

Name _____



Torn Between

Leo Borlock never wanted to stand out. At Mica High School, the safest thing to do was to blend in. Students followed unspoken rules about how to dress, what to say, and who to befriend. Then Stargirl arrived, and suddenly, everything changed.

Stargirl wasn't like anyone else. She cheered for both teams, played the ukulele at lunch, and left kind notes for strangers. At first, the school was fascinated by her uniqueness, and so was Leo. He had never met someone so free-spirited and full of life. As he spent more time with her, he found himself drawn to her kindness and the way she saw the world.

But soon, the school turned against her. They didn't understand why she refused to follow the rules of popularity. They whispered about her in the hallways and ignored her in the cafeteria. And suddenly, Leo found himself facing a difficult choice: should he stay by Stargirl's side or distance himself to fit in?

Leo loved Stargirl, but he also wanted to be accepted. He tried to convince her to be more like everyone else. "Can't you just be normal?" he asked. For a short time, Stargirl tried. She dressed like the other girls, stopped cheering for the other team, and tried to blend in. But it didn't work. The other students still didn't accept her, and Leo could see that pretending to be someone else made her unhappy.

In the end, Stargirl chose to stay true to herself, even if it meant being alone. But Leo couldn't do the same. He let his fear of rejection control his actions. When Stargirl left, Leo realized too late that he had lost something special. Looking back, he saw how much he had cared about what others thought instead of standing up for the girl he loved.

Leo's struggle shows the conflict between wanting to belong and embracing what makes someone unique. His story teaches us that true friendship and love mean accepting people for who they are, not who we want them to be.

