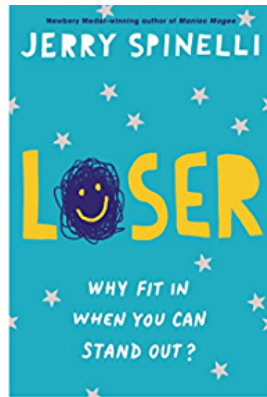


Clarksville Academy Middle School Summer Reading 2023



★★★★★ 1,298

All fifth graders will read *Loser* by Jerry Spinelli.

This year's summer reading selections across all grade levels (3-12) are situated within a common theme of building a community of belonging and acceptance.

In our school-wide effort to promote a deeper understanding of this theme, CA English teachers have chosen titles for summer reading to promote robust discussion of literature that explores the complexities of building a strong and productive community.

The 5th grade summer reading selection, *Loser*, is a sweet story about Donald Zinkoff, a young character who demonstrates great self-acceptance and who is not afraid to fail when other kids give him a hard time and call him names. With the support and encouragement of his family, he learns to approach life with a positive spirit and works to enjoy all that it has to offer.

Assignments

- Purchase a copy of the book.
- Complete the required reading assignments. (See packet)
- Bring your book and assignments on your first day of class.
- If you have questions, please email Alicia McQueen, amcqueen@clarksvilleacademy.com

CHAPTERS 1-4

Have you ever known a kid like Zinkoff? How were they similar and how were they different? Did this person change when he/she got older?

CHAPTERS 5-7

“Picture Perfect”

The author does not spend a great deal of time describing Donald Zinkoff's appearance. In fact we don't really know the color of his hair, eyes, or even his skin - whether he's tall, short, fat or thin. Draw a picture as to how you perceive Zinkoff to look like.

CHAPTERS 8-9

How does Zinkoff try to mimic the other children and do things to please them? How might this be a problem to Zinkoff as he gets older?

CHAPTERS 10-11

By now you probably know a great deal about Donald Zinkoff, the main character of this novel. An attribute web is designed to help the reader gather clues as to what a character is like. Fill in the blanks below with words and phrases, which describe how a character acts, feels, looks and what he says. Provide four (4) examples for each.

Acts

Feels

A diagram for an attribute web. It features a central pink circle containing the text "Donald Zinkoff". Surrounding this central circle are four labels, each underlined: "Acts" at the top-left, "Feels" at the top-right, "Looks" at the bottom-left, and "Says" at the bottom-right. These labels are positioned to indicate where students should write examples of the character's attributes.

Donald
Zinkoff

Looks

Says

CHAPTERS 12-14

What “test” does Zinkoff devise for himself in Chapter 14?

- a) How long will he stay there?
- b) Why do you think Zinkoff put himself through this test?
- c) What was the “final result” of the test?

CHAPTERS 16-17

What does the term “unconditional love” mean? Is this a valuable thing for a parent to have?

CHAPTERS 18-20

What do you think are important character traits/attributes in determining a “best friend”?

CHAPTERS 21-23

Zinkoff lists a number of silly past times that occupy him during the summer months. List a few similar things that have occupied your time during summer vacation.

CHAPTERS 24-26

Comic Strip

Design a comic strip with at least six frames illustrating the events of these chapters. Color your illustrations and include the appropriate dialogue.

FINAL ANALYSIS

What did you like best about the novel “Loser”? Be sure to include all the important details that made you like it.