

Name \_\_\_\_\_



## Remembering Stargirl

Years had passed, but Leo Borlock still thought about Stargirl. He could picture her playing the ukulele in the cafeteria, leaving little gifts for strangers, and dancing in the rain without a care. The story of Stargirl is not told as it happens, but through Leo's memories. This use of flashbacks allows the reader to experience Stargirl not just as a person, but as a feeling—someone unforgettable.

The novel begins with Leo looking back at his high school years, remembering the first time he saw Stargirl. At that moment, she was a mystery, a girl unlike anyone else at Mica High. As the story unfolds, the reader follows Leo's thoughts and emotions as he recalls both the joy and regret of knowing her. Through his memories, we understand how much she changed his life and how much he struggled between loving her and wanting to fit in.

Flashbacks help us see how the past shapes the present. As Leo tells his story, he includes details that he didn't fully understand at the time. When he was younger, he worried about what others thought. He wanted Stargirl to act "normal" so they could be together without being judged. But as he looks back, he realizes how special she was and how much he wishes he had accepted her for who she was.

The structure of the novel, with its mix of past and present, makes Stargirl's impact even stronger. Instead of just reading about events as they happen, the reader experiences them through Leo's emotions—his excitement, his confusion, and eventually, his regret. This makes the story feel more personal, as if we are listening to someone share a deep, personal memory.

By telling the story this way, Jerry Spinelli helps us connect more deeply with the characters. We see Stargirl not just as a quirky girl at school, but as someone who left a lasting mark on Leo's heart. The use of flashbacks makes her feel like a legend, someone who existed for a short time but changed everything. And just like Leo, the reader is left wondering—was she real, or was she something more?