to Arizona after living in the East, someone else is living in Archie's house. Where, in your opinion, is Archie? How does that fit with Archie's view of the universe? (Archie's views of the universe are on page 75, 103 and 177)

12. Toward the end of the book, Leo chooses membership in his peer group over his affection for Stargirl. What is your opinion of Leo's choice? Why?

13. Do you think Leo's life is improved for having been involved with Stargirl? What makes you say that?

Activity:

Stargirl taught Leo the greeting card game on page 114. Carefully (secretly) observe a stranger (or classmate) for 10 minutes. Then create a greeting card that he or she needs.

Stargirl won the state's public speaking contest. Prepare a short speech for an oratorical contest on a topic such as Have the Courage to Be Yourself. Outline your speech on note cards. Visualize yourself winning the contest. Then deliver your speech to the group.

Create a timeline of the major events in Leo's life, including his age at the time and short description of the milestone. Project the timeline into Leo's future, after the book has ended.