

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			

THE EXCHANGE

Should people change for others?

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

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?

2. What is the setting? Why is this important to the story?

3. How is the theme of identity explored in *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.

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.

3. **Setting** Reread pages 37–39. Hillari confronts Stargirl in the lunchroom. How does the setting make this event more uncomfortable?

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?

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		

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

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.

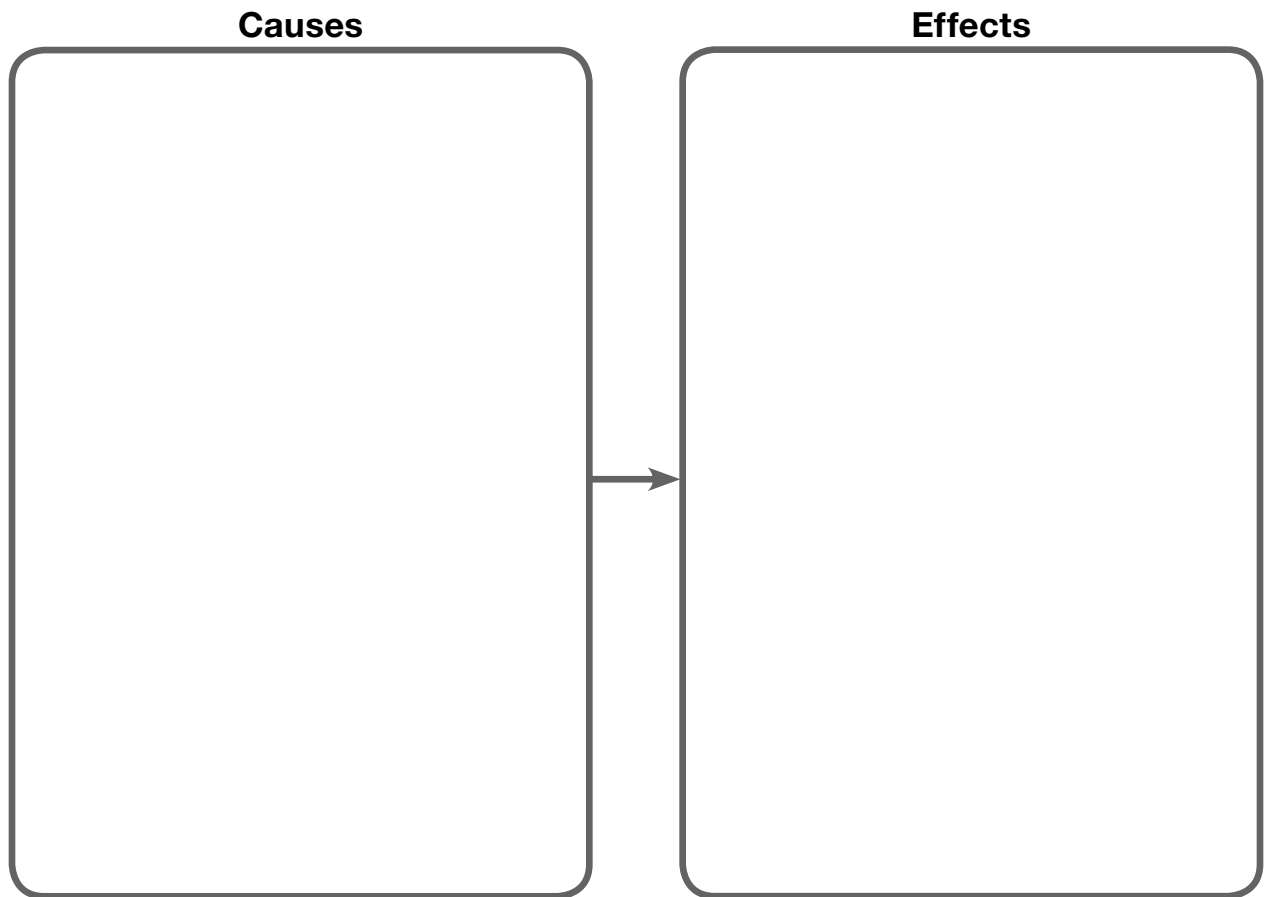
3. Author's Style On page 63, the author writes about Stargirl: "*She did not seem to notice.*" Reread the page. Why does the author set this sentence apart from the others and in italics?

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?

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



Choose three of the events listed above. In these situations, is Stargirl trying to make people angry? How do you know?

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.

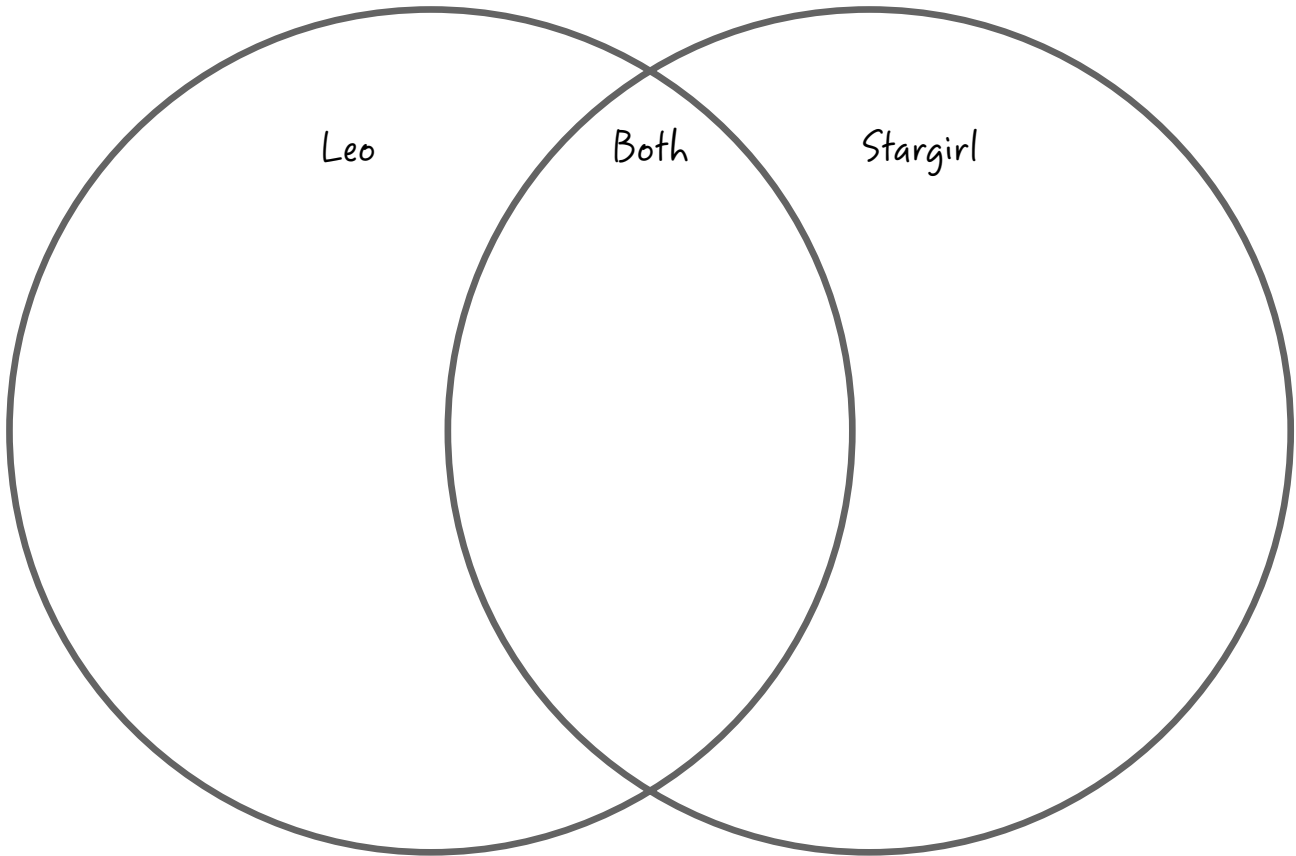
3. **Irony** What is ironic about the fact that almost no one likes Stargirl?

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?

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?

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.

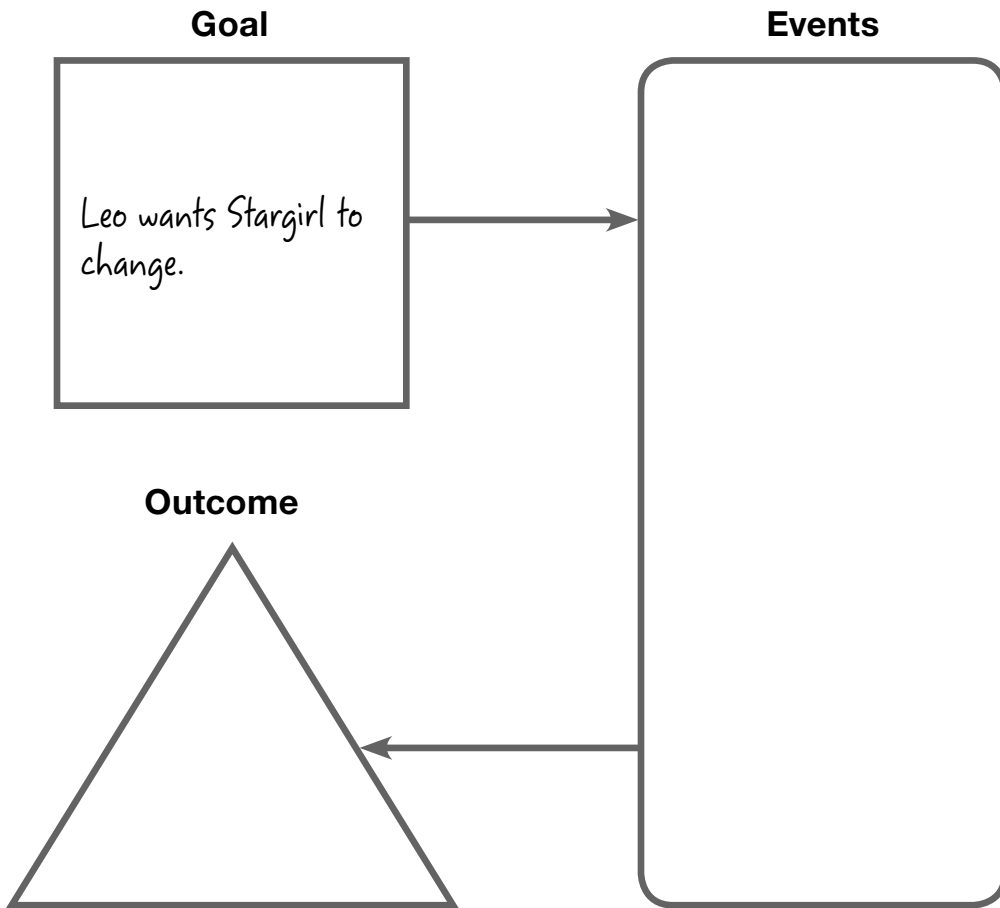
3. Generalization The students blame Stargirl for everything, including the basketball team's losses. Why do they blame her? Why do people often blame others for their own problems?

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?

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?

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.

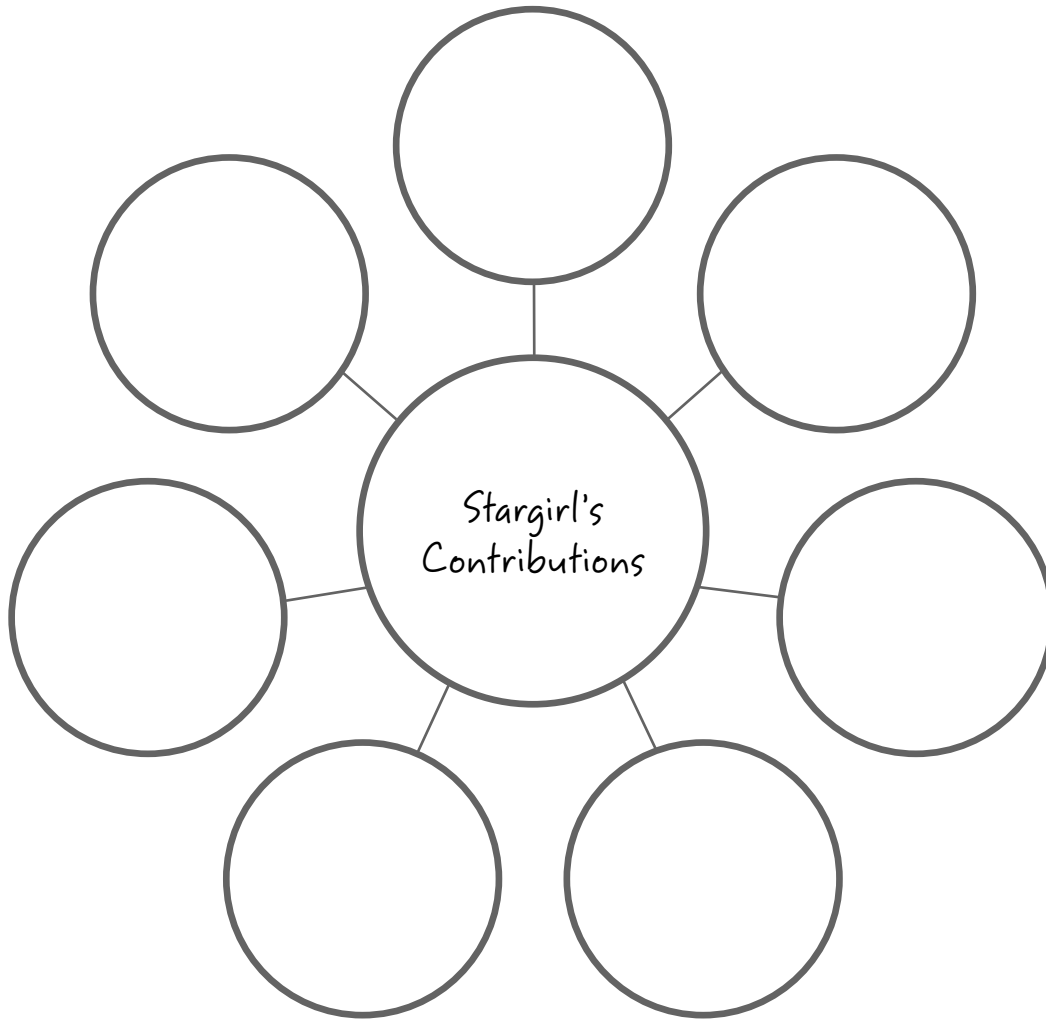
3. Inference On page 176, Stargirl tells Leo she knows he is not going to ask her to the Ocotillo Ball and then smiles at him. What does he mean when he says “. . . and in that moment I hated her?”

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?

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?

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?

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?

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>

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