



**Jerry Spinelli** is an American writer of children’s novels featuring adolescence and early adulthood. He was born in 1941 in Norristown, Pennsylvania. *Maniac Magee* (1991 Newbery Winner), *Wringer* (1997 Newbery Honor Book), *Knots in My Yo-Yo String* (Childhood Memoir) , and *Stargirl* (the ALA Best Fiction for Young Adults in 2001) are all the well-known books written by him. He writes about events and feelings from his childhood and his seven adventurous kids in most of his books to convey his world views. His writing concerns controversial topics like racism and homelessness while depicting adolescents accurately and humorously.

His love of sports inspired him to compose a poem about his high school football team winning a big game when he was sixteen. His father published it in the local newspapers secretly. He decided to become a writer as he realized that he would not become a major league baseball player. He was the editor of the college literary magazine called *The Mercury* and spent his time writing short stories at Gettysburg College. He became a writer and editor for a department store magazine after graduation. He has spent all his energy writing fiction in his free time for decades. His fifth novel, *Space Station Seventh Grade*, was written for adults.

Spinelli graduated from Gettysburg College in 1963 and acquired his MA from Johns Hopkins University in 1964. He married another children's writer, Eileen Mesi, in 1977. Eileen Spinelli has collaborated with illustrators to create dozens of picture books since about 1980. They have six children and 21 grandchildren.

 Library Collection (Secondary Section)



***Maniac Magee***  
1991 Newbery Winner   
Call number: JF SPI

This story is about an orphaned boy named Jeffery Lionel Magee. His life changed when his parents died in a car accident. He is sent to live with his aunt Dot and uncle Dan. Later, he ends up in Two Mills, a town linked to Bridgeport (the city he grew up in) by the Schuylkill Bridge. He changes the lives of a racially divided small town and finds a home through a few friends he makes, who come to love him as family eventually.



***Stargirl***  
2001 ALA Best Fiction for Young Adults   
Call number: JF SPI

It is a tense, emotional tale about the thrill and inspiration of first love. Leo Borlock doesn’t stand out under any circumstances. Now, everything changes. Stargirl arrives for Leo and the entire school. Stargirl bursts into tenth grade into tenth grade in an explosion of color and a clatter of ukulele music, enchanting the Mica student body.



***Wringer***  
1997 Newbery Honor Book   
Call number: JF SPI

“Wringer” takes place in the rural town of Waymer, a community known for a yearly event: Pigeon Day. Those unfortunate pigeons which fall to the ground wounded but not killed have their necks wrung by boys known as “wringers”. Plamer does not want to be a wringer on his tenth birthday.