

About the Author



Jerry Spinelli started out wanting to be a cowboy. Luckily for young readers, he later decided to become a writer, even though he's still not sure he can call himself one (he does other things too, like picking berries and skipping stones). But Jerry seems to be pretty good at this writing thing. His first novel, *Space Station Seventh Grade*, was published with Little, Brown in 1982, and he won a Newbery Medal for *Maniac Magee*. Now, 24 novels and 16 grandchildren later, Jerry lives in Wayne, PA with his wife, Eileen, who is also a writer.

Also by Jerry Spinelli



Maniac Magee

Hc: 0-316-80722-2 • \$16.99 (\$23.99 CAN)
ISBN 13: 978-0-316-80722-7
Pb: 0-316-80906-3 • \$6.99 (\$9.99 CAN)
ISBN 13: 978-0-316-80906-1

Space Station Seventh Grade

Pb: 0-316-80605-6 • \$6.99 (\$9.99 CAN)
ISBN 13: 978-0-316-80605-3

Who Put That Hair in My Toothbrush?

Pb: 0-316-80687-0 • \$6.99 (\$9.99 CAN)
ISBN 13: 978-0-316-80687-9

Jason and Marceline

Pb: 0-316-80662-5 • \$6.99 (\$9.99 CAN)
ISBN 13: 978-0-316-80662-6

The Bathwater Gang

Pb: 0-316-01442-7 • \$3.99 (\$4.99 CAN)
ISBN 13: 978-0-316-01442-7

Praise for Previous Novels

“Writing that bursts with creativity, enthusiasm, and hope.”—*Booklist* (*Maniac Magee*)

“A rich, rewarding novel about adolescence, achingly honest, excruciatingly funny.”

—*Kirkus Reviews* (*Space Station Seventh Grade*)

“Hilarious...A lively, absorbing novel.”

—*Horn Book* (*Who Put That Hair in My Toothbrush?*)

“Spinelli’s teenagers are fresh and funny, sometimes crude, sometimes poignant, and always very real.”

—*Publishers Weekly* (*Jason and Marceline*)



Little, Brown Books for Young Readers www.lb-kids.com www.jerryspinelli.com

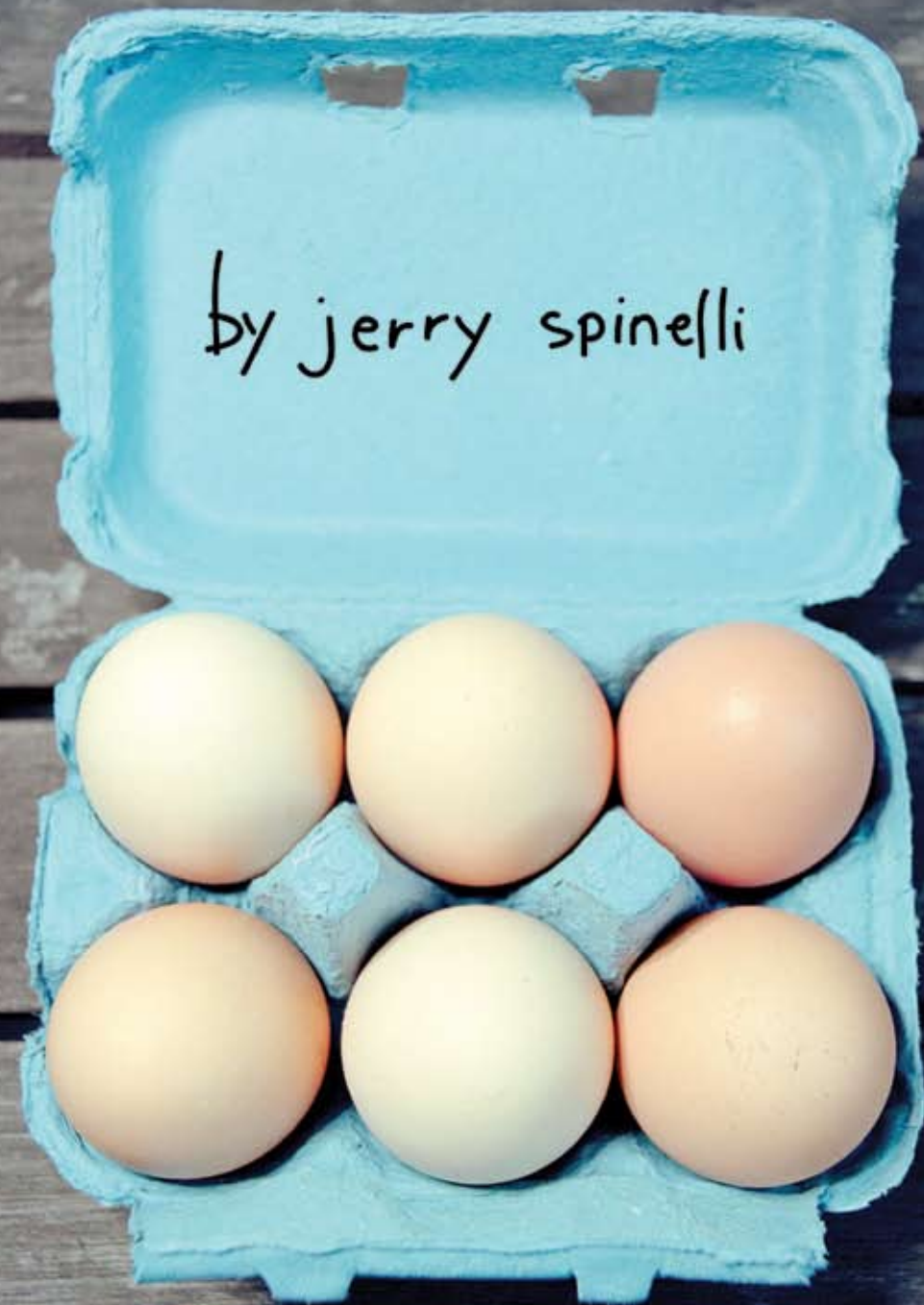
Discussion Guide prepared by Karen Cardillo.

To order contact your Hachette Book Group USA sales rep or call 1-800-759-0190.

Guide printed: May 2007.

EGGS

DISCUSSION GUIDE



Little, Brown and Company Books for Young Readers

He spoke to the beautiful face. *“Are you sleeping?”*

The eyes did not open.

He could not decide if he wanted them to open.

The humped eyelids with their glittery purple were like tiny twin eggs, bird’s eggs.

“Are you going to say something?”

The mouth did not move.

“You’re dead, aren’t you?”

The beautiful face was as still as the trees.

He was not afraid.

About the Book



HC: 0-316-16646-4 • \$15.99 (\$19.99 CAN)
ISBN 13: 978-0-316-16646-1

Eggs is a heart-warming story about friendship and sorrow. Nine-year-old David and thirteen-year-old Primrose forge the most unlikely union. Both have had a troubled past—David losing his mother in a freak accident and Primrose growing up without a father—find comfort in each other as they try to make sense of their lives.

The bond between the two,

albeit tumultuous at times, is strong and in the end proves to be the key to their healing.

Praise for *Eggs*

“Funny, startling, and touching.” —Booklist

Discussion Questions

1. David lost his mother and was living unhappily with his grandmother. “No one, not grandmothers, not anyone, could touch him. His mother’s death had made him invincible.” (p. 24). Explain this statement.
2. David’s grandmother referred to his period of mourning as “The Sadness.” What term would best apply to David’s life at the end of the book?
3. David and Primrose have what one might call a love-hate relationship. Why do you think this is? Cite examples from the book of times when they seemed to love each other and those times when they were at each other’s throats.
4. Primrose desperately wants her own space and moves into an old van in the yard. She demand that David paint over all the windows. “It had been hard enough to paint the side windows. But the last remaining window? The most important window of all?” (p. 118). Why do you think Primrose wants the windows painted? Does she not want to see out or does she not want people to see in? Is it some type of metaphor for what she might be feeling inside?
5. Refrigerator John explains how David and Primrose can earn some money by catching nightcrawlers. Refrigerator John offers them twenty cents apiece. “‘A quarter apiece,’ said the girl, always turning the screw.” (p. 90). What does the author mean by this? How is it indicative of Primrose’s personality? Can you site any other examples of such?
6. David and Primrose set off for Philadelphia to see The Waving Man. They want to ask him why he waves. At the end of the book Primrose figures out the answer. Do you agree with her assessment? What significance does the Waving Man have to the novel?
7. Primrose spends much of her time pretending. Give several examples from the book of her rather vivid imagination. Why do you think she does this?
8. David wants to protect Primrose by keeping a secret pertaining to the identity of the man in the picture, whom Primrose believes to be her father. Why does he keep this information to himself? David is surprised to learn that Primrose knew the truth all along. Why would she hide it? Why then does she get so upset at David’s implication that her father might be the Waving Man? If you could make up a secret identity of someone in your life, what would you make up and for whom?
9. David’s grandmother gives him a carrot every day. How does David’s refusal to eat it represent his disobedience? Why does his grandmother let it go? During the conversation between the two, his grandmother tearfully asks why they no longer shared good times. “You were Nana then.” “Then? I still am Nana.” To David’s no, his grandmother asks, “What am I now?” (p. 128). David did not reply. How would you have answered that if you were David?
10. Respect, as well as disrespect, is a central theme throughout the novel. Find various examples of each. Describe the relationship between Primrose and her mother. Do they love each other? How does their relationship change over the course of the book?
11. Primrose yearns for a “real” mother, while David thinks that if he secretly obeys all rules, his mother will come back. How do David and Primrose fulfill each other’s need in this capacity? Why doesn’t David ever want to see the sunrise? How does Primrose’s trick ease his pain? “He had been tricked again. But this time it was different, this time it was okay.” (p. 213).
12. A title of a book can embody many elements. Why do you think Mr. Spinelli entitled this book *Eggs*? Read the description of the sunrise on pages 212-213. What emotions are evoked? Can you feel the sun’s warmth from the description? Is there a certain symmetry to this novel?

