

Teacher's Guide

Stargirl

Reading Level	Lexile 590
Genre/Length	Contemporary Fiction; 208 pages
Language Register	Conversational, Familiar, Idioms
Content Load	School, Peers, Identity
Selected Awards	Parents' Choice 2000 Fiction Award NAIBA Book Award for Young Children

THE EXCHANGE QUESTION

Should people change for others?

Overview

Background Through the characters of Leo and Stargirl, author Jerry Spinelli shows the importance of accepting people for who they are. Spinelli uses his young heroine to tackle the difficult adolescent issues of self-esteem, popularity, and friendship. He incorporates modern, humorous dialogue to make his story appealing to a young audience. His other novels conquer equally difficult ground, with topics ranging from racism to gender bias. *Stargirl* is yet another example of Spinelli's desire to capture the unique issues of the adolescent world.

Book Summary *Stargirl*, as narrated by Leo Borlock, follows a unique high school student through the highs and lows of nonconformity. Written with an honest and humorous tone, Spinelli draws readers into Leo's mind as he desperately tries to figure out Stargirl without ruining his social status. When Leo's peers turn on Stargirl, he is torn between listening to his heart and keeping things status quo. In the end, Stargirl is never truly accepted. She disappears from Mica, but Leo, and Mica High, will never forget her.

About the Author

Jerry Spinelli attended Gettysburg College where he was an editor for the school's literary magazine. Following graduation, he attended The Writing Seminars at Johns Hopkins University. He later worked as an editor for a department store magazine and used his lunch breaks to write four books. Spinelli finally became a published author at the age of forty-one. His first book, *Space Station Seventh Grade*, opened the door to a long, successful writing career. Spinelli has written over twenty books for young readers and two autobiographies.

Spinelli currently lives in Pennsylvania with his wife Eileen, who served as his inspiration for *Stargirl*. His award-winning novel, *Maniac Magee*, was adapted for television on the Nickelodeon network. He continues to write children's books and uses his six children and eleven grandchildren as a source of inspiration.

Reading the Book

There are several options for reading *Stargirl*. They include:

- Whole Class** Assign sections of the book and discussion dates using the planner on **Student Journal, page 1**. After students read a section and respond to the corresponding **Student Journal** pages, have a class discussion. At the end of the book, the class meets for **The Exchange**.
- Small Groups** Read the book **Introduction** with the group. Group members then read an agreed-upon number of pages, complete the corresponding **Student Journal** pages, and meet to discuss. When they finish the book, they meet again for **The Exchange**. Use the planner on **Student Journal, page 1** to establish meeting times.
- Independently** Students read the book on their own and then meet as a group for **The Exchange**. Use the planner on **Student Journal, page 1** to establish the meeting time.
- Guided Reading** Have students read **Student Journal, page 2** and monitor their discussion of the **What If?** scenario. Read aloud the book **Introduction** to give students background on the book. As students read, use the **Before You Move On** questions to guide comprehension. Use the **Look Ahead** to set a focus for reading the next set of pages. At the end of each section, assign the appropriate **Student Journal** pages. Discuss the pages before starting the next section. Establish a date for **The Exchange** and record it on the planner.

Getting Started

Have students read **What If?** on **Student Journal, page 2** and discuss the scenario. Encourage students to describe the similarities and differences between the scenario and their lives and imagine how the situation would affect them.

- Have students write their responses to the three questions below the scenario and compare answers with a partner or the group.
- Have students discuss how the situation might relate to **The Exchange** question and then write a brief summary of their discussion in the **Student Journal**.

Student Journal, page 1

Name: _____

Student Journal

Stargirl

by Jerry Spinelli

Reading Schedule

Group members: _____

<i>Stargirl</i>	Student Journal	Due Date	Discussion Date
Introduction	Pages 2-4		
Porcupine Necktie and Chapters 1-7	Pages 5-6		
Chapters 8-15	Pages 7-8		
Chapters 16-20	Pages 9-10		
Chapters 21-26	Pages 11-12		
Chapters 27-31	Pages 13-14		
Chapters 32-33 and More Than Stars	Pages 15-16		
The Exchange			
Assessment			

Should people change for others?

Student Journal, page 2

Stargirl

Getting Started

What If?

You move to a new school where everyone is artistic. Your new school allows students to wear whatever they want. In fact, the school encourages students to wear clothes that express their feelings, talents, and individuality in whatever way they choose. Most students wear different costumes each day. Students dress as clowns, magicians, bears, and other characters. On your first day, you do not see a single person dressed in ordinary, everyday clothes.

You are uncomfortable around people who dress so differently. The principal told you that everyone has the option to wear everyday clothes, too. But you really want to fit in and make friends.

Make notes about how this would affect you.

- How would you feel if you were the only student who did not wear a costume?
- What would be good and bad about wearing costumes at school?
- Would you change the clothes you wear to be like everyone else?

Connect to The Exchange Question Discuss how this situation could relate to The Exchange Question: **Should people change for others?** Summarize your discussion.

Introduction

Have students read the book **Introduction**. Check their comprehension with the three follow-up questions on **Student Journal, page 3**.

Student Journal, page 3

Stargirl

Introduction

Read the Introduction on pages 7–8 in *Stargirl*. The Introduction will help you understand key concepts in the book. Knowing them will help you discuss and write about the book.

The Introduction includes information about

- the author's writing history
- the setting of the story
- the theme of identity

After you read the Introduction, answer these questions to check your understanding.

1. How did Jerry Spinelli's luck as a writer change from bad to good?
He wrote books for adults, but they didn't get published. His luck as a writer changed when he began writing for children instead.

2. What is the setting? Why is this important to the story?
The setting is a high school in Arizona where everyone is similar. It is important because Stargirl is new and different, and she does not fit in.

3. How is the theme of identity explored in *Stargirl*?
The book is about whether or not people should change to be like others or be true to themselves.

Introduction: Key Concepts

Have students study the first **Key Concept** with the help of the graphic organizer on **Student Journal, page 4**. After studying the example, they should create similar graphic organizers to focus their understanding of the remaining **Key Concepts**.

Student Journal, page 4

Stargirl

Introduction: Key Concepts

Personal Experience Chart

Study the **Personal Experience Chart** for *identity*. Write a sentence using the word *identity*.

Key Concepts

conform
identity
independent
opinion
typical

Personal Experience Chart

Key Concept: *identity* _____

Define or rename: *who you are* _____

Specific Examples

Starting at a new school made me question my identity.

The police did not know the identity of the lost child.

Shanti is kind. Being caring to other people is part of her identity.

Personal Connection: _____

On a separate sheet of paper, create a similar **Personal Experience Chart** for each of the **Key Concept** words.

Pages 11–45 **Answers for Before You Move On**
Porcupine Necktie and Chapters 1–7

PAGE 16

- 1. Author’s Style** Reread page 12. How does the author make the reader want to know more?
He writes about how Leo and others were being watched; he makes the story sound exciting and mysterious.
- 2. Inference** Stargirl is not like other students at Leo’s school. How can you tell?
Everyone is shocked by Stargirl’s clothes and behavior. The students of Mica High stare and talk about her.

PAGE 28

- 1. Evidence and Conclusions** Reread pages 19 and 23. Leo does not like Stargirl at first. How do you know?
Leo doesn’t want her to stop and talk to him at lunch; he doesn’t want her to be on Hot Seat.
- 2. Inference** Why does Leo follow Stargirl into the desert?
Leo likes her; he is curious about her.

PAGE 45

- 1. Cause and Effect** Stargirl performs at the football game. What happens because of this?
A lot of people go to the next game; Stargirl is asked to be a cheerleader.
- 2. Character’s Motive** Reread page 45. Archie does not tell the boys how to solve their problem. Why not?
Archie wants the boys to think for themselves and make their own decisions.

Student Journal, page 5

Stargirl

Respond to Porcupine Necktie and Chapters 1–7

- 1. Personal Response** Stargirl is new to her school, but she does not seem uncomfortable. How do you react when you are in a new environment?

- 2. Comparisons** How is Stargirl different from the other students in the school? Use the word *typical* in your response.
Stargirl is not a typical teenager. She looks and acts different from the other students. She dresses differently, plays a ukulele, and sings to people in the lunchroom.
- 3. Setting** Reread pages 37–39. Hillari confronts Stargirl in the lunchroom. How does the setting make this event more uncomfortable?
The lunchroom is a public and social place. All of the students are in the lunchroom at the same time, so they are watching everything that is happening.
- 4. Generate Questions** Write a question about this section for someone else reading this book. Exchange questions with them. Do you agree with their answer?

Student Journal, page 6

Stargirl

Respond to Porcupine Necktie and Chapters 1–7, continued

- 5. Perspectives** Stargirl is unique. Think about her traits, actions, appearance, and interests. List these characteristics and what they show about her in the **Character Description Chart**.

Character Description Chart

Character	What the Character Does	What This Shows About the Character
Stargirl	plays the ukulele wears funny clothes stares at people has a pet rat sings “Happy Birthday” to everyone decorates her desk	is not afraid to perform in public creates her own style is not shy is comfortable owning an unusual pet likes to make people feel special likes to make herself comfortable

Based on what you know about Stargirl, would you want to be friends with her? Why or why not?

Pages 46–86 **Answers for *Before You Move On***
Chapters 8–15

PAGE 58

- 1. Paraphrase** What does Leo mean when he says on page 48: “We honored her by imitation”?
The students show Stargirl how much they like her by copying everything she does.
- 2. Conclusions** Who is putting the notes about Stargirl on the roadrunner? Why?
Hillari Kimble or someone like her. Hillari doesn't like Stargirl.

PAGE 72

- 1. Conclusions** Reread pages 64–65. Why do the students trick Stargirl at the game?
The students are mad that Stargirl doesn't cheer for her team; they want to punish her.
- 2. Predict** Reread page 72. How will *Hot Seat* end? How do you know?
Something very bad will happen to Stargirl. The jury is quiet when they come in; Leo says that the show never airs.

PAGE 86

- 1. Inference** Reread page 78. What are the real reasons the jury is angry with Stargirl?
The jury is afraid something is wrong with them, and that she is questioning their conformity.
- 2. Metaphor** Reread page 86. Why does Archie compare his fossil to a basketball player?
Archie is trying to teach the teens a lesson; he's really talking about Stargirl.

Student Journal, page 7

Stargirl

Respond to Chapters 8–15

- 1. Personal Response** Leo loves directing *Hot Seat*. What is an activity or hobby that you enjoy? What makes it interesting to you?

- 2. Analogy** How does the analogy on page 51 between students at Mica High School and mud frogs in the Sonoran Desert show how the students are changing? Use the word *identity* in your response.
Mud frogs lie and wait for the rain to come. When it finally rains, the frogs come to life. The students are like the mud frogs, and Stargirl is like the rain. The students come to life and find their own identities when Stargirl arrives.
- 3. Author's Style** On page 63, the author writes about Stargirl: “*She did not seem to notice.*” Reread the page. Why does the author set this sentence apart from the others and in italics?
The author tries to make the reader understand how unusual it is that Stargirl does not seem to notice people's reactions to her. He is emphasizing how different she is.
- 4. Generate Questions** Write a question about this section for someone else reading this book. Exchange questions with them. Do you agree with their answer?

Student Journal, page 8

Stargirl

Respond to Chapters 8–15, continued

- 5. Conclusions** At first, the students like Stargirl, but then they begin to dislike her. Use the **Cause and Effect Chart** to describe what Stargirl does to make her classmates dislike her and how they react to her.

Cause and Effect Chart	
Causes	Effects
<p><i>Stargirl goes to Anna Grisdale's grandfather's funeral.</i></p> <p><i>Stargirl buys Danny Pike a new bike and goes to his celebration.</i></p> <p><i>Stargirl cheers for the other basketball teams.</i></p> <p><i>Stargirl leaves a basketball game.</i></p> <p><i>Stargirl appears on <i>Hot Seat</i>.</i></p>	<p><i>Mrs. Grisdale gets angry and makes Stargirl leave.</i></p> <p><i>Someone puts a picture from the paper on the billboard; the Pikes throw the bike away.</i></p> <p><i>The crowd yells at and boos Stargirl.</i></p> <p><i>The team tricks Stargirl, and the bus leaves without her.</i></p> <p><i>The <i>Hot Seat</i> jury attacks Stargirl.</i></p>

Choose three of the events listed above. In these situations, is Stargirl trying to make people angry? How do you know?
Stargirl goes to the funeral because she cares about other people. She buys Danny the bike because she is trying to make him feel better. She helps Kovac because she is a good person. Stargirl is not trying to make people angry.

Pages 87–123 **Answers for *Before You Move On***
Chapters 16–20

PAGE 106

- 1. Metaphor** Reread page 96. Why does Leo say: “I was a yellow balloon”?
Leo feels like he is floating because he is in love with Stargirl.
- 2. Conclusions** Why does Stargirl take Leo to her enchanted place? What does she want to teach Leo?
Stargirl wants to show Leo a place that is special to her. She wants Leo to be comfortable with himself and enjoy nature.

PAGE 123

- 1. Character** Leo is upset by the “shunning,” but Stargirl does not seem to care. What does this show about Leo?
Leo cares more about what people think of him than Stargirl does.
- 2. Inference** Leo thinks Stargirl gave him the necktie. Why?
Leo knows Stargirl likes to give gifts without telling who they are from.

Student Journal, page 9

Stargirl

Respond to Chapters 16–20

- 1. Personal Response** Leo talks to Archie when he needs advice. Whose advice do you trust the most? What makes that person’s advice so valuable?

- 2. Mood** How does the mood of the story change when Leo decides to stop conforming and start spending time with Stargirl? Use the word *conform* in your response.
The mood changes from one of tension and conflict to one of peace. Leo stops conforming and gets close to Stargirl.
- 3. Irony** What is ironic about the fact that almost no one likes Stargirl?
Stargirl is a good person who tries to make other people happy by doing secret acts of kindness. Someone as kind as Stargirl should have many friends, but she doesn’t.
- 4. Generate Questions** Write a question about this section for someone else reading this book. Exchange questions with them. Do you agree with their answer?

Student Journal, page 10

Stargirl

Respond to Chapters 16–20, continued

- 5. Opinion** Leo and Stargirl get to know each other better. List their traits, actions, interests, and feelings in the **Venn Diagram**.

Venn Diagram

Should Leo and Stargirl date? Why or why not? Should people in relationships be exactly like each other? Why or why not?

Pages 124–157 **Answers for *Before You Move On***
Chapters 21–26

PAGE 137

1. Conclusions Stargirl enjoys helping others. Why is Leo so surprised by this?

Most people Leo knows are focused on themselves; he doesn't care about strangers that much.

2. Assumption What does Leo assume about Stargirl's family? How does he change his mind?

Leo assumes her parents are strange hippies. He visits them and sees that they are like other parents.

PAGE 157

1. Conflict Everyone is avoiding Leo, so he tries to change Stargirl. Why doesn't this solve his problem?

The students don't change their feelings about Stargirl just because she changes her clothes.

2. Comparisons How is Susan different from Stargirl?

Unlike Stargirl, Susan is like all the other girls. Susan wants to be normal and popular, but Stargirl doesn't care about those things.

Student Journal, page 11

Stargirl

Respond to Chapters 21–26

1. Personal Response Leo is embarrassed when Stargirl puts the love sign on the roadrunner. When have you been embarrassed by a friend or family member? What happened and how did you react?

2. Judgment Leo explains to Stargirl that none of the students like her because she is so different. Do you think it was right to tell Stargirl this? Use the word *opinion* in your response.

Students may say it is not the right thing to do because Leo's opinion about life is not the same as Stargirl's. Or students may say that it was the right thing to do because in Leo's opinion Stargirl was embarrassing herself by acting so different.

3. Generalization The students blame Stargirl for everything, including the basketball team's losses. Why do they blame her? Why do people often blame others for their own problems?

The students blame Stargirl because they don't want to admit that the team's losses might be their fault. People do not want to admit that they are at fault.

4. Generate Questions Write a question about this section for someone else reading this book. Exchange questions with them. Do you agree with their answer?

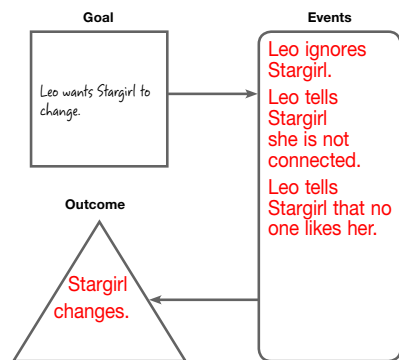
Student Journal, page 12

Stargirl

Respond to Chapters 21–26, continued

5. Judgments Leo is not happy about the way the students treat him and Stargirl. List what Leo does to reach his goal and the outcome in the **Goal and Outcome Chart**.

Goal and Outcome Chart



Is Leo helping or hurting Stargirl with his actions and words? How do you think Leo should treat Stargirl?

Pages 158–189 **Answers for *Before You Move On***
Chapters 27–31

PAGE 174

1. Inference Susan thinks it is important to be popular. Why?
 Reread pages 158–159.
Susan wants Leo to like her. Leo only likes her when she is popular.

2. Mood How does the mood of the story change when Susan returns from the contest?
It becomes sad. The students don't celebrate with Susan.

PAGE 189

1. Character's Motive Why does Susan go back to being Stargirl?
Susan realizes that no one likes her even though she tries to make them happy; she decides being herself is better.

2. Conclusions Reread pages 177–179. Leo knows he is being a bad person. How can you tell?
Leo is uncomfortable and hides from the moon; he doesn't want Kevin to say bad things about Stargirl, but he won't admit it.

Student Journal, page 13

Stargirl

Respond to Chapters 27–31

1. Personal Response Susan expresses her creativity through her unique speeches. Are you comfortable speaking in public? Why or why not?

2. Perspectives Leo is angry with Susan for changing back into Stargirl. If you were Leo, how would you feel about her changing again? Use the word *independent* in your response.

Students may say that if they were Leo, they would feel that Stargirl should never have changed into Susan in the first place. Stargirl should have been independent and been herself.

3. Inference On page 176, Stargirl tells Leo she knows he is not going to ask her to the Ocotillo Ball and then smiles at him. What does he mean when he says "... and in that moment I hated her?"

Stargirl cares about Leo in spite of his behavior. He says he hates her, but he really hates himself for treating her so badly.

4. Generate Questions Write a question about this section for someone else reading this book. Exchange questions with them. Do you agree with their answer?

Student Journal, page 14

Stargirl

Respond to Chapters 27–31, continued

5. Character Stargirl makes a lasting impression on the other students before she disappears. List the effects she has on the students and Leo in the **Details Web**.

Details Web



What qualities do natural leaders have? Is Stargirl a natural leader? Why or why not?

Natural leaders are usually strong enough to face criticism. They are very confident. Stargirl is a natural leader because she has confidence in herself and in others.

Pages 190–200 **Answers for *Before You Move On***
Chapters 32–33 and More Than Stars

PAGE 200

1. Character’s Motive Why is Leo telling Stargirl’s story even though it has been fifteen years?

Leo realizes he treated her badly; he misses her and still thinks about her.

2. Inference Stargirl is still thinking about Leo. How do you know this?

Stargirl sends Leo a new porcupine necktie.

Student Journal, page 15

Stargirl

Respond to Chapters 32–33 and More Than Stars

1. Personal Response Leo regrets how he treated Stargirl. Have you done something that you later regretted? What would you do differently?

2. Character’s Motive On page 192, Archie does not lecture Leo about the mistakes Leo made in the past with Stargirl. Why does Archie stay quiet instead?

Archie knows that Leo has to learn lessons for himself. He knows that Leo already feels bad and probably does not need to be reminded of how he treated Stargirl.

3. Opinion The story ends fifteen years after Leo and Stargirl leave Mica High School. What do you think you will be doing in fifteen years?

What If?

4. Connect Look at your notes on **Student Journal, page 2**. Think about what you would do if you knew you were not like everyone else. Compare this to *Stargirl*. Should *Stargirl* have changed for others? Why or why not?

Student Journal, page 16

Stargirl

Respond to Chapters 32–33 and More Than Stars, *continued*

5. Generalization Mica High has changed since *Stargirl* went there. Tell what the school and students were like before and after *Stargirl* attended the school in the **T Chart**.

T Chart

<i>Before Stargirl</i>	<i>After Stargirl</i>
<i>The high school did not have team spirit.</i>	<i>The high school has a club called the Sunflowers, and the members do kind acts each day.</i>
<i>The marching band was not very big. Students did not attend school sports events.</i>	<i>The marching band has a ukulele player. A small group of fans always cheers when the opposing team scores a point.</i>

In what ways are people like *Stargirl* important to their schools and communities?

People like Stargirl are important because they positively influence those around them. This influence can last for many years after they are gone.

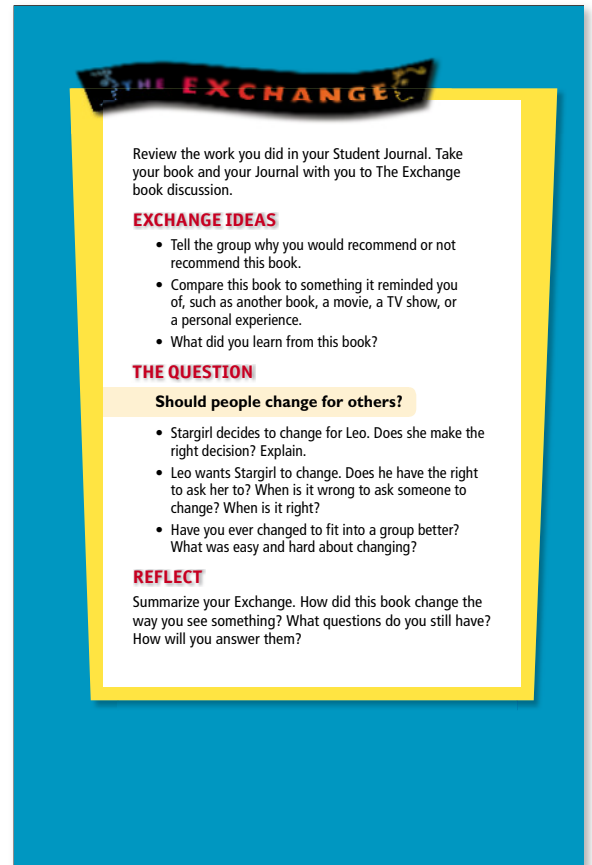
Exchange Discussion

THE QUESTION

Should people change for others?

- **Stargirl decides to change for Leo. Does she make the right decision? Explain.**
- **Leo wants Stargirl to change. Does he have the right to ask her to? When is it wrong to ask someone to change? When is it right?**
- **Have you ever changed to fit into a group better? What was easy and hard about changing?**

Stargirl, inside back cover



Evaluate the Discussion

Use the reproducible master from page 11 of this **Teacher's Guide** to evaluate **The Exchange** discussion. The form may also be used by students for group assessment.

Discussion Rubric

Evaluate the Discussion		
Excellent	Good	Fair
<input type="checkbox"/> Everyone participated.	<input type="checkbox"/> Most people participated.	<input type="checkbox"/> Only a few people participated.
<input type="checkbox"/> Everyone spoke clearly.	<input type="checkbox"/> Most people spoke clearly.	<input type="checkbox"/> Some people did not speak clearly.
<input type="checkbox"/> Everyone listened carefully.	<input type="checkbox"/> Most people listened carefully.	<input type="checkbox"/> Some people did not listen carefully.
<input type="checkbox"/> We stayed on the topic throughout the discussion.	<input type="checkbox"/> We stayed on the topic most of the time.	<input type="checkbox"/> We did not stay on the topic all the time.
<input type="checkbox"/> We responded to each other's thoughts and ideas often.	<input type="checkbox"/> We commented on each other's thoughts and ideas sometimes.	<input type="checkbox"/> We did not make many comments on each other's thoughts and ideas.
<input type="checkbox"/> Most people used examples from the book to support their points.	<input type="checkbox"/> Many people used examples from the book to support their points.	<input type="checkbox"/> Only a few people used examples from the book to support their points.
<input type="checkbox"/> Most people gave detailed answers using their experiences and even other texts.	<input type="checkbox"/> Many people gave detailed answers using their experiences.	<input type="checkbox"/> Only a few people gave detailed answers.

Notes:

Evaluate the Discussion

Excellent	Good	Fair
<input type="checkbox"/> Everyone participated.	<input type="checkbox"/> Most people participated.	<input type="checkbox"/> Only a few people participated.
<input type="checkbox"/> Everyone spoke clearly.	<input type="checkbox"/> Most people spoke clearly.	<input type="checkbox"/> Some people did not speak clearly.
<input type="checkbox"/> Everyone listened carefully.	<input type="checkbox"/> Most people listened carefully.	<input type="checkbox"/> Some people did not listen carefully.
<input type="checkbox"/> We stayed on the topic throughout the discussion.	<input type="checkbox"/> We stayed on the topic most of the time.	<input type="checkbox"/> We did not stay on the topic all the time.
<input type="checkbox"/> We responded to each other's thoughts and ideas often.	<input type="checkbox"/> We commented on each other's thoughts and ideas sometimes.	<input type="checkbox"/> We did not make many comments on each other's thoughts and ideas.
<input type="checkbox"/> Most people used examples from the book to support their points.	<input type="checkbox"/> Many people used examples from the book to support their points.	<input type="checkbox"/> Only a few people used examples from the book to support their points.
<input type="checkbox"/> Most people gave detailed answers using their experiences and even other texts.	<input type="checkbox"/> Many people gave detailed answers using their experiences.	<input type="checkbox"/> Only a few people gave detailed answers.

Notes:

Assessment

Assess students' understanding of *Stargirl* by administering the multiple-choice test and essay questions. (Teacher's Guide, pages 13–15)

How you administer the **Assessment** depends on your objective. You may choose to use the test as:

- an open-book test to allow students to continue practicing reading strategies and/or become familiar with a typical standardized test format
- a closed-book test to check students' comprehension of the book and their abilities in various reading skills
- a take-home test to allow students to practice reading strategies as well as test-taking skills

Suggested point values are as follows:

Assessment Part I: 5 points per question for a total of 50 points

Assessment Part II: 40 points possible (see **Scoring Guide**, page 16)

Assessment Part I

Stargirl Name: _____

Assessment Part I

Circle the best answer.

- Stargirl is unique. She does things differently than most people. She has her own _____.
 - A identity
 - B best friend
 - C conformity
 - D business
- From Leo's descriptions at the end of the novel, the reader can conclude that he—
 - A wishes he had never met Stargirl
 - B misses Stargirl and still cares for her
 - C wants to travel to escape his memories
 - D hopes to become a doctor someday
- Which sentence from this selection supports the idea that Stargirl changes the way Leo sees the world?
 - A *When I see change on the sidewalk, I leave it there.*
 - B *The high school has a new club called the Sunflowers.*
 - C *Throughout my college years I visited Archie whenever I came home.*
 - D *There was one dot of color on the whole thing, a little red heart.*
- Stargirl forms the Ukee Dooks group. This is important because it—
 - A lets readers know that Stargirl still wants to be popular
 - B shows Stargirl's realization that she must be true to herself
 - C makes Leo happy for Stargirl
 - D shows how the students continue to accept Stargirl as their friend
- Stargirl changes to Susan because she wants to—
 - A be Hillari's friend
 - B make Leo happy
 - C have nice clothes
 - D do nice things for others
- The author chose high school as the setting because—
 - A teenagers are easy to write about because they are all alike
 - B his wife is Stargirl
 - C schools are interesting to write about because of the dances and activities
 - D high school is a time when teenagers experience a lot of pressure and go through many changes

Assessment Part II

Stargirl

Guidelines for Short Essay

Have students write a short essay in response to one of the writing prompts below. Use the **Scoring Guide** to assist in your evaluation of their essays.

- What are the benefits and downsides of nonconformity? Use examples from your own life in addition to examples from the text.

Responses should include that nonconformity can set people apart from others and expresses creativity and individuality. Nonconformity can be a downfall when it isolates a person from others or keeps people from having meaningful relationships, like Leo and Stargirl.
- What role does popularity play in Stargirl's life? What role does it play in Leo's life? How might their relationship have been different if they were not in a high school that discourages nonconformity? What role does popularity play at your school?

Responses should include details about how Stargirl's relationships with others are influenced by popularity. Dori doesn't care what others think about Stargirl because Dori isn't popular. Hillari feels threatened by Stargirl, especially when others start to accept her. Leo doesn't think he cares about popularity, but his actions show that he does. Leo wants to be accepted rather than have a relationship with Stargirl. Their relationship might have survived if they were at a high school where students accepted other students who were different.

Scoring Guide

	Description of the response:
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interpretation is accurate and thoughtful • Explanation is fully developed • Support includes specific and relevant text evidence • All parts of the question are clearly addressed
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interpretation is adequate • Explanation is developed but may lack some insight • Support includes most specific and relevant text evidence • All parts of the question are addressed to some degree
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interpretation is literal or limited • Explanation is incomplete • Support includes some specific and relevant text evidence • Only parts of the question are addressed and mostly in a limited way
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interpretation is weak • Explanation is vague • Support includes few, if any, relevant details from the text • Only one part of the question is minimally addressed
0	Response is totally incorrect or irrelevant

Assessment Part I, continued

Stargirl Name: _____

Assessment Part I, continued

Circle the best answer.

- Leo wants Stargirl to conform so he can be popular again. In this sentence, what does conform mean?
 - A hide from others
 - B smile at others
 - C act the same as others
 - D motivate others
- From Hillari Kimble's actions and behavior, the reader can conclude that—
 - A she is jealous of Stargirl
 - B she wants Stargirl to become a better person
 - C she wants to be friends with Stargirl
 - D she wants to be on Hot Seat
- How do the people in the school and town change because of Stargirl?
 - A They realize that conformity is not always good.
 - B They realize that it is better to be liked than to be yourself.
 - C They realize it is important to get credit for doing kind acts for others.
 - D They realize that Archie is a good teacher.
- Which of these is the best plot summary?
 - A There is a new girl at school. Her name is Stargirl, and she is different from the rest of the students. Stargirl wears strange clothes, plays the ukulele, and sings. Students instantly start to imitate Stargirl. They all go to the mall and buy pet rats so they can be like her.
 - B There is a new girl at school. People call her Stargirl, but her real name is Susan. To make Leo and the other students like her better, Stargirl calls herself Susan. She loves to go shopping. She looks just like a regular student. Unfortunately, no one likes Susan, so she becomes Stargirl again.
 - C Stargirl is the new girl at Mica High. She appears on Hot Seat and the students attack her for being so different. The show is never aired because of the way Stargirl is treated. Stargirl and Leo date, but no one will talk to them. Leo decides not to take her to the dance. Stargirl goes anyway and has a great time.
 - D Stargirl is the new student at school. She dresses and acts differently. The other students like her at first, but eventually, they begin to think Stargirl's behavior is odd. Everyone rejects her, except for Leo. Stargirl teaches Leo to look at the world differently. Leo wants Stargirl to fit in, but Stargirl chooses to be herself.

Assessment Part I

Circle the best answer.

1. Stargirl is unique. She does things differently than most people. She has her own _____.
 - A identity
 - B best friend
 - C conformity
 - D business
2. From Leo's descriptions at the end of the novel, the reader can conclude that he—
 - A wishes he had never met Stargirl
 - B misses Stargirl and still cares for her
 - C wants to travel to escape his memories
 - D hopes to become a doctor someday
3. Which sentence from this selection supports the idea that Stargirl changes the way Leo sees the world?
 - A *When I see change on the sidewalk, I leave it there.*
 - B *The high school has a new club called the Sunflowers.*
 - C *Throughout my college years I visited Archie whenever I came home.*
 - D *There was one dot of color on the whole thing, a little red heart.*
4. Stargirl forms the Ukee Dooks group. This is important because it—
 - A lets readers know that Stargirl still wants to be popular
 - B shows Stargirl's realization that she must be true to herself
 - C makes Leo happy for Stargirl
 - D shows how the students continue to accept Stargirl as their friend
5. Stargirl changes to Susan because she wants to—
 - A be Hillari's friend
 - B make Leo happy
 - C have nice clothes
 - D do nice things for others
6. The author chose high school as the setting because—
 - A teenagers are easy to write about because they are all alike
 - B his wife is Stargirl
 - C schools are interesting to write about because of the dances and activities
 - D high school is a time when teenagers experience a lot of pressure and go through many changes

Assessment Part I, continued

Circle the best answer.

7. Leo wants Stargirl to conform so he can be popular again. In this sentence, what does conform mean?
- A hide from others
 - B smile at others
 - C act the same as others
 - D motivate others
8. From Hillari Kimble's actions and behavior, the reader can conclude that—
- A she is jealous of Stargirl
 - B she wants Stargirl to become a better person
 - C she wants to be friends with Stargirl
 - D she wants to be on Hot Seat
9. How do the people in the school and town change because of Stargirl?
- A They realize that conformity is not always good.
 - B They realize that it is better to be liked than to be yourself.
 - C They realize it is important to get credit for doing kind acts for others.
 - D They realize that Archie is a good teacher.
10. Which of these is the best plot summary?
- A There is a new girl at school. Her name is Stargirl, and she is different from the rest of the students. Stargirl wears strange clothes, plays the ukulele, and sings. Students instantly start to imitate Stargirl. They all go to the mall and buy pet rats so they can be like her.
 - B There is a new girl at school. People call her Stargirl, but her real name is Susan. To make Leo and the other students like her better, Stargirl calls herself Susan. She loves to go shopping. She looks just like a regular student. Unfortunately, no one likes Susan, so she becomes Stargirl again.
 - C Stargirl is the new girl at Mica High. She appears on Hot Seat and the students attack her for being so different. The show is never aired because of the way Stargirl is treated. Stargirl and Leo date, but no one will talk to them. Leo decides not to take her to the dance. Stargirl goes anyway and has a great time.
 - D Stargirl is the new student at school. She dresses and acts differently. The other students like her at first, but eventually, they begin to think Stargirl's behavior is odd. Everyone rejects her, except for Leo. Stargirl teaches Leo to look at the world differently. Leo wants Stargirl to fit in, but Stargirl chooses to be herself.

Guidelines for Short Essay

Have students write a short essay in response to one of the writing prompts below. Use the **Scoring Guide** to assist in your evaluation of their essays.

- A.** What are the benefits and downfalls of nonconformity? Use examples from your own life in addition to examples from the text.

Responses should include that nonconformity can set people apart from others and expresses creativity and individuality. Nonconformity can be a downfall when it isolates a person from others or keeps people from having meaningful relationships, like Leo and Stargirl.

- B.** What role does popularity play in Stargirl's life? What role does it play in Leo's life? How might their relationship have been different if they were not in a high school that discourages nonconformity? What role does popularity play at your school?

Responses should include details about how Stargirl's relationships with others are influenced by popularity. Dori doesn't care what others think about Stargirl because Dori isn't popular. Hillari feels threatened by Stargirl, especially when others start to accept her. Leo doesn't think he cares about popularity, but his actions show that he does. Leo wants to be accepted rather than have a relationship with Stargirl. Their relationship might have survived if they were at a high school where students accepted other students who were different.

Scoring Guide

	Description of the response:
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interpretation is accurate and thoughtful • Explanation is fully developed • Support includes specific and relevant text evidence • All parts of the question are clearly addressed
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interpretation is adequate • Explanation is developed but may lack some insight • Support includes most specific and relevant text evidence • All parts of the question are addressed to some degree
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interpretation is literal or limited • Explanation is incomplete • Support includes some specific and relevant text evidence • Only parts of the question are addressed and mostly in a limited way
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interpretation is weak • Explanation is vague • Support includes few, if any, relevant details from the text • Only one part of the question is minimally addressed
0	Response is totally incorrect or irrelevant