

Student Packet

Grades 5–6

Loser

Jerry Spinelli

NOVEL UNITS[®]



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LOSER

by
Jerry Spinelli

Student Packet

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Contains masters for: 2 Prereading Activities
5 Vocabulary Activities
1 Complete Study Guide
2 Literary Analysis Activities
4 Characterization Activities
2 Comprehension Activities
2 Critical Thinking Activities
3 Unit Quizzes
1 Novel Test

PLUS Detailed Answer Key
and Scoring Rubric

Note

The Harper Trophy paperback edition, ©2002 by Jerry Spinelli, was used to prepare this guide. Page references may differ in other editions.

Please note: Please assess the appropriateness of this book for the age level and maturity of your students prior to reading and discussing it with them.

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7. What happens to Zinkoff's status in middle school by the winter?
8. What does Zinkoff love besides school?
9. Why is Willow Street lit up with police cars, ambulances, and fire trucks?
10. What does Zinkoff decide to do once he hears about Claudia?
11. When Zinkoff cannot find Claudia on the street, where does he begin to look for her?
12. What does Zinkoff hold onto while he searches? Why is this significant?
13. As he searches, what does Zinkoff recall about Polly?
14. How far did Polly run?
15. Where does Zinkoff put his lucky stone so he will know where it is? Why?

Chapters 27–30, pp. 187–218

1. What does the author call the snowflake on Zinkoff's eyes?
2. What does Zinkoff imagine himself doing instead of taking a shower in the morning?
3. What does Zinkoff think the Waiting Man might have done when he found out his brother was missing?
4. How does Zinkoff picture Claudia's mother?
5. What wakes Zinkoff up when he is sleepwalking in the park near?
6. What does Zinkoff imagine the old lady serves him?
7. What is the main question everyone wants to ask Zinkoff when he wakes up?
8. Where and when was Claudia found?
9. Why did Zinkoff continue to see light and doors even after Claudia was found?
10. What does Polly make for her brother?
11. Why won't Zinkoff let his mother touch his lucky stone?
12. How does Claudia's mother react when she sees Zinkoff?
13. Why does Zinkoff think it was a "piece of cake" for his father to look for him in the cold?
14. What does Zinkoff have to do before he can fall asleep?
15. Which two kids start throwing the ball to Zinkoff during the in-service day?
16. What details does Janski tell the others about how Zinkoff was found?
17. In what way doesn't Zinkoff act like a normal "leftover"?
18. What is the one word that Bonce says before the game begins?

Name _____

Characters With or Without Character

Character is evaluated by one's actions, statements, and by the way one treats others.

Directions: For each of the attributes listed in the center of the page, write the name of one character from the novel who has this trait, and the name of one character who does **not** have this trait. After each character's name, give an example of an action or statement that proves you have properly evaluated the character.

Yes

No

Name: _____

Proof: _____

Name: _____

Proof: _____

Is a good person

Name: _____

Proof: _____

Name: _____

Proof: _____

Sacrifices for others

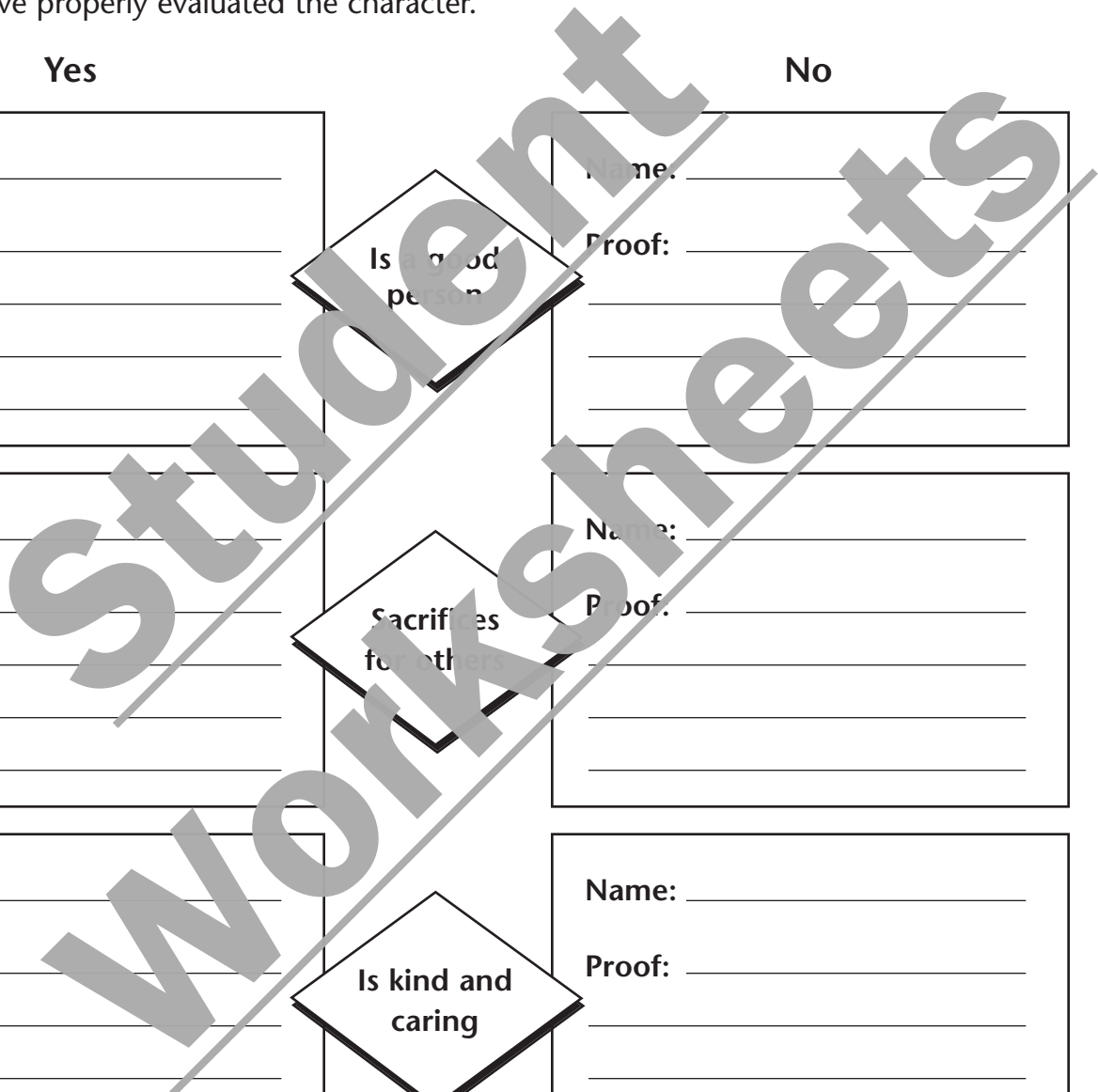
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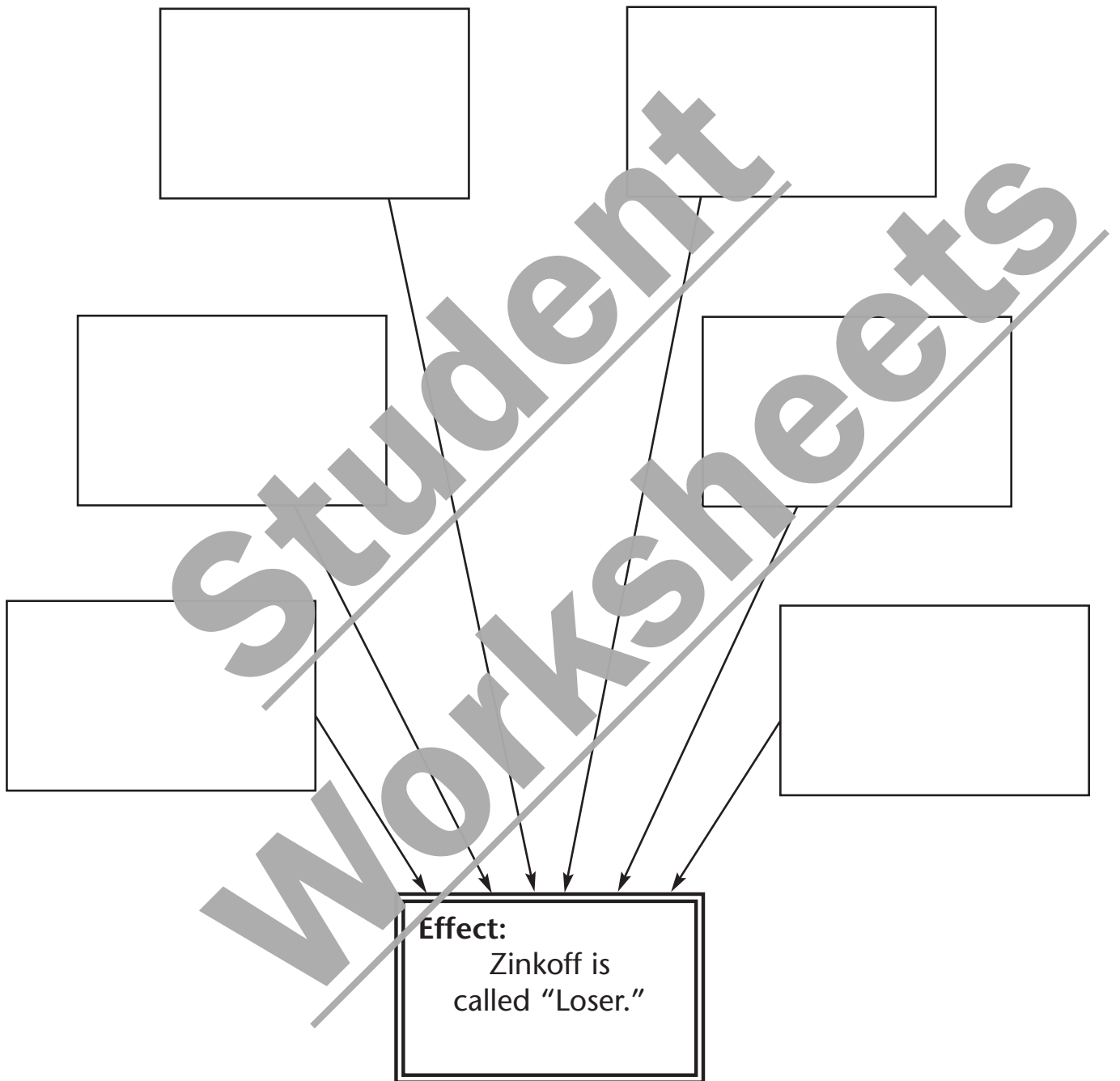
Is kind and caring



Name _____

Cause/Effect Map

Directions: In the blank boxes below, list six different causes that led to the students calling Zinkoff "Loser."



Name _____

Story Map

Directions: Place the letter of each event below in the flow chart in the order in which each event occurred in the novel.

- a. Zinkoff becomes a nobody in sixth grade.
- b. Zinkoff is finally chosen to play football.
- c. Zinkoff eats peanut butter sandwiches with the old man on Willow Street.
- d. Zinkoff is rescued by a man in a snowplow.
- e. Zinkoff asks Hector to be his best friend in fifth grade.
- f. Polly makes Zinkoff a snowflake.
- g. Zinkoff sees Andrew at Monroe Middle School.
- h. Zinkoff makes an "A" on his geography test.
- i. Zinkoff decides to go look for Polly.
- j. Janski tells the others about Zinkoff's rescue attempt.

