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# Wringer Jerry Spinelli

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Equality, excellence, and the battle over school choice

There's a Girl in My Hammerlock

The Library Card

Loser

Emmy and the Incredible Shrinking Rat

Eggs

Jerry Spinelli's Outsiders and its Relevance in Children's Literature

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Novel Study

How The Other Half Learns

A Literature Kit for Wringer by Jerry Spinelli

Ida B  
Fourth Grade Rats  
Maniac Magee by Jerry Spinelli  
Blue Ribbon Blues  
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Wringer Jerry Spinelli

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## MARIELA YATES

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*Equality, excellence, and the battle over school choice* Alfred A. Knopf Books for Young Readers

An inside look at America's most controversial charter schools, and the moral and political questions around public education and school choice. The promise of public education is excellence for all. But that promise has seldom been kept for low-income children of color in America. In

How the Other Half Learns, teacher and education journalist Robert Pondiscio focuses on Success Academy, the network of controversial charter schools in New York City founded by Eva Moskowitz, who has created something unprecedented in American education: a way for large numbers of engaged and ambitious low-income families of color to get an education for their children that equals and even exceeds what wealthy families take for granted. Her results are astonishing, her methods unorthodox. Decades of well-intended efforts to improve our schools and close the

"achievement gap" have set equity and excellence at war with each other: If you are wealthy, with the means to pay private school tuition or move to an affluent community, you can get your child into an excellent school. But if you are poor and black or brown, you have to settle for "equity" and a lecture--about fairness. About the need to be patient. And about how school choice for you only damages public schools for everyone else. Thousands of parents have chosen Success Academy, and thousands more sit on waiting lists to get in. But Moskowitz herself admits Success Academy "is not

for everyone," and this raises uncomfortable questions we'd rather not ask, let alone answer: What if the price of giving a first-rate education to children least likely to receive it means acknowledging that you can't do it for everyone? What if some problems are just too hard for schools alone to solve?

*There's a Girl in My Hammerlock* Knopf Books for Young Readers

As Palmer comes of age, he must either accept the violence of being a wringer at his town's annual Pigeon Day or find the courage to oppose it.

*The Library Card* Scholastic Inc.

Ida B. Applewood believes there is never enough time for fun. That's why she's so happy to be homeschooled and to spend every free second outside with the trees and the brook. Then some not-so-great things happen in her world. Ida B has to go back to that Place of Slow but Sure Body-Cramping, Mind-Numbing, Fun-Killing Torture—school. She feels her heart getting smaller and smaller and hardening into a sharp, black stone. How can things go from righter than right to a million miles beyond wrong? Can Ida B put together a plan to get things back to just-

about perfect again?

**Loser** Knopf Books for Young Readers  
WringerHarper Collins

*Emmy and the Incredible Shrinking Rat*

Little, Brown Books for Young Readers

Seventh-grader John "Crash" Coogan has always been comfortable with his tough, aggressive behavior, until his relationship with an unusual Quaker boy and his grandfather's stroke make him consider the meaning of friendship and the importance of family.

*Eggs* Knopf Books for Young Readers

Seminar paper from the year 2006 in the subject American Studies - Literature, grade: 1.3, University of Duisburg-Essen, language: English, abstract: The main aim of children's literature is to be readable for young people, to be amusing, exciting, to have a good story and to make readers enjoy it. Some books do not only fulfill this aim but also have a message. Young children should learn something important by reading those books. Those books are relevant for children's literature because the children enjoy learning when the story is good and interesting. But what makes a book a relevant book? Is it only the message, only the story, the characters or

all of those? This essay will show if Jerry Spinelli's books *Stargirl*, *Loser* and *Wringer* do have a relevance in children's literature and why by characterizing the protagonists and by finding out what Spinelli's messages are. Those three books have been chosen because the protagonists are outsiders and therefore the books are of comparable topics.

### **Jerry Spinelli's Outsiders and its Relevance in Children's Literature**

GRIN Verlag

Over 1 million sold in series! Kidnapped by Celtic Druids in 433, Patrick and Beth are headed to certain death when followers of a former Irish Slave (Saint Patrick, called Patritius in this book) save them. The cousins find themselves in the midst of a power struggle between Ireland's King Logaire, Patritius, and the leader of the Druids, Lochru. A spiritual showdown begins on the Hill of Slane when Patritius builds a fire, challenging the King's authority. Will Patritius prove to the king that the God of the Bible is the true God? Or will the king take sides with the Druids? The Emerald Isle holds many tales and legends, but this story of truth and standing strong for God is not one to be

missed.

**With Related Readings** Random House Books for Young Readers

The New York Times bestselling sequel to Newbery Medalist Jerry Spinelli's modern-day classic *Stargirl*, now an original film on Disney+! And don't miss the author's highly anticipated new novel, *Dead Wednesday!* Love, *Stargirl* picks up a year after *Stargirl* ends and reveals the new life of the beloved character who moved away so suddenly at the end of *Stargirl*. The novel takes the form of "the world's longest letter," in diary form, going from date to date through a little more than a year's time. In her writing, *Stargirl* mixes memories of her bittersweet time in Mica, Arizona, with involvements with new people in her life. In *Love, Stargirl*, we hear the voice of *Stargirl* herself as she reflects on time, life, Leo, and - of course - love. "Spinelli is a poet of the prepubescent. . . . No writer guides his young characters, and his readers, past these pitfalls and challenges and toward their futures with more compassion." —The New York Times  
*The Warden's Daughter* Harper Collins  
A compendium of commentary, criticism, and oratory from an array of scientists,

philosophers, politicians, and writers throughout American history features such contributors as Benjamin Franklin, Albert Einstein, Martin Luther King, Jr., and John F. Kennedy.

**My Daddy and Me** Knopf Books for Young Readers

Thirteen-year-old Maisie Potter joins her school's formerly all-male wrestling team and tries to last through the season, despite opposition from other students, her best friend, and her own teammates. An ALA Best Book for Young Adults. Reissue.

*Challenge on the Hill of Fire* Harper Collins  
Beloved Newbery Medalist Jerry Spinelli, author of *Maniac Magee* and *Wringer*, addresses issues of identity, belonging, family, and bullying in this humorous and heartfelt novel about twins. Jake and Lily are twins. Despite their slightly different interests and temperaments, they feel exactly the same—like two halves of one person. But the year they turn eleven, everything changes. Their parents announce it's time for separate bedrooms. Jake starts hanging out with a pack of boys on the block. And Lily is devastated, not to mention angry. Who is she without Jake?

And as her brother falls under the influence of the neighborhood bully, he also must ask himself—who is the real Jake? This is an often funny, poignant, and profound story of growing up, growing apart, and the difficult process of figuring out who you really are.

Who Put That Hair in My Toothbrush?

Random House Digital, Inc.

From Newbery Medalist Jerry Spinelli comes the story of a girl searching for happiness inside the walls of a prison. And don't miss the author's highly anticipated new novel, *Dead Wednesday!* Cammie O'Reilly lives at the Hancock County Prison--not as a prisoner, she's the warden's daughter. She spends the mornings hanging out with shoplifters and reformed arsonists in the women's exercise yard, which gives Cammie a certain cache with her school friends. But even though Cammie's free to leave the prison, she's still stuck. And sad, and really mad. Her mother died saving her from harm when she was just a baby. You wouldn't think you could miss something you never had, but on the eve of her thirteenth birthday, the thing Cammie most wants is a mom. A prison might not

be the best place to search for a mother, but Cammie is determined and she's willing to work with what she's got. "A tapestry of grief and redemption, woven by a master storyteller ....Moving and memorable." --Kirkus Reviews, Starred Review

#### Wringer Wringer

He was not aware that he ever stopped crying. In his sleep a voice echoed down the long dark barrel of a cannon: You have run out of birthdays. In the morning he awoke suddenly to a flutter of wings. Birthdays are an obsession where Palmer comes from, but if turning a year older means initiation into a violent practice he despises, he'd rather not. Unfortunately, Palmer cannot stop time any more than he can change tradition. So as this next and most important birthday approaches, Palmer knows that it's now or never. Something must be done.

#### **Wringer (Summer Reading Edition)**

Knopf Books for Young Readers

Ever since they were Snotsippers, Jack and the girl have fought, until one day she steals his bike and as he and the Amigos try to recover it, Jack realizes that he is growing up and must eventually leave the

"goodlands and badlands of Hokey Pokey." *Space Station Seventh Grade* Simon and Schuster

When Sargent Singer discovers that the paintings in his father's gallery are alive, he is pulled into a captivating world behind the frame that he never knew existed. Filled with shady characters, devious plots, and a grand art heist, this inventive mystery-adventure celebrates art and artists and is perfect for fans of *Night at the Museum* and *Blue Balliett's Chasing Vermeer*. There's one important rule at the Beaverbrook Gallery—don't let anyone know the paintings are alive. Mona Dunn, forever frozen at thirteen when her portrait was painted by William Orpen, has just broken that rule. Luckily twelve-year-old Sargent Singer, an aspiring artist himself, is more interested in learning about the vast and intriguing world behind the frame than he is in sharing her secret. And when Mona and Sargent suspect shady dealings are happening behind the scenes at the gallery, they set out to find the culprit. They must find a way to save the gallery—and each other—before they are lost forever. With an imaginative setting, lots of intrigue, and a thoroughly

engaging cast of characters, *The Frame-Up* will captivate readers of Jacqueline West's *The Books of Elsewhere*.

#### *Jake and Lily* Ember

Newbery Honor Book \* ALA Notable Children's Book "Deeply felt. Presents a moral question with great care and sensitivity." —The New York Times "A spellbinding story about rites of passage." —Publishers Weekly (starred review) "A realistic story with the intensity of a fable." —The Horn Book (starred review) "Thought-provoking." —School Library Journal (starred review) In Palmer LaRue's hometown of Waymer, turning ten is the biggest event of a boy's life. But for Palmer, his tenth birthday is not something to look forward to, but something to dread. Then one day, a visitor appears on his windowsill, and Palmer knows that this, more than anything else, is a sign that his time is up. Somehow, he must learn how to stop being afraid and stand up for what he believes in. *Wringer* is a powerful tour de force from Newbery Medal winner Jerry Spinelli.

#### **Wringer** Perfection Learning

Jason and Marceline have been friends

since the end of seventh grade. Now in ninth grade, Jason's starting to think that they could be more than friends, and Marceline's starting to think so, too. But does the beginning of romance mean the end of their friendship?

Jason and Marceline Harper Collins

What is stargazer, skateboarder, chess champ, pepperoni pizza eater, older brother, sister hater, best friend, first kisser, science geek, control freak Will Tuppence so afraid of in this great big universe? Jerry Spinelli knows.

Love, Stargirl Penguin

Find the power to stand up for yourself and what you believe in. Students will become highly-engaged in the activities presented in this resource. Make predictions about what will happen in the following chapters based on what you know of the characters so far. Describe how Palmer felt about pigeons based on his reactions from the first two Pigeon Days. Answer multiple choice questions about Palmer's experience with his friends. Retell Palmer's reasons for not wanting to be a wringer as he tells them to Dorothy. Create a poem that describes Palmer's

actions throughout the story. Describe three important settings from the novel and discuss some of the important plot events that happened at each of them. Aligned to your State Standards, additional crossword, word search, comprehension quiz and answer key are also included. About the Novel: Wringer teaches students the importance of self confidence and standing up against bullying. Palmer LaRue dreads the day he will turn ten years old. When he was just four years old, he witnessed his first Pigeon Day—a yearly celebration that takes place during Family Fest in the small town of Waymer. On this day, five thousand pigeons are shot. Traumatized by what he saw, Palmer forever feared the day he would turn ten and become a wringer. A wringer is someone who wrings the neck of wounded pigeons. Nearing his tenth birthday, Palmer falls in with a group of bullies who hate pigeons more than anything. At first, Palmer is proud of his new friendship, but that all changes when he befriends a pigeon. Wringer highlights Palmer's struggle between what his friends think and what he feels is right.

*Hokey Pokey* Henry Holt and Company (BYR)

From renowned Newbery-winning author Jerry Spinelli comes a powerful story about how not fitting in just might lead to an incredible life. This classic book is perfect for fans of Gordon Korman and Carl Hiaasen. Just like other kids, Zinkoff rides his bike, hopes for snow days, and wants to be like his dad when he grows up. But Zinkoff also raises his hand with all the wrong answers, trips over his own feet, and falls down with laughter over a word like "Jabip." Other kids have their own word to describe him, but Zinkoff is too busy to hear it. He doesn't know he's not like everyone else. And one winter night, Zinkoff's differences show that any name can someday become "hero." With some of his finest writing to date and great wit and humor, Jerry Spinelli creates a story about a boy's individuality surpassing the need to fit in and the genuine importance of failure. As readers follow Zinkoff from first through sixth grade, it becomes impossible not to identify with and root for him through failures and triumphs. The perfect classroom read.

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