

Summer Reading Guide

Stargirl – Grade 5 going to Grade 6

Welcome, Future 6th Graders

This holiday, you are about to continue your journey as readers in *Básica* by reading a novel that invites you to think more deeply about yourself, other people, and the choices we make every day.

Reading this book is not just about following a story — it's about:

- Thinking critically
- Understanding characters and emotions
- Reflecting on identity and belonging
- Growing as a thoughtful, independent reader

Overview of *Stargirl* by Jerry Spinelli

What is this book about?

Stargirl is a powerful and memorable novel about a girl named Stargirl who enters middle school and immediately stands out because she is different from everyone else.

At first, students are fascinated by her uniqueness. But as time passes, many begin to question whether being different is truly acceptable.

Through this story, the novel explores:

- Friendship and belonging
- Identity and individuality
- Peer pressure and popularity
- Kindness and empathy
- Courage and authenticity

What makes this book special?

This book feels realistic because it explores emotions and situations that many students experience during middle school:






- Wanting to fit in
- Feeling judged by others
- Deciding whether to follow the crowd or stay true to yourself

Unlike books that only focus on events, *Stargirl* invites you to think deeply about:


- Why people behave the way they do
- How communities treat those who are different
- What it means to truly be yourself
- How systems (groups inside a community) adapt or change

What Will You Learn From This Book?

As you read, you will explore important ideas like:


-  Friendship and social pressure
-  Identity and self-expression
-  Empathy and kindness
-  Confidence and authenticity
-  Personal growth and belonging


And most importantly...


 You will learn how to:

- Think more deeply about characters and situations
- Form your own opinions and interpretations
- Reflect on your values and choices
- Continue growing as an independent reader


Big Idea to Remember

 Grade 6 is not only about becoming more independent academically...

 It is also about discovering who you are and learning how to stay true to yourself while being part of a community.

 Why this matters: This novel will help you prepare emotionally, socially, and intellectually for the next stage of *Básica*.

- It is okay to think differently
- Great readers ask difficult questions
- Understanding people takes empathy and reflection
- Reading can help us better understand ourselves and others


 You are continuing your journey as a reader, thinker, and learner in *Básica*.

LED Learning Objectives for Summer Reading

By the end of this reading, LED teachers want you to:


1. Develop interpretation and personal reflection through literature

- Use the novel to think about identity, kindness, and authenticity
- Form opinions about the events and themes in the story
- Compare your ideas with the perspectives presented in the novel
- Ask: *What does this book teach me about being myself and treating others?*
- Ask: *Why do characters make these choices? How do their actions affect others?*

 This objective helps you grow as a reader who thinks critically and personally about literature.

2. Continue growing as an active and independent reader

- Apply the reading strategies you practiced during Grade 5
- Question, connect, predict, interpret, and reflect while reading
- Engage with the novel not only to understand the story, but also to understand yourself and the world around you

 This objective encourages you to continue building strong reading habits as you begin Grade 6 and continue your journey in LED.

Why This Matters for Basica

This summer reading is part of your growth as an independent student and reader in Básica.


In Grade 5, you interacted with different types of reading texts and practiced strategies that helped you:

- Think actively
- Reflect deeply
- Connect ideas to your life

Now, *Stargirl* invites you to take the next step:

- Reading more deeply
- Interpreting themes and messages
- Understanding complex emotions and relationships
- Developing your own voice as a reader


You are not just reading a novel...




 You are becoming a more thoughtful reader, thinker, and member of your community.

Reading Like a Pro: Strategies to Practice

- 1) Directed Reading Thinking Activity (DRTA): Pause the text at strategic points (e.g., at the end of a chapter or section). Confirm, revise, or make new predictions based on what you just read.
- 2) Active Annotations: Use sticky notes or pencil annotations to interact with the text. You can put a "?" where you are confused, "!" for a surprise, and "★" for an important idea.
- 3) Think-Alouds: Read a short section out loud and pause to say, "*I wonder why the character did that?*" or "*This reminds me of...*"

During reading, keep a simple reading journal or use sticky notes

- Take notes for every two or three chapters using these ideas and the strategies below:
-  Favorite moment

-  A question
-  A connection
-  An important idea or lesson

Tips for Success

- Read a little every day (20–25 minutes)
- Find a quiet and comfortable reading space
- Pause to think about important moments
- Talk about the book with friends or family
- If something feels confusing, keep reading and reflect later

Final Thought







Great readers do more than follow a story.

They:

- Notice
- Question
- Interpret
- Reflect
- Grow

Enjoy the journey — and get ready for Grade 6!  

Reading Strategies to Help You Think More Deeply

 While you read...	 Strategy	 Try this...
How do characters respond to situations? Why?	Stop & Analyze	☆ One character choice that surprised you
What pressures or conflicts do characters face?	Think & Connect	 “This reminds me of...”
What message might the author want readers to understand?	Interpret & Reflect	 One important lesson from the story
How does the story connect to real life?	Reflect & Apply	 One idea you can apply in Grade 6