

# LOSER

BY Jerry Spinelli



"In fourth grade Zinkoff is discovered. He has been there all along, of course, in the neighborhood, in the school, for ten years. He is already known as the kid who throws up. In fact, in order to get himself discovered, Zinkoff does not do a single thing he hasn't already done a thousand times."  
*Loser* .....page 94

This book review was created by students in Mrs. Brochu's reading class.

Donald Zinkoff faces many adventures as he makes his way up to sixth grade. For example, in first grade he starts out with fourth grade bullies and searches for a little girl in dark alleys as a fifth grader. Everyone thinks Donald is a loser because he loses everything. Donald is an unusual kid that laughs at funny words and raises his hand with all the wrong answers. Will Donald ever get anything right or be a winner?

## ★★★★★ Student Recommendations

★★★★★ This is an exciting book that tells how a 1<sup>st</sup> grader moved up to 6<sup>th</sup> grade. *Loser* is a fascinating realistic fiction story that makes you want a sequel to it. This book has sad parts and humorous parts throughout the chapters. For example, a sad part is that a bunch of people call Donald a loser and Donald's friend moved. A funny part is that Donald's mom uses his little sister as an alarm. I would recommend this book to 9-13 year old kids who know how it feels to be picked on. This story told me that it is OK to lose and not win

★★★★★ I recommend this book to kids who know what it's like to lose and never win. This book is good for kids in grades 3-6. *Loser* is funny and suspenseful. For example, Donald's mom uses his baby sister as a burglar alarm so Donald wouldn't get out of the house. The suspenseful part is when Donald goes out past his bedtime to look for a good friend of his named Claudia. Donald is called loser, but he doesn't react to the name. I think Jerry Spinelli gives a good example of how kids should react when called loser.

★★★★★ I recommend *Loser* because it is a fascinating and interesting story that won't let you stop reading. People that like to laugh should read this book. Donald loves to hear funny words like "jabip" and "chickamoo." Another funny part of this book is when Donald is found by a snow plow while singing "Tintinnabulation." The book is a grade level 4 – 6 story. This book called *Loser* should be a book that is in a classroom library because it teaches kids what it is like to be picked on. The students will get more interested in Jerry Spinelli books.

★★★★★ The book *Loser* tells kids to never give up. Donald, the main character, is always picked on and is always last, but he doesn't let it bother him. I recommend this book to kids who know how it feels to be picked on or picked last, sort of invisible to everyone. You can learn from Donald what you can do to be a winner.

