

***Loser* by Jerry Spinelli**

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INTRODUCTION

II. Chapters 6 to 8

A. Vocabulary

Make sure you know what these words mean before you read the chapters.

traced confusion precise legible spectacle drowsy
fascinated congratulations rekindle eruptions maneuver

B. Read Chapters 6 to 8.

C. Understanding the Novel

Answer these questions. Use the novel to help you with spelling.

1. Comment on Donald's efforts at writing his name.
2. What happened to the giraffe hat at recess?
3. What was Donald's reaction when the older boy said the hat was his?
Why did this reaction disappoint the fourth grader?
4. Donald and his mother called the cars Clunkers. Why?
5. Why does Mrs. Meeks have to change her punishment for Donald's outbursts of laughter in class?
6. What does Donald do to welcome Andrew to the neighborhood?
Does this achieve the desired result? Why or why not?

D. Thinking About the Novel

These questions ask for your ideas. Make sure you give reasons for your answers.

1. Make a list of ten adjectives to describe Donald Zinkoff.
2. The fourth grader attempted to bully Donald.
Was he successful?
Why or why not?
3. How would you have felt when you were in Grade One if you had to wear Mrs. Meeks' yellow badge?
Do you think it was a suitable punishment?
Should Donald have been punished for laughing?
If you had been Mrs. Meeks, how would you have dealt with the situation?

IV. Chapters 11 and 12 - True or False?

1. The Post Office will not allow Donald to go with his father for *Take Your Kid to Work Day*. _____
2. Donald does not care that he cannot accompany his father. _____
3. Andrew's Father is a banker. _____
4. Andrew is going to have dinner in a restaurant. _____
5. Donald is going to have dinner in a restaurant. _____
6. Donald makes his own letters to deliver. _____
7. Donald delivers the letters on Willow Street. _____
8. Donald will be paid ten dollars for his work. _____
9. Everyone is happy to receive pretend letters from Donald. _____
10. Donald sometimes tries to peek through the mail slots. _____
11. Donald and his father ate lunch in the Clunker. _____
12. Donald thought mailmen delivered the mail in all weathers. _____
13. Mr. Zinkoff said being a mailman was a very safe job. _____
14. The Waiting Man has been waiting for his brother for many years. _____
15. The Waiting Man waves to Donald when he delivers the mail. _____
16. The lady in the green dress thanks Donald for the mail. _____
17. Donald has delivered one hundred letters. _____
18. Donald feels happy when the days' work is over. _____

Words! Words! Words!
Activity 4

Review the rules for writing nouns in their plural form.

Write these nouns in their plural form.

- | | | |
|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| 1. school | 2. bicycle | 3. alley |
| 4. boy | 5. child | 6. flurry |
| 7. mailman | 8. knife | 9. emergency |
| 10. football | 11. church | 12. story |
| 13. foot | 14. box | 15. bus |
| 16. brush | 17. sandwich | 18. deer |

Words! Words! Words!
Activity 5

Sometimes it is difficult to know which word to use.

Choose the correct word from the pair in parenthesis in each sentence.

1. Donald did not know (which, witch) boy was teasing him.
2. The students were not (aloud, allowed) to use Mrs. Biswell's eraser.
3. Donald (missed, mist) the ball every time it was (throne, thrown) to him.
4. The (dough, doe) for the snickerdoodle cookie was mixed carefully.
5. "You cannot wear (your, you're) hat in school," said Mrs. Meeks.
6. Donald delivered the (mail, male) on his special day.
7. Mrs. Biswell was cross because Donald (guest, guessed) at answers.
8. Donald ate the (whole, hole) cookie, then he(through, threw) up.
9. " (Its, It's) Saturday and (there, their) is no school today," said Mr. Zinkoff.
10. Gary Hobin was angry because his team had not (won, one).

Elements of the Novel
Activity 4

Characterization

Choose two characters from the novel *Loser* by Jerry Spinelli.

Use the Venn Diagram to compare the characters.

How are they alike? How are they different?

Consider their physical, emotional and behavioral characteristics in your comparison.

Elements of the Novel
Activity 5

Characterization

This novel takes place over a period of years as the characters go from preschool to middle school.

How do the following characters change during this time period.

Create a chart to show your results.

- | | |
|-------------------|------------------|
| a) Donald Zinkoff | b) Andrew Orwell |
| c) Gary Hobin | d) Polly Zinkoff |

Integrated Activities Activity 9

The book jacket of a novel should make people want to read the book and provide information about the plot and the author.

Design a book jacket for the novel, *Loser*, using the following diagram.

Flap	Back	Spine	Front	Flap
Brief biography of author	List of other novels by this author	Title & author	Title and Author with an Illustration	Something about the plot to make the reader interested

Integrated Activities Activity 10

Work with one or two partners for this activity.

Create a game based on this novel.

It can be a board game, a card game or one that uses a board and cards.

- Consider:
- a) the objective of the game.
 - b) the rules of the game.
 - c) the number of players.
 - d) how to play the game.

When the game is finished, play it two or three times to determine if any changes need to be made.

Teach your game to other members of the class, then ask them to evaluate the game.