***Stargirl*  Discussion Questions**

**“Porcupine Necktie”**

1. Why begin the book with something as random as the main character receiving a porcupine necktie?
2. At the end of the chapter, the narrator says, “We were all being watched.” (2) Who might be watching them and why?

**CH. 1-3**

1. How do the other students react to Stargirl? Why do they react this way?
2. What do the students’ reactions suggest about Stargirl and the students themselves?
3. Why can’t the students believe Stargirl is real?
4. How are the students of Mica like rubber bands?
5. Why does Leo change his mind about putting Stargirl on the Hot Seat?
6. Why does Leo follow Stargirl after school one day? Why does he turn away without talking to her?

**Ch. 4-7**

1. How is Wayne Parr a “reflection” or representation of the students of Mica?
2. Why do Stargirl’s antics at the football game cause people to start coming to the games? Why did they never go before?
3. Why is it so important to Hillari Kimble that Stargirl not sing to her? Why does find a way to sing for Hallari’s birthday anyway?
4. What kind of person is Archie? Why do Kevin and Leo go to him for help?
5. Archie makes some odd comments about Stargirl in Chapter 7. He says that Stargirl is “,more us than we are. She is…who we really are. Or were.” (32). He also says that Stargirl is not acting and “if anybody is acting, it’s us.” (33). What does he mean? Do you agree with him?

**Ch. 8-10**

1. Why does Stargirl suddenly become so popular?
2. How are the students of Mica changing? Why are they changing?
3. Why does Leo change his mind again about putting Stargirl on the Hot Seat?
4. How would the events in chapter 10 impact Stargirl’s popularity?

**Ch. 11-14**

1. Why did the winning streak change the way the Mica students feel about basketball?
2. What do you think of Stargirl’s comments about names? “I’m not my name. My name is something I wear, like a shirt, It gets worn, I outgrow it, I change it.” (63)
3. Why does Stargirl’s turn on the Hot Seat get so ugly?
4. Why does Stargirl cheer for other teams and help Ron Kovac? Is she wrong to do these things?
5. How does Stargirl’s behavior at the basketball games begin to change the way the other students feel about her?
6. How are “head and heart contrary historians”? (68) What does this mean?

**Ch. 15-16**

1. How does Leo feel about Stargirl? How can you tell?
2. What lesson do you think Archie was trying to teach the students at the end of chapter 15?

**Ch. 17-20**

1. Why do you think Stargirl likes Leo? Why does Leo like Stargirl?
2. Remember that Leo and Stargirl have a discussion about creating official “Enchanted Sites” and Leo says people would just ruin them with litter. Stargirl seems surprised by this suggestion. What do their assumptions about what people would do with an enchanted site say about them? In other words what does it suggest about Stargirl that she assumes people wouldn’t litter and Leo assumes they would?
3. When Leo and Kevin talk about how people have turned on Stargirl and started ignoring her, Leo wonders, “the Happy Birthday songs, the Valetine cards, all the nice things she does for people…doesn’t that count for something?” (99). Kevin replies, “I guess not.” (99). Why don’t all of Stargirl’s kind acts count for more? Why aren’t they enough to win over the other students?
4. How is Leo like a dolphin “caught in a tuna net”? (100)
5. During his talk with Leo, Archie says that sometimes he thinks Stargirl should be teaching him and that “she seems to be in touch with something that the rest of us are missing.” (102) What does Archie mean? What is Stargirl in touch with? Should she be teaching Archie?
6. Archie asks Leo, “Whose affection do you value more, hers or the others?” (104) How do you think Leo will answer this question? Why does Leo say he doesn’t want to answer the question?
7. Why doesn’t Stargirl leave her name on the cards and gifts she leaves for others? Is it important to know where a gift came from? Is it important to get credit?

**Ch. 21-23**

1. Leo says, that sometimes Stargirl “seemed so far from me.” (114) How is Stargirl far from Leo?
2. Why is Leo surprised when he goes over to Stargirl’s house? Were you surprised? Why?
3. Leo says Stargirl “was part of my identity. I was ‘her boyfriend.’ I was Mr. Stargirl.” (127) Is this realistic? Do boyfriends or girlfriends start to become part of a person’s identity? If so, why?
4. Why does Leo start to get angry at the end of ch. 23? Is he being fair or realistic?

**Ch. 24-25**

1. How does Leo react to the sign on the roadrunner? Why does he react this way?
2. Why does the shunning bother Leo so much? Why can’t he stop himself from caring?
3. What is Leo’s “crime” at the end of chapter 24? Is this realistic? Would a person really be shunned for this “crime”?
4. Why does it say about Leo that he hides from Stargirl at the beginning of ch. 25 instead of facing her and addressing the conflict?
5. In ch. 25 Leo insists that what other people think matters. In what sense could he be right?
6. Remember that at the end of ch. 25 Leo tries to explain the importance of groups to Stargirl. Do you agree with what he says on 137-138.
7. Why do people form groups? What are the rules of belonging to a group? Do we need groups?
8. When Leo is trying to convince Stargirl to change, why does he say, “I didn’t say do it for me. I didn’t say if you don’t change you can forget about me. I never said that” ? (138) Why does he keep insisting he didn’t tell Stargirl to change for him?

**Ch. 26-29**

1. Why did Stargirl become Susan?
2. What does it say about Leo that he’s thrilled when Stargirl becomes Susan?
3. Is Stargirl’s change a good thing? Was her change worth it? Support your answer with evidence.
4. What do you make of Stargirl’s comment that Dori just “doesn’t understand how important it is to be popular”? (146)
5. Why do you think winning the oratorical contest is so important to Stargirl? Why does she keep telling Leo what to do with her trophy-plate?

**Ch. 30-31**

1. Why does Susan become Stargirl again? What has she realized?
2. When Stargirl tells Leo she understands his reaction to her change and gives him a smile, why does he say, “In that moment I hated her”? (162)
3. How does Leo react to Stargirl changing back to her original self? What does his reaction suggest about him?
4. Why does Leo switch from past tense to present tense on the middle of page 168?
5. What effect did Stargirl have on the dance? After being shunned and despised for so long, why do you think Startgirl’s presence had this effect on the students?
6. Why did Stargirl kiss Hillari’s cheek after Hillari slapped her?

**Ch. 32 to end**

1. Why does Archie say Leo was a luck kid? Is Archie right?
2. How did Stargirl have a lasting impact on both the school and Leo?

**Final questions:**

1. Look back at these examples of foreshadowing:
 “It did not occur to me that I was being watched. We were all being watched?” 2

“How could I know that he would soon by challenged by a freckle-nosed homeschooler?” 21

“Then she did something that made pretending impossible to choose.” (128)

“Two days late Stargirl vanished.” 138

How did each of these quotes foreshadow events to come? What did you think of Spinelli’s use of foreshadowing? Did you like it or not? Did it make the book more or less enjoyable to read?

1. Why do you think Spinelli wrote this book from Leo’s perspective instead of Stargirl’s?