

**A.** The following items test your understanding of the selection. Circle the letter of the response that best completes the sentence or answers the question.

1. When Jerry Spinelli was 12 years old, he wanted most to be
  - a. an artist.
  - b. an architect.
  - c. a writer.
  - d. a baseball player.
2. What is the main topic of this selection?
  - a. how to take knots out of a yo-yo string
  - b. the importance of winning
  - c. how Jerry Spinelli discovered imagination
  - d. what to do on a Saturday afternoon
3. You can tell from this selection that detention is
  - a. focusing on a subject.
  - b. a form of punishment.
  - c. the art of penmanship.
  - d. a reward for good behavior.
4. In seventh grade, what did Jerry Spinelli seem to value most?
  - a. orderliness
  - b. creativity
  - c. team spirit
  - d. friendship
5. According to Spinelli, his goal was to
  - a. break the rules.
  - b. be a great basketball player.
  - c. become perfect.
  - d. find a good job.
6. When he was 11 and 12 years old, Spinelli liked to
  - a. relive events in his head.
  - b. tie knots in his yo-yo string.
  - c. color outside the lines.
  - d. take risks and chances.

**B.** The following items check your understanding of literary elements in the selection. Circle the letter of the response that best completes the sentence or answers the question.

7. What kind of selection is this?
  - a. short story
  - b. biography
  - c. farce
  - d. autobiography
8. The first half of this selection can best be represented by the image of
  - a. opening a locker.
  - b. coloring inside the lines.
  - c. staying after school.
  - d. standing on the bridge.
9. To other students in his school, Jerry Spinelli probably appeared to be very
  - a. rebellious.
  - b. amusing.
  - c. serious.
  - d. bossy.
10. Which example best illustrates Spinelli's informal style in this selection?
  - a. "In the morning I walked a mile from George Street to the YMCA."
  - b. "Every summer Saturday. The same thing."
  - c. "My locker may have been tidy, but suddenly my life was a mess."
  - d. "Hours later I emerged blinking in the late-afternoon sun."

**C.** The following items check your understanding of the way in which the selection is written. Write your response after each item.

11. What is the author's purpose in this selection?

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12. Describe the setting of the events in this selection.

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13. Describe the author's tone in this selection.

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**D.** The following items check your ability to analyze and evaluate the selection. Circle the letter of the response that best completes the sentence or answers the question.

14. In this selection, Spinelli implies that he loved routines because they made him feel

- a. safe.
- b. daring.
- c. proud.
- d. cheerful.

15. Which quotation best summarizes the author's judgment of himself as a boy?

- a. "That same year I won numerous Palmer Method penmanship certificates."
- b. "Unlike most kids, I did not use crayons. I used colored pencils."
- c. "I was too afraid to fail. I did not appreciate the value of a mess."
- d. "One day of watching my backup shortstop was enough. I couldn't stand it."

16. Which sentence states a fact?
- a. "And my colors were right, too."
  - b. "Every Eastertime the merchants of the West End shopping district . . . sponsored a coloring contest."
  - c. "The best hot dogs in town were sizzling right there in the front window."
  - d. "Anything I couldn't fix with hedge trimmers and lawn mower I paved over with asphalt."

17. To Spinelli, the most unusual event in his school years was when he
- a. won an award for penmanship.
  - b. got 12 points in a basketball game.
  - c. entered a coloring contest.
  - d. refused to stay after school for having a messy locker.

**E.** The following items check your ability to analyze and evaluate the selection. Write your response after each item.

18. What event, or events, helped Jerry Spinelli understand that neatness and perfection might not be enough for him to succeed in life?

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19. According to Spinelli, why wasn't he a very good basketball player?

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20. Explain what the knots in the yo-yo string represented for Spinelli.

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