Reflection and Analysis Package

STARGIRL
by Jerry Spinelli

My Name: ______________ Score: (     /100)
Part 1: Reflection Questions (pp. 1-18)
Utter Confusion

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. Stargirl's appearance and behavior suggests that she is very different from the other students at Mica High School. This reveals something about what she values (things that are important to her). Contrast Stargirl's values with the values of the average high school student at Mica High.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stargirl Values...</th>
<th>The Average H.S. student values...</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
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</table>

3. In your opinion, why are the other students so shocked and frightened by Stargirl's appearance and behavior?

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4. Why do you think that Leo follows Stargirl after school?

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5. Summarize the story so far:

This story is set in_______________________________________________________.

It concerns a high school student named______________________, who __________
________________________________________________. One day, an unusual student called__________
arrives. She _________________________________.

She even _________________________________________.

At first, ________________ are suspicious of Stargirl, and___________________________.

6. Reflection: Imagine Stargirl appears at YOUR high school in YOUR class.
   a) How might YOU respond to her?
   b) How do you think other students at your school might respond to her? Why?

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Part 2: Reflection Questions (pp.19-35)
Things seem to go right for Stargirl and Mica High

1. What is “Hillari’s Hoax?”

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2. Who is Wayne Parr, and what makes him so popular?

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________________________________________________________________________

3. Describe what happens at the football game.

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________________________________________________________________________

4. Why do you think that Stargirl is invited to become a cheerleader?

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5. Explain how Stargirl both keeps her word to Hillari, but also manages to sing “Happy Birthday.”
6. Why do you think that Hillari is so hostile towards Stargirl?

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7. In the lines below, imagine that Hillari goes online and explains to her friends how she feels about Stargirl. Write the words that she might say in a chat room or blog post.

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8. Who is Archie Brubaker?

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9. What is his opinion of Stargirl? Explain why he thinks that Stargirl is "normal," while everyone else is messed up.

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Part 3: Reflection Questions (pp. 36-67)
Conflict emerges: How things go wrong for Stargirl and Mica High

1. 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.

2. “It was a golden age, those few weeks in December and January. How could I know that when the end came, I would be in the middle of it?” (p.42) What events might these lines foreshadow?

3. A series of disconnected events indicate that Stargirl’s behavior offends people. List each incident, and then provide Stargirl’s perspective AND the perspective of a person who is offended (upset or hurt) by her behavior.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Stargirl’s Perspective</th>
<th>An Offended Person’s Perspective</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Modifying the “Pledge of Allegiance” to the American flag</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Action</td>
<td>Stargirl's Perspective</td>
<td>An Offended Person's Perspective</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>------------------------</td>
<td>----------------------------------</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stargirl attends a private funeral of someone she doesn’t know</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Stargirl gives Danny Pike a bike</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Stargirl cheers for the losing team and even stops cheering for her own school team.</td>
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</table>

4. In your opinion, why is Stargirl so misunderstood by so many people?

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5. Describe what happens during the “Hot Seat” TV recording with Stargirl.

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6. During the interview, a number of audience and jury members say mean and angry things towards Stargirl. What do you think they are feeling at this time? What might be “underneath” their anger and hostility?

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7. How do you think each character feels at this point in the story? What might be going through their heads?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stargirl</th>
<th>Leo</th>
<th>Hillari</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
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</table>
Part 4: Reflection Questions (pp. 68-84)
Stargirl and Leo grow closer

1. What happens at the basketball game? Explain how it turns “ugly”

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2. Describe how Stargirl responds after this incident.

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3. How does Leo react when Stargirl approaches him? Why do you think he feels so awkward and embarrassed?

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4. Have you ever been “shunned” or have you ever “shunned” or ignored someone else due to social pressure or embarrassment? If so, describe that experience. What was it like for you?
5. Leo begins to have conflicted feelings for Stargirl. On the one hand, ____________________________
   ____________________________

   And at the same time, he ____________________________
   ____________________________

6. How might you feel if a controversial or unpopular person publicly expressed that they like you? How might you respond?
   ____________________________
   ____________________________
   ____________________________
   ____________________________

7. Why does Leo get nicknamed “Starboy?”
   ____________________________
   ____________________________
   ____________________________
   ____________________________

8. Describe how the relationship between Stargirl and Leo begins to change at this point.
   ____________________________
   ____________________________
   ____________________________
   ____________________________
Part 5: Reflection Questions (pp. 85-105)
Leo faces a decision

1. On page 87, the narrator says “She laughed and the desert sang.” This is an example of __________________________ (imagery that gives human qualities to an inhuman thing). This is a poetic way of saying that Stargirl’s laugh makes Leo feel ______________.

2. “The earth is speaking to us, but we can’t hear because of the racket our senses are making. Sometimes we needs to erase them - erase our senses. Then - maybe - the earth will touch us. The universe will speak. The stars will whisper.” (p.91) Stargirl has a different perspective or way of looking at the world. Describe this perspective.

3. What evidence suggests that Leo and Stargirl have become socially isolated at school?

4. Explain the meaning of the following quote: “While I smiled and nodded to her, frost formed on the back of my neck.” (p.99)
5. Leo reveals his conflicted feelings about Stargirl to Archie. While, on the one hand, he feels _____________________________ towards Stargirl and _____________________________, on the other hand, he __________________________________________ and ________________________________________________________________.

6. Archie’s response challenges Leo. Explain what it is.

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Part 6: Reflection Questions (pp. 106-125)
Leo Discovers the Meaning of Friendship

1. What big event does Leo help Stargirl prepare for?
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2. Give examples that show that Stargirl is a good influence on Leo.
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3. What characteristic of Stargirl encourages Leo to relax and just be himself?
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_______________________________________________________________________
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4. Do you have someone in your life who you can relax with and be yourself around? What is that like for you? What quality does that person have that helps you?
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5. What does Leo find out about the porcupine tie?
_______________________________________________________________________
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_______________________________________________________________________
6. What do Leo and Stargirl do at the Redstone mall?

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7. What evidence suggests that Stargirl spends time thinking about and caring for others?

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8. Describe Stargirl’s family. How do they disprove Leo’s expectations?

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9. Explain the symbolism of the pebbles in the wagon.

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Part 7: Reflection Questions (pp.126-138)
Leo’s two worlds collide

1. Explain the significance of the following line for Leo: “But Mondays always followed Sundays. In what sense is Leo trying to lead two lives?”

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2. Why do you think the shunning was more painful for Leo than for Stargirl?

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3. Why does Stargirl get blamed for the performance of the school basketball team. Do you think this is fair? Why or why not?

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4. What actions does Stargirl take that both excites and upsets Leo?

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5. Describe Leo’s reaction.

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6. How would YOU feel if you found yourself in a similar situation, where a very unpopular person publicly expressed their affection for you? Explain.

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7. Stargirl and Leo have different perspectives on what it is like to be “shunned” by others. Contrast them in the table below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Leo’s Perspective on being Shunned</th>
<th>Stargirl’s Perspective on being Shunned</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

8. What do you think the following lines mean “Two days later, Stargirl vanished.” (p.138)

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Part 8: Reflection Questions (pp. 139-164)
Stargirl Disappears...Then Reappears

1. Describe how Stargirl has transformed herself into Susan.

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_______________________________________________________________________
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2. Although Leo is happy about the more socially acceptable changes Susan has made, he also becomes uncomfortable with these changes. Explain why.

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3. What feelings emerged in you when you read page 143? How did it make you feel? How did you feel for Susan? Why?

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4. Why has Susan suddenly become so consumed with becoming popular?

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5. Describe what happens at the Speech Tournament.

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6. Describe the homecoming after the event. Why is Dory Dilson crying?

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7. Why do you think Susan transforms herself back into Stargirl?

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8. Why is Leo so conflicted about asking Stargirl to be his date at the Ocotillo Ball?

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Part 9: Reflection Questions (pp.165-186)
Stargirl Disappears...Then Reappears

1. Who accompanies Stargirl to the Ball?

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_______________________________________________________________________

2. What happens at the Ball?

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3. How does Stargirl respond to Hillari’s insult? How does the mood change at this point in the story?

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4. Why do you think Stargirl leaves Mica forever?

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5. Explain the meaning of Archie’s words, “Star people are rare. You’ll be lucky to meet another.” (p.177)

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6. Through Archie’s words, the author is suggested that Leo has lost something very important. Explain.

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7. Describe what Stargirl left behind. What evidence suggests that she somehow changed Leo? The town of Mica?

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8. The end of the story is somewhat sad. What details reinforce this mood?

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9. Explain the importance of the last lines of the story: "Last month, one day before my birthday, I received a gift-wrapped package in the mail. It was a porcupine necktie." (p.186)

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10. Leo learns some important lessons by the end of the story. In your own words, explain one lesson he learns about what is important in life and how we should live our lives.

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11. Leo and Stargirl are dynamic characters that change during the course of the story. In the table below, describe them at the start, in the middle, and at the end.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Leo...</th>
<th>Stargirl...</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>At the Start of the Story..</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>In the Middle of the Story..</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>At the End of the Story..</strong></td>
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</table>

12. In your opinion, does this story have a happy ending? Why or why not?

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13. Work with a partner to compose either a different ending to the story, or plan out a sequel to the story. Would your ending or story convey a different meaning? Explain.