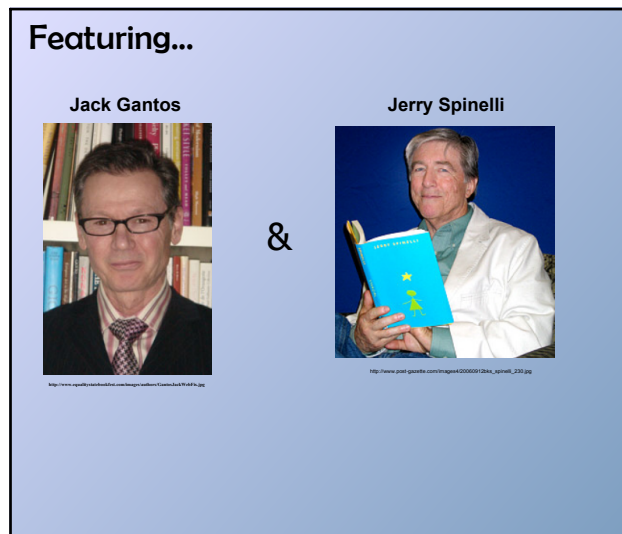
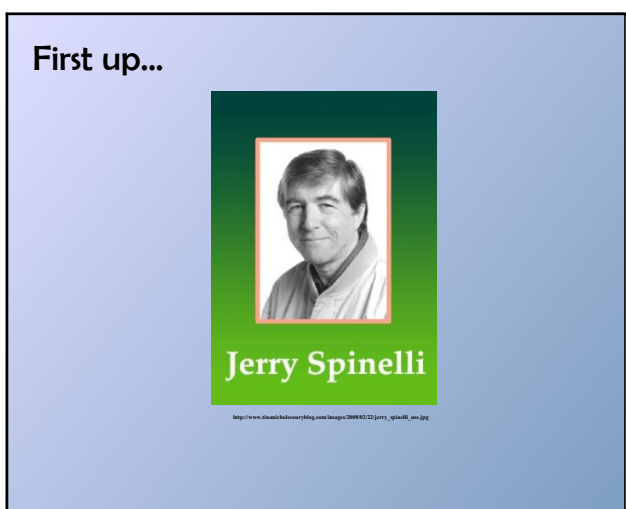




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More about me...



- 1963 graduate of **Gettysburg College**
- earned an MA from **Johns Hopkins University** in 1964
- 1966 to 1972 he served in the **United States Navy Reserve.**
- 1977 he married his wife **Eileen**
- Started out writing for adults -- never published
- Writing direction changed when one of his **six** children ate the **fried chicken** he was saving for the next day
- Chicken event lead to first book published "**Space Station Seventh Grade**"

is a noted children's author, specializing on novels written for and about early adolescence. Among his books are Space Station Seventh Grade, Maniac Magee (1991 Newberry Award), Winger (1998 Newberry Honor) and Stargirl.

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More about me...



- Won the **Newberry Award** for "**Maniac Magee**"
- Received **Newberry Honor** for "**Winger.**"

is a noted children's author, specializing on novels written for and about early adolescence. Among his books are Space Station Seventh Grade, Maniac Magee (1991 Newberry Award), Winger (1998 Newberry Honor) and Stargirl.

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Books I've written...



He wasn't born with the name Maniac Magee. He came into this world named Jeffrey Lionel Magee, but when his parents died and his life changed, so did his name. And Maniac Magee became a legend.

Even today kids talk about how fast he could run; about how he hit an inside-the-park "frog" homer; how no knot, no matter how snarled, would stay that way once he began to untie it.

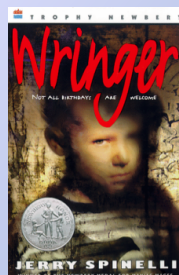
But the thing Mania Magee is best known for is what he did for the kids from the East Side and those from the West Side.

He was special all right, and this is his story, and it's a story that is very careful not to let the facts get mixed up with the truth.

Winner of the 1991 Newberry Medal

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Books I've written...



Palmer LaRue is not looking forward to the day he turns 10. His town has an annual **Pigeon Day.**

When a boy turns 10 in this town, they become "wingers" and strangle the pigeons wounded during the annual pigeon shoot. He must either accept this task or find the courage to say no.

His buddies soon discover Palmer is hiding a pet pigeon in his room. He finds friendship with Dorothy, the girl across the street. Palmer finds it is hard not to go along with the crowd.

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Books I've written...



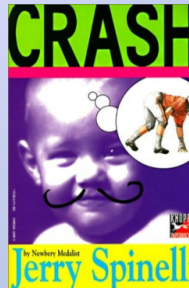
<http://www.youthinvolvement.org.uk/Book1/links/2/88/images/cover--stargirl.jpg>

When Stargirl enrolls at Mica High, all of the students are in awe, but she especially captures the attention of Leo Borlock, a junior at Mica. With **her long flowing brown hair, plain face, and rather eccentric outfits**, her classmates don't know whether to love her for having the guts to be different, or hate her for breaking the rules of high school. In fact they react by doing a little bit of both.

First **they embrace her uniqueness** by imitating her, and then, just as quickly, they turn on her for being unusual. Despite her status as outcast, Leo and Stargirl become a couple, and he experiences what it's like to be shunned. In hopes of gaining acceptance Leo encourages her to become normal. Together both Leo and Stargirl learn a lesson about conforming to the will of the group versus being yourself.

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Books I've written...



<http://www.seananderson.com.au/images/025/0120125.jpg>

"My real name is John. John Coogan. But **everybody calls me Crash, even my parents...**"

A hilarious, poignant **story of cocky seventh-grade superjock Crash Coogan**. The activities of this school bully told from his own perspective. Shallow, vain, and arrogant seventh-grader Crash Coogan has been bulldozing over people his entire life but his most consistent victim is Penn Webb—a Quaker who lives down the street from Crash.

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Books I've written...



<http://ids.burgen.com.au/images/025/0120125.jpg>

What is stargazer, skateboarder, chess champ, pepperoni pizza eater, older brother, sister hater, best friend, first kisser, science geek, control freak Will Tuppence so afraid of in this great big universe?

Jerry Spinelli knows.

Will Tuppence's life has always been ruled by science and common sense but in ninth grade, shaken up by the discovery that protons decay, he begins to see the entire world differently and gains new perspective on his relationships with his little sister and two closest friends.


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More books...

- Knots in my Yo-yo String
- Milkweed
- Space Station Seventh Grade
- Love, Stargirl
- Stargirl Journal
- Eggs
- There's a Girl in my Hammerlock
- Who Put That Hair in my Toothbrush?
- Who Ran My Underwear Up the Flagpole?

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Next up...



<http://blaine.org/blaine/jack1.jpg>

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All about me...



- Born in 1955 in **Mount Pleasant, Pennsylvania**
- His father (John Gantos) was a **construction superintendent**
- His mother Elizabeth (Weaver) Ganto was a banker
- Moved to Barbados at the age of 7
- Moved **40** times while growing up
- Always the "**new**" kid, never in a core group, hip group, cool group
- Always had a natural interest in reading
- Believed he could **replace trailer parks with bookmobiles**

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More about me...




- Before starting school, played game of pretending his **clothes were on fire** and rolled down hills to put them out
- In first grade, placed in the "**Blue Bird**" group
- Unaware it was for slow readers
- **6th grade** realized he could be a writer after reading his sister's **diary**
- \$10,000 for boat trip **from Virgin Islands to New York**
- Sentenced to **6 years** in prison summer of 1971
- Book based on his prison experience called Hole in My Life
- Earn Bachelor of Fine Arts & Master of Arts degree from **Emerson College**
- Married with one child, **Mabel Grace**

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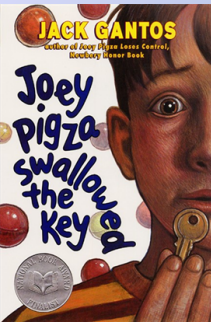
More about me...

- **Jack on the Tracks** won the Dorothy Canfield Fisher award.
- **Dorothy Canfield Fisher award** is an award that the kids decide who gets the award for the best and most exiting book. Decided on by **Vermont** school children.
- **Joey Pigza Loses Control** won a **Newbery Honor** award in 2001

Today he is teaching children's book writing at Vermont College. Jack continued writing Children's books even after he completed college.



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JOEY PIGZA SWALLOWED THE KEY

JOEY PIGZA SWALLOWED THE KEY

Author of *Joey Pigza Swallowed the Key*, *Swallowing the Key*, *Swallowing the Key*

Joey Pigza is wired. Really wired. His prescription "meds" are no match for his mood swings. **One minute he's sitting at his desk like any other kid; the next he's out of control and taking a time-out in the hallway.** When Joey gets worked up, all the rules set by his mother and his teachers go right out the window.

Joey knows he is a disappointment to people he cares about. His mom's been warned that if he keeps messing up he **could be transferred to the downtown special-ed center for problem kids.** This could be the end of the line. As Joey would say: **"Can I get back to you on that?"**

http://www.balaram.com/author/jack-gantos/joey_pigza.jpg

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JOEY PIGZA LOSES CONTROL

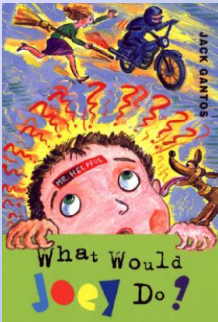
Author of *Joey Pigza Swallowed the Key*, *Swallowing the Key*, *Swallowing the Key*

JOEY PIGZA LOSES CONTROL

Sequel to: Joey Pigza swallowed the key. Joey, who is **still taking medication** to keep him from getting too wired, goes to spend the **summer with the hard-drinking father** he has never known and tries to help the baseball team he coaches win the championship.

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WHAT WOULD JOEY DO?

Author of *Joey Pigza Swallowed the Key*, *Swallowing the Key*, *Swallowing the Key*

WHAT WOULD JOEY DO?


Joey is confused when sparks start flying between his long-separated parents.

Hoping that Joey can establish a solid relationship with someone outside of their dysfunctional family, Joey's ailing grandmother encourages him to explore a friendship with someone from the "outside" world.

Will Joey's home-schooling partner, a blind girl named Olivia Lapp, prove to be the kind of friend Joey needs?

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JACK ADRIFT

Author of *Joey Pigza Swallowed the Key*, *Swallowing the Key*, *Swallowing the Key*

JACK ADRIFT

As his family sets sail on a new life by moving to Cape Hatteras, Fourth-grader Jack Henry is struggling to chart a course between his parents' contradictory advice on making friends and influencing people.

"Just tell them what they want to hear," Dad says.

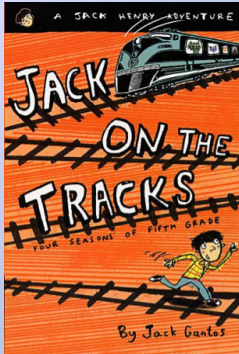
"Just tell the truth," Mom cautions.

Jack finds there are no easy answers as he drifts through his crazy school year.

He falls desparately in love with his new teacher, gets suckered into becoming a bad-behavior spy for the principal, and is forced to make a presentable pet out of a duck with backward feet

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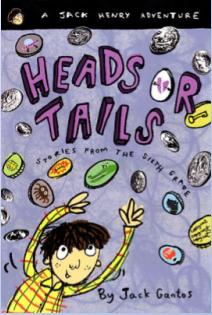


**Jack on the Tracks:
Four Seasons of
Fifth Grade**

Having just moved with his family to a Miami rental home (with a busy railroad track running right past his backyard), Jack Henry is uncertain where his new life will take him. And will it be a smooth trip or a wild ride?

"I tried to imagine what Miami was like but couldn't picture anything much besides sharks, water moccasins, alligators, and Key lime pie ... I had to wonder what awaited me ... I knew this was a time to look on the bright side, but I was still worried."

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**Heads or Tails: Stories from
the Sixth Grade**


At eleven years old, Jack Henry is in his fifth school in six years. His father, a construction worker, moves the family wherever he can find work. As a result, Jack is never in one place long enough to form solid friendships; therefore, he spends his time pestering those around him.

Jack's family and teachers view him as a mischievous, irresponsible, and immature brat; but he is often his own worst enemy. He labels himself "stupid" and tries to find ways to improve his self-worth. By keeping a daily journal about his good days and bad days, Jack reveals his keen sense of humor and vivid imagination. Through his crazy antics, Jack rollicks through life and realizes that sometimes you win and sometimes you lose.

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Time for...

Booktalk



<http://jgantos.com>

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Time for...

| B I N G O | | | | |
|----------------|--------------|-----------------|----------------|-----------------|
| 1977 | Navy Reserve | Six | Stargirl | New York |
| Newberry Award | 40 times | Hole in My Life | Mount Pleasant | Newberry Honor |
| Maniac Magee | Blue Bird | Free Space | Virgin Islands | Vermont College |
| Wringer | 6 Years | Eileen | 1941 | Book Mobiles |
| Pennsylvania | On fire | Joey Pigza | Barbados | Cowboy |

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