

A Teaching Unit For *Stargirl*



SAMPLE



ELA Core Plans

Teacher-Written Standards-Based Lesson Plans

Sample Teaching Unit For *Stargirl* by Jerry Spinelli

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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
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

Test Two: Chapters Twelve – Twenty-two

(This is a portion of the test only. [Download the entire unit today for the complete test and all handouts listed in the table of contents!](#))

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.

1. What is being compared in the sentence?
 - a. Leo's thoughts and a burrowing egg
 - b. Archie's words and a burrowing egg
 - c. Maturity and rain
 - d. Ears and skin
2. The sentence uses which type of figurative language?
 - a. hyperbole
 - b. idiom
 - c. simile
 - d. 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*

3. 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.
 - a. meaning one
 - b. meaning two
 - c. neither of these
4. From what language does the word originate?
 - a. \ˈrō-kəs\
b. Latin
 - c. 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.

5. This passage reflects Leo's _____ conflict.
 - a. Internal
 - b. External
 - c. both a and b
 - d. neither a nor b
6. What is Leo's conflict at this point in the novel?
 - a. He wants Stargirl to stop cheering for the school.
 - b. He wants Kevin to like Stargirl more.
 - c. He wants Stargirl to blend in with the other students.
 - d. He wants Stargirl to leave him alone.



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