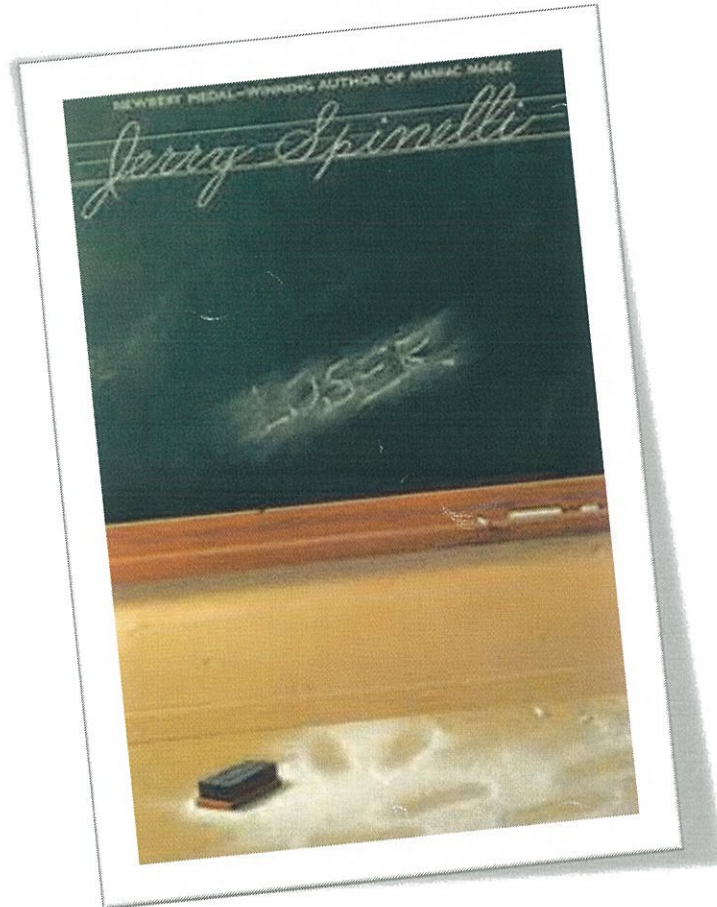


Literature Review

Loser

By Jerry Spinelli



Timeline and Summary

By

Emily Baumes

For my Literature Review, I will be summarizing and presenting a time-line for the book, Loser, by Jerry Spinelli. This is a realistic fiction story about a boy named Donald Zinkoff and his first 6 years of grade school.

In the beginning of the book, it is the summer before first grade. Donald Zinkoff, mostly referred to as just Zinkoff in the book, always goes to the alleys to play. He thinks he is a really fast runner, but he actually isn't.

Throughout the next 6 years Zinkoff's class mates consider him to be a loser. He is the last person picked for teams, plays his flute horribly, doesn't get good grades, and is very silly and laughs at the wrong times, or at silly words like "Jabip". However, Zinkoff is not a loser.

*well
summary*

When Zinkoff starts first grade, he admittedly loves school. He really is taken by his first grade teacher Miss Meeks. Miss Meeks tells the class a very important piece of information, or at least very important to Zinkoff. She tells the class that there are 2,160 days of their journey in school. Zinkoff shows how excited he is to start the adventure by jumping up from his desk and yelling "Yahoo", when Miss Meeks asks "who's coming aboard the learning train". This is the start to Donald's love of life and his awkward next six years.

Zinkoff has a big heart. This is shown by his love for his family and friends, or what he feels are his friends. In the fall of second grade, Zinkoff, by luck, scores the winning goal in a soccer championship game. Donald notices that his neighbor, Andrew is on the other team. After the game he notices that Andrew is upset about losing. To make his friend feel better, Zinkoff gives Andrew his trophy.

In fourth grade is when Zinkoff is really called a loser. On Field Day, Zinkoff is put on the Purple Team. Zinkoff only runs in two races that day. This is because Gary Hobins is the fastest runner in the grade and does all the races. When the final race comes, Gary and the other Purples don't want him to run at all, but their coach and teacher, Mr. Yalowitz, states that "Zinkoff will race anchor." In order to win the championship of the field day, the Purple Team just needs to not finish last. Once the race is over, the Purple Team is last and Gary Hobins declares, "You're a loser. A stinkin loser", to Zinkoff. Each and every member of the Purple Team then walked by Zinkoff and called him a loser.

Zinkoff also shows his big heart by talking to the elderly lady in his neighborhood and playing with the little girl Claudia. He truly cares about these people and in fifth grade he develops his relationship with the elderly lady more and almost loses his life trying to find Claudia when she is missing during a snow storm.

Through all of his clumsiness, lack of coordination, goofiness, and other characteristics that others feel are important, Zinkoff and his family are happy with the way he is and aren't

worried about what others think. At his sixth grade graduation, when Zinkoff trips getting up to the podium and then salutes to the superintendent, the class laughs. However, Zinkoff doesn't care, and his family doesn't either. His sister, Polly, is "yelling her face off", his parents are clapping their hands above their heads, and Mr. Yalowitz, his fourth grade teacher, gives him two thumbs up.

In the end, when Zinkoff starts Sixth Grade at Monroe Middle School, he is no longer seen by others as a loser, but as nothing. He is unseen. That is until he spends the night looking for Claudia, the lost girl from his neighborhood. Zinkoff himself becomes lost in the storm searching for the lost girl.

Although he does not actually find Claudia, his hours-long search proves what a big-heart and selfless character Zinkoff has. After the snow day that follows Zinkoff getting lost, a group of boys are picking teams for a football game on the school fields. When everyone is picked, Zinkoff is still just standing there. He does not leave, like other kids would do. He waits. Finally, a boy names Bounce, picks him for his team. He is no longer a loser.

*Extremely
well written &
beautifully organized*

Literature Review

Emily

CATEGORY	4 (90-99)	3 (70-89)	2 (56-69)	1 (55 or below)
Criteria	Has completed all aspects of the criteria for this assignment in a way that enhances the final product. Work is neat and shows a great deal of effort	Has completed all aspects of the criteria for this assignment. Work is neat and shows effort	Is missing some aspect of the criteria for this project. Work is disorganized	Shows no clear understanding of the criteria for this project
Grammar & Spelling (Conventions)	Writer makes no errors in grammar or spelling that distract the reader from the content.	Writer makes 1-2 errors in grammar or spelling that distract the reader from the content.	Writer makes 3-4 errors in grammar or spelling that distract the reader from the content.	Writer makes more than 4 errors in grammar or spelling that distract the reader from the content.
Capitalization & Punctuation (Conventions)	Writer makes no errors in capitalization or punctuation, so the paper is exceptionally easy to read.	Writer makes 1 or 2 errors in capitalization or punctuation, but the paper is still easy to read.	Writer makes a few errors in capitalization and/or punctuation that catch the reader's attention and interrupt the flow.	Writer makes several errors in capitalization and/or punctuation that catch the reader's attention and greatly interrupt the flow.
Introduction (Organization)	The introduction is inviting, states the main topic and previews the structure of the paper.	The introduction clearly states the main topic and previews the structure of the paper, but is not particularly inviting to the reader.	The introduction states the main topic, but does not adequately preview the structure of the paper nor is it particularly inviting to the reader.	There is no clear introduction of the main topic or structure of the paper.
Sequencing (Organization)	Details are placed in a logical order and the way they are presented effectively keeps the interest of the reader.	Details are placed in a logical order, but the way in which they are presented/introduced sometimes makes the writing less interesting.	Some details are not in a logical or expected order, and this distracts the reader.	Many details are not in a logical or expected order. There is little sense that the writing is organized.
Support for Topic (Content)	Relevant, telling, quality details give the reader important information that goes beyond the obvious or predictable.	Supporting details and information are relevant, but one key issue or portion of the storyline is unsupported.	Supporting details and information are relevant, but several key issues or portions of the storyline are unsupported.	Supporting details and information are typically unclear or not related to the topic.
Conclusion (Organization)	The conclusion is strong and leaves the reader with a feeling that they understand what the writer is "getting at."	The conclusion is recognizable and ties up almost all the loose ends.	The conclusion is recognizable, but does not tie up several loose ends.	There is no clear conclusion, the paper just ends.

24

3

$\frac{27}{28} = 97\%$

you could have explained just a bit more about how Zinkoff transitions out of his Loser status